



SDNRP- Ministry of Mines and Petroleum PMU



UP TO DATE PROGRESS REPORT

(April / 2014)

Mes Aynak Archeological Progress

Staffing: by **resignation of Paul Murray the international team** number has been reduced to **11 specialists**: 9 archaeologists (including 1 architect-archaeologist), 1 geomantic officer and 1 conservator, however due to Nawroz break followed by presidential elections several team members (Amanda Watts, Rahmatjon Salomov, Roberta Marziani, Firuza Abdulwakhidova) were still staying this month on annual leave. Farrukh Safojev returned to the project on 02APR2014.

Of **10 Afghan trainee-archaeologists** working on the project at the beginning of month only three or four were present in the camp while some other were not able to get back due to several reasons (closed roads in Ghazi province, avalanches on Salang Pass etc.). Their number returned to normal in the second half of April.

Only 14 days of April were accessible for fieldwork. Mostly due to **weather conditions** (heavy rainfalls) and **presidential elections period** the site as well as some public holidays (ex. 28APR2014), as per decision undertaken by the MoIC, was remaining completely closed for excavation for several days, particularly between 02APR2014 and 10APR2014 completely no activities were conducted. Thereupon April is the next month of a **very moderate progress of fieldwork**.

Absence of the most staff resulted in **temporary suspending weekly strategy meetings** however we held **two informal meetings to discuss objectives of our new work schedule**. Essential supervision on the staff through **individual written reporting** on the monthly basis is still continued. PMU management is reported on the weekly basis (**MAAP Weekly Reports**) and **“Monthly Brief Report**

on March 2014 Activities” was submitted to the Institute of Archaeology.

On 20APR2014 Dr. Farhad Yavazi and Marek Lemiesz (MAAP) **met with HE DM Sayed M. Khalili** to discuss preparing the documentation required for formal approval of the monuments removing from Mes Aynak.

MDC team is sustaining **demining operation on the western slope of the Aynak mountain**. Accomplishing has been re-scheduled for early May and that significantly delays timelines for walking survey in this area.

Several **visits of journalists** to Mes Aynak: Sean Callens with CCTV crew preparing documentary on copper mining (01APR2014) and Valerie Plesch (19APR2014). A tour on the archaeological site was given, moreover the journalists got a brief written information on current state of archaeological work.

No weekly teams’ meetings were held this month mostly as a consequence of suspended on-site work. Nonetheless we are going to resume them in May.

This month we were facing repeatedly with situation when **the international team is not informed** in advance by the MoICs **about either suspending or resuming work** on the site, as it was previously agreed. As a result the team members had to be ready to go to the field even those days when weather conditions were not conducive to any activities on the ground. Some efforts were undertaken to set better communication line between the teams in the future.

On 27APR2014, during visiting an area of Gol Hamid the archaeologists (Marek Lemiesz, Agnieszka Dolatowska and Aziz Addi) accompanied a group of workers were subjected to personal search by ANP/AFFP policemen. One of the soldiers was trying to touch Mrs. Dolatowska explaining this as ‘talashi’ procedure. When stopped by M. Lemiesz, some other ANP officers started a serious quarrel with Mr. Addin that soon after turned into a very serious incident that resulted in Aziz Addin being punched by a few soldiers and (probably) an NDS officer before leaving the place. Potentially this incident could result in far more fatal

consequences.

Our **female colleague was almost a subject of an abuse** what is a reprehensible and punishable action either in Afghanistan or in Europe. And yet, **the MoIC employee became a victim of act of violence from the side of ANP/AFFP** officers who are assigned to protect the archaeological team. A relevant report was submitted to the PMU Management with request to undertake prompt action.

Fieldwork

Due to absence of the baulk of archaeological staff **regular excavation is currently ongoing on 7 sites** under the direct supervision of the MAAP: Mes004, Mes038, Mes045, Mes046, Mes052W, Mes058 and Mes059. At the end of April the team was preparing for suspending presently ongoing field activities within the Lower Town and moving to the Aynak mountain area (as the first phase of 2014 work program). Up to now unexcavated features had to be accomplished and all archaeologists have been requested to update the majority of current field record or to complete producing missing documentation.

- **Site Mes004** (temporarily supervised by Agnieszka Dolatowska and Sayed Ali Shah Payez, 6 workers): machinery supported removal of topsoil baulk in the western part of the site followed by handy excavation extended down to the '*karez*' area. This work revealed presence of another trench/canal (used to collect water?) that seems to be of earlier date than the *karez* masonry framework. Moreover, in one of sondage slots set up to determine stratigraphic sequence a full layout of a circular stone wall structure (ctx. no. 069) with an open 'mouth' from the south-west was registered, presumably a part of a feature connected with some water accumulation (a sort of pool?).
- **Site Mes038** (supervised by Farukh Safoev assisted by Sayed Hussain Rajabi, 12 workers): excavation was conducted near Room 29 in the southern part of the complex, as well as in steep area between Rooms 28 and 31, where on 29APR2014 remains of a rectangular wooden box (1.08x0.45x0.45m) containing some human bones were registered (probably an infant burial or *ossuarium*-type secondary deposit of pre-Islamic date).

Significant artifacts recovered this month: a terracotta figurine of goddess Ardohshe (Room 28) and a silver coin of a Sassanid king Shapur II (Room31).

- **Site Mes045** (supervisor: Dr. Usmon Eshonzoda, assistant: Mohammad Ali Amiri, 7 workers): site cleaning, minor works at the top of the steep southern escarpment and along Rooms 17, 36 and Courtyard 32 in the northern site limit.
- **Site Mes046** (supervised by Sultan Masoud Muradi, between 10 and 6 workers): continuation of work in the Central Building's Room 18, final cleaning rooms in the southern and eastern premises for total station survey.
- **Site Mes052** (supervised by Hussain Ali Haidari, 6 workers): small scale excavation was run within Room 4/02 (removal of fill ctx no. 294), Rooms 4/03 (backfill ctx no. 267) and 4/05 (backfill no. 286 removed). A massive retention wall ctx. no. 293 has been partially exposed to the north
- **Site Mes58** (Dr. Dowdy Davlatkhoja assisted by Mirwais Qaderyar, 11 workers): cleaning walls and rooms 15, 16 and 40, exposing a 27m long section of an outer northern complex wall no. 67 was completed. In the southern extend of the site work was continued on exposing wall no. 69 with two semi-circular towers (one still under the access road). Among numerous small finds there are fragments of iron knives as well as 18 coins.
- **Site Mes059** (Dr. Rahmatsho Mahmadshev, 10 workers): continuation of work in Room AA2 and within terrace-form structures in the central part as well as excavation in areas A4-6 and D6-7. Entrances of vertical shafts of the subterranean galleries (canals system or storages) were initially unearthed. Among numerous small finds registered in April an unique head of a terracotta female figurine can be mentioned.

Machinery fieldwork: removal of topsoil baulk on Site Mes004 was completed this month, moreover we began cleaning the remaining 25m long part of the eastern wall of area Mes042 (suspended due to the excavator's breakdown). In addition, disposal of spoil heaps on Site Mes063+Mes064 was continued.

With the object of preparing catalogues of stupas and sculptures for MoIC (see below), over April Agnieszka Dolatowska and Marek Lemiesz carried out **photo record of**

over 30 stupas and several rooms containing sculpture decoration or murals on the following sites: Mes003, Mes007, Mes013, Mes032N, Mes045, Mes058 and Mes060. In addition, with logistic support provided by the MoIC on 27APR2004 an access to the **Gol Hamid monastery** (within the Chinese Camp) was arranged. Photo record of current state of Main Chapel decoration was carried out as well as basic documentation of the entire complex. Also, some basic **preliminary inspection** of the surrounding area was done in order to evaluate a scope of future fieldwork.

Geomatic survey: this month Sayed Rahim updated survey on Sites Mes035, Mes060, Mes059 and Mes063, moreover taking levels at Kafiryat Tepe (Mes003) was accomplished.

Post-ex work

- **GIS, digitizing field plans and production of final site plans** (Sayed Rahim Hussainkhill): digitizing site plan of area Mes033, preparing site plan printings for areas Mes058 and Mes059.
- **Reorganization of ceramic materials** from Mes046 (Agnieszka Dolatowska assisted by Sultan Massoud Muradi, Hussain Ali Haidari and Sayed Ali Shah Fayeez) was continued this month and for the time being is close to be completed. Some more small finds from Sites Mes032 (season 2013) and Mes046 were catalogued. Firuza Abdulwakhidowa after her return to Mes Aynak continued updating a catalogue of ceramics from area Mes004.
- Marek Lemiesz accomplished **a final version of the Project Work Program for 2014**. On 08APR2014 the Program was submitted to MAAP Director for further review and subsequently **the approval was signed by HE DM of MoIC Mosadiq Khalili and HE DM of MoMP Nasir Ahmad Durrani**.
- On a request of HE DM Khalili, **a catalogue of stupas proposed for removal** was prepared by Marek Lemiesz and submitted to MoIC on 20APR2014. We were also working on **a catalogue of sculptures and wall paintings** for MoIC that shall be ready by the beginning of May.

Aynak Compliance Monitoring Project

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MOMP) has arranged for the draft feasibility study (DFS) for the Aynak Copper Project submitted by MJAM at the beginning of March to be reviewed by an independent firm of consultants.

The review is currently in progress and is expected to be completed before the end of June 2014. The review is being conducted in the United States and there is no involvement on the part of MOMP technical personnel or the GAF team.

The archaeological programme continues in progress at the mine site. MOMP is working closely with the Ministry of Information and Culture and is providing substantial logistical support to the recovery of historic artefacts, with the assistance of donors.

The GAF Aynak Compliance Monitoring team continues to work closely with MOMP officials and other experts in providing technical and legal advice and support. The GAF team is also engaged in the preparation of draft Mining Regulations based on the draft Minerals Law which currently in the process of review by the Government.

As part of its capacity-building activities, the GAF team took a party of officials from MOMP and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) to South Africa for a mining study tour commencing in the last week of April.

Environmental Issues Support to NEPA

- Working on State of Environment Report of NEPA to be published soon. I am leading the technical issues of the preparation of this report from the beginning, which started last year up to now. Currently the report is in its designing and about printing stages. During two last weeks we are working very hard to have its printed copies.
- **(Continued from last month). It is now in printing and it will be on table in the first week of .**
- Participation and technical support to the Environmental Technical Committee of Standards which is in ANSA, and I am representing NEPA officially and developing various

	<p>environmental standards. We have proposed a required draft to the Technical committee it is in the stage to have inception session on the effluent standard. The meetings of this committee is on monthly basis. (Continued from last month).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending in Environmental Coordination meeting of NEPA which meets every month and discusses various environmental issues of the country and specially of the Kabul City. (Continued from last month). • During this month, I have managed consultation meeting with ESIA International Advisor for about 40 participant in NEPA in 17 Nov, 2013 for one day. Still we are receiving the comments of the ministries and will be incorporating in the ESIA draft to finalize it. (Continued from last month). • During December 2013, I was nominated by NEPA to attend the 13th Governing Council meeting of SACEP, in Islamabad, Pakistan, 2 - 7 December 2013, with H.E DG of NEPA. (New). • During December, I was nominated by NEPA to attend the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop in Marrakech, Morocco, from 14 to 19 December, 2013. (New). • Our technical support continues with all relevant divisions of NEPA.
<p>Support to AGS Capacity Building (CBAGS)</p>	<p>Geological support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Lothar Schwarzkopf (Geology expert) left the project at the end of March. New assignments of CBAGS II geologists are on hold due to security restrictions in connection with the upcoming presidential elections. • The rock classification course held by Dr. Farahnaz Daliran (Mineralogy expert) finished in the second week of April. Around 25-28 geologists and engineers attended 35 course sessions. • GIS training is currently on hold awaiting access to training facilities. The project is trying to mobilize

support for joint GIS classes in conjunction with other donor programs.

AGS Database Integration and Upgrade

- Latest MySQL software is now installed
- Full text search is now available
- English and Dari versions are up and running, Pashto version to follow
- Work on integrating the huge TFBSO scanned data files (2.4TB) is ongoing.
- Dr. Felix Hruschka is scheduled to return in Aug/Sep 2014.

Support for AGS Laboratories

- Dr. Said Waezsada (Laboratory support expert) completed his 4-month assignment on 28/03/14. Options of a new engagement are being discussed with WB/PMU.
- All laboratory assessment reports (3 in total) were handed over to WB/PMU.
- Procurement of urgently needed laboratory spare parts and new equipment is ongoing.

Graduate Management Training (GMT) Program

- Following the WB team meeting in Dubai, GMT started a second round of invitations specifically addressing MoMP/AGS female staff. 30 applications were received on closing date 16/04/14.
- Interviews of male and female applicants commenced in the second half of April. The final selection of GMT candidates is expected to be completed in May.

Support for oil & gas data capture

- Talks with Afghanistan Petroleum Authority (APA) commenced in April with the aim to identify the demand for CBASGS II support for capturing oil & gas historical and recent data.
The aim is to support the data capture, design and development of an APA oil & gas database learning from CBAGS II experience in developing the AGS integrated databases.

<p align="center">Support to Reform of the Afghan Gas State Enterprise</p>	<p>Activities: Detailed consultations with Donors, consultants, government departments, Afghan Gas, Baulk Government, companies and other organizations continued.</p> <p>Review and analysis of Afghan Gas functions continued: covering HR, organizational structure, finances and accounts, information flows. These covered Tasks 2, 3 and 6.</p> <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BN3: Final paper “Case for Corporatization” ○ BN4: Comments on Draft Natural Gas Pricing Policy ○ BN5: Summary of Proposed Interim Gas Pricing Policy • Presentations prepared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ P5: Potential Natural Gas Market Preliminary Results ○ P6: Corporatization of Afghan Gas (for IMC) ○ P7: Interim Gas Pricing Policy (for IMC) ○ P8: Gas Development Directorate Organ gram <p>Training: Introduction to double entry bookkeeping for AGE staff</p>
<p align="center">Support to IMC</p>	<p>The IMC achieved the following performances during the month of March:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-Negotiating Regarding to Shaida Copper Mine Contract in Herat Province With the Preferred Bidder in the Bidding Process and its initialing. 2- Finalizing and Initialing of Zarkashan, Balkhab and Badakhshan Mineral Contracts. 3- Evaluating and Negotiating Regarding to Afghan Tajik Phase II Oil Contract. 4- Providing of Technical Reports to the IMC and Bidding Evaluation Meetings. 5- Holding an IMC Meeting. 6- Collecting of the Technical and Legal Documents from Related Departments for the IMC Meeting. 7- Translating of Technical and Legal Documents for the

	Meetings.
<p style="text-align: center;">Support to Gender</p>	<p>Analyses of women 's status after stabilization of Statistics are possible. After stabilization of Statistics categories of women will be separated, stabilization of statistics women will be divided into three categories.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The first category: Illiterate and low literate women. 2. The second category: Baccalareate pass or low-literacy 3. The third category: Bachelor or higher degree <p>Facilities that are considered for the first category.</p> <p>Creating literacy courses In agreement with Deputy literacy.</p> <p>Creating Jobs include (Tailoring courses, Embroidery courses)</p> <p>For the second category capacity building program is considered that includes</p> <p>Creating management, accounting, Computer and English courses.</p> <p>Conducting seminars in regard of violence against women.</p> <p>According to the duties and responsibilities for the third category following are considered:</p> <p>Creating the field of higher education by obtaining scholarships through Fulbright by communication with international institutions by having policy in by communication with embassies and political offices for obtaining higher educations.</p>