



Activities

2014

National Centre for Policy Research
(Partner der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)
Kabul University

2014

National Centre for Policy Research Activities 2014

January 2014

New Publications of National Centre for Policy Research NCPR

The Law and Political Sciences Department of this centre research report titled **‘Successes and Challenges of Afghanistan Foreign Policy after the Elected Government’** was published. This research was administered and supervised by the head of Law and Political Sciences Department and conducted by a team consisting lecturers and students from Kabul and Alberoni Universities. The results of this research can be summarized as follow:

Afghanistan has established close political relations with most of the countries. Among others, the significant presentence of the US in political issues of Afghanistan to the extent of signing a strategic agreement, a solid relation with the EU and developing this relations further in the framework of strategic agreements and strategic relation with India and China are the major achievements of Afghanistan foreign policy. In Addition, the government of Afghanistan has cautiously worked to solidify its relations with its immediate neighbors, and as well as accede the membership of certain regional and economic organizations. ... However, the public do not support and are critical of what they call a bad situation dominating foreign policy of Afghanistan. The existence of unprofessional and uncommitted people in decision making organs has detrimentally impacted the efficiency of foreign policy, additionally ethnic and religious issues are

challenges that can undermine the realization of public goals and interests in the foreign policy of the country.

The report of the research project of Economics Department of this centre titled **‘Causes and Consequences of Unemployment in Recent Years’** was published. This research was supervised and administered by the Economics Department and conducted by a senior research fellow from the Academy of Sciences and three young lecturers of Kabul University. The research has concluded:

The widespread unemployment in Afghanistan not only has resulted in poverty and economic lag, but also has had multiple social consequences. Low rate of economic activities, low level investments, lack of government support for private sector, population growth, return of millions of refugees, insecurity, limited access to education, ineffective and outdated education and higher education systems and the like are the main causes of high unemployment rate in the country. Afghanistan is a country whose population grows rapidly and more than 69% of its populations are young people under 25, many of whom enter labor market each year and facing difficulty finding employment opportunities. This needs to be noted by relevant authorities and appropriate policies need to be made to tackle this, otherwise the country may face unprecedentedly increased tribulation caused by unemployment.

The book **‘Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life’**, authored by Marshal B. Rosenberg, had been translated into Dari by Noorullah Navayee, the acting head of Peace and Conflict Studies of this centre, has now been printed in 13 chapters and 177 pages.

To strengthen the banking sector and understanding its problem on one hand and filling the gaps in learning materials in the field of banking of higher education institutes

and universities on the other, the NCPR, partner of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, has printed the third volume of 'Economics of Banking Enterprise' authored by Mohammad Naim Assad, former chancellor of Herat University in 330 pages.

The 'Essay Collections 2013' of National Centre for Policy Research was printed. This collection volumes include essays on 'Inflation and Its Trend in Afghanistan', 'Strategies of Change', 'Mahmood Tarzi and Serajulakhbar', 'Restorative Circles: a Method of Working with Conflict', 'Trade Balance Deficit of Afghanistan in the Last Decade' and 'Afghanistan-Iran Political and Socioeconomic Relations'.

To introduce NCPR and its activities in 2013 for readers, NCPR activities in 2013 has been printed.

Research Topics of NCPR Departments in 2014

The results of workshops which were held by NCPR departments (Law and Political Sciences, Economics, Social Sciences and Peace and Conflict Studies) to select their topics of 2014 research projects were evaluated. The following topics have been voted to be researched in 2014.

1. Administrative Reforms and Its Role in Tackling Corruption in Afghanistan (Department of Law and Political Sciences)
2. Ways of Increasing the Income Sources of Afghanistan: Opportunities and Challenges (Department of Economics)
3. Corruption in Afghanistan with Focus on Kabul Province: Roots and Social Consequences (Department of Social Sciences)
4. The Impacts of Media on Peacebuilding (Department of Peace and Conflict Studies)

Round Table on Illegal Money Extortion and Corruption in Nangarhar

The National Centre for Policy Research and Center of International Private Enterprises (CIPE) held a round table on 'Illegal Money Extortion and Corruption' in Nangarhar municipality conference hall on January 19, 2014. The Nangarhar governor, mayor, government officials, lecturers, students and representatives of private sector and civil society had participated in this round table. The participants talked about the dire problems of illegal extortions and corruption and put forward their suggestions. This was the second program of its kind held by the both centres outside Kabul.



End of the Capacity Building Program for Provincial Councils Members

The National Centre for Policy Research and the Center for International Private Enterprises (CIPE) held capacity building programs for the members of Logar, Koner, Kapisa, Herat, Badghis and Ghazni Provincial Councils. The last program was ended in Koner on 22nd of January 2014. The participants of these programs were trained in democracy and advocacy skills.

Defense Ministry Interested in NCPR Activities

The Strategic Studies Department of Defense Ministry revealed their interest in the publication of NCPR. General Yargul Ghor and General Rahimuddin Ramazan from the departments of strategic plans and research of the said ministry visited NCPR on January 27. They discussed with the director of the centre about the activities of NCPR and the possibilities of cooperation of this centre with the ministry and took 370 copies of NCPR publications for their offices. Subsequently, they invited NCPR director to participate in a conference on 'Strategic Planning for Defense' which was held in the ministry on February 18, 2014. The minister and other high ranking officials of the ministry and MPs had participated in that conference. NCPR publication was distributed to the participants and the ministry officials expressed their gratitude for NCPR activities.

February 2014

Seminar on Comprehensive Security in Afghanistan

The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of National Centre for Policy Research held a seminar titled '**Comprehensive Security for Afghanistan**' from 10th to 18th of February 2014. 30 people including university lecturers and students and civil society members participated in this seminar. This seminar was taught by Dr. Gunhild from the Norwegian University of Tromsø. The themes such as philosophical and historical background of security studies, a shift in the concept of security since 1990s, human security, energy

security, environmental security and international security scheme and Afghanistan status was discussed in this seminar. The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies holds similar seminars throughout the year.

Public Polling on Political and Security Issues of Afghanistan

The National Centre for Policy Research, partner of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), for the fourth time in past six years held a public polling about political and security issues of Afghanistan in five provinces of Afghanistan (Kabul, Herat, Nangarhar, Balkh and Pakteya) in February 2014. In this polling 5000 people (1000 in each province) filled questionnaires. The result of this polling shows that 63%, 46%, 37% of respondents were consecutively satisfied with the democracy development, government work and parliament work. 73% said they would participate in coming elections on April 5, and 53% thought that the coming elections were not transparent. 62% supported signing BSA with the US and 61% revealed their satisfaction with the way that international community has assisted Afghanistan.

Kabul, Frankfurt and Malaysian Kebangsaan Universities Cooperation Continues

In continuation of programs and cooperation among the three universities of Kabul, Frankfurt and Malaysian Kebangsaan on capacity building of lecturers and students through trilateral programs, exchanging experiences and views, the third winter schools was held from February 10 to February 25 in India. Three lecturers and five students from Kabul University had taken part

in this school. Afghan team was led by Associate Prof. Baryalai Hakimi, the head of Law and Political Sciences of this centre. The next program has been planned to be held in July/August 2014.

NCPR Cooperating with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Afghanistan

To identify the problems of private sector and presenting them to presidential candidates, the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Afghanistan held a conference in cooperation with the organization, Harakat (Movement), titled '**Afghanistan National Economic Gathering**' on February 27, 2014. 300 economic experts and representatives of private sector had participated in this conference. The director of NCPR took part in this conference and gave the necessary advice about the evaluation of the results of the conference to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

March 2014

Monograph Writing and Seminar Presentation Course in Nangarhar

A short course of monograph writing and seminar presentation was held for 48 young lecturers and senior students of Nangarhar



University from February 25 to March 3, 2014. The academic method of writing a monograph and seminar presentation was taught in this University and the questions raised by participants were discussed in this course.

Focus Group Discussion of Social Sciences Department

To enrich the qualitative aspects of its research on '**The Situation of Teacher Training Programs in Afghanistan**', the Department of Social Sciences held a focus group discussion on March 10, 2014. In this discussion which was held in the Konrad Adenauer hall of this centre, 16 experts on the subject had



participated including university lecturers and experts from the Ministry of Education. Answering the research questions, they shared their views and opinions about the issues pertaining to the programs of Teacher Training Directorates and the activities of trainers and master trainers in the capital and provinces.

Conference on Youths, Unemployment and Higher Education

Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium held a conference titled '**Unemployment, Youths and Education at**

the Threshold of Elections and Foreign Troops Pullout' in Central Hotel on March 26, 2014. They presented findings of a research conducted by the consortium on the above mentioned title. Dr. Hamidullah Noor Ebad, the director of NCPR, participated in this conference and discussed his views about the problem of unemployment of young people and answered questions which were raised by the participants.

Conference on German-European Policy about Afghanistan and Region Countries after 2014

On Wednesday 19th of March 2014, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), partner of National Centre for Policy Research of Kabul University, held a conference on 'German-European Policy about Afghanistan and Region Countries after 2014' in Konrad Adenauer conference hall of this centre. In this

conference where international and national participants had gathered, the country director of KAS in

Afghanistan, Mr. Nils Wörmer, summarized the activities of his foundation in Afghanistan. Afterwards, the guest lecturer of this program, Dr. Gunter Mulack, former German ambassador in Pakistan and Arabic countries, discussed the probable form and scheme of Germany and other EU countries work and support in Afghanistan after 2014.

April 2014

Monograph Writing and Seminar Presentation Course in Laghman

A short course of monograph writing and seminar presentation was held for 49 social sciences students of Laghman University from March 27 to April 3, 2014. The academic method of writing a monograph and seminar



presentation was taught in this University and the questions raised by participants were discussed in this course.

Conference on Asia in Transition

The head of Law and Political Sciences Department of this centre, Associate Prof. Baryalai Hakimi, took part in a conference titled '**Asia in Transition: Elections, Political Parties and Civil Societies**'. This conference had been held by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), the partner of this centre, and South Asian Institute in Heidelberg University on the 9th of April 2014. Representatives from political parties and civil societies from Afghanistan, Pakistan and India had attended this conference. The purpose of this conference was analyzing the activities and roles of political parties and civil societies in elections campaigns and its results.

GARF IX for Top Students of Kabul University

To improve the capacity of top students of Kabul University, research methodology course (German-Afghan Research Forum 'GARF' –IX) began on April 27 in Konrad Adenauer hall of NCPR. 47 students of second and third year of Kabul University benefited from this course. After the completion of the course the participants will work on small project to practice what they have learned



theoretically. After the evaluation, the participants received certificates on June 25.

Women's Regional Network Presented the Results of a Research

The Women's Regional Network and the organization of Equality for Peace and Democracy with technical support of NCPR held a conference in Konrad Adenauer hall of NCPR, where they presented the results of a research on '**Women's Perspective about Corruption, Peace, Security and Militarization of Aids**'. The event happened on April 30, and MPs, deputy of Interior Ministry, civil society representatives, journalists and university professors and students were attended in the mentioned program. The conference was funded by Konrad - Adenauer -Stiftung (KAS).



May 2014

Monograph Writing and Seminar Presentation Seminars at Kabul University

350 students of economics, psychology and educational sciences and social sciences took a ten day program offered by this centre on monograph writing and seminar presentation.

The program began on May 4 and followed in four separate class rooms. Academic writing and seminar presentation were taught succinctly to students in afternoon classes in each mentioned faculties to help students write their monographs in an academic standards.

World Education Conference focused on South Asia

The head of Economics department of this centre, Associate Prof. Abdul Malek Halimi, participated in a conference titled '**Global Education Dialogue: Research and Relevance**' in Lahore, Pakistan. This conference, which had been held from 6th to 7th of May 2014, was part of initiative by British Council in collaboration with education ministry of Punjab state. Participants from universities and research institutes of Afghanistan, Pakistan, United Arab Emirate, Bangladesh, Amman, Sri Lanka, India, the UK and the US had attended this conference. The themes of this conference were: 'Research Network, Capacity Building and Sustainable Research, Funding, Collaboration, Knowledge Transfer and Innovation; Research in Action; Talent and Memory Management; 21st Century Researcher; Absent Talents – Where are the Female Researchers? – and Intellectual Property Rights: Whose Research is it?'

Monograph Writing and Seminar Presentation in Konar Province

A monograph writing and seminar presentation course was held for senior students of Sayeed Jamaluddin Afghan University of Konar province. The program was held from 10th to 15th of May 2014 in which the students learned how conduct and

write an academic research as required at the end of their studies in their fields.



Collaboration Series of Universities of Frankfurt, Kabul and Kebangsaan

In continuation of collaboration among the three universities of Kabul, Frankfurt and Kebangsaan of Malaysia in building the capacities of lecturers and students and exchange of views and experiences, a meeting will be held in Frankfurt, Germany where the participants will learn from each other's knowledge and experiences. First it was set to have only one lecturer and two students from Kabul University participating in this meeting, but up on the request from Frankfurt University, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) agreed to fund the participation of two more students from Kabul University in this meeting. The collaboration series between the three universities include three lecturers and five students from each university who are in continuous contact and meet once or twice a year. This program is implemented over three years, and due to its success, it is to be extended for another three years in the mid of this year.

The Result of Talent Contest Announced

In the second round of online Video Competition which was held through NCPR-NATO for journalism and arts students of Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Khost and Nangarhar universities, four teams (two from Kabul and two from Herat Universities) have got to the final round. Out of four teams, two teams from Kabul and Herat Universities have been announced as the winners of this competition. The cash prize for the first winning team which will be announced later, and the certificates for these two winning teams will be distributed by a ceremony at Kabul University on mid of June 2014. The members of these two winning teams can benefit from a 10-days course in filming and journalism

June 2014

NCPR Publications

The research report of Social Sciences Department of this centre which was conducted under the supervision of the department and by a team of researchers comprising of Kabul University professors and a researcher from the Ministry of Education was published. The research explored **“The Situation of in Service Teacher Training Programs of the Ministry of Education”** and was completed in 2014. The research findings indicate that over all teachers, trainers, master trainers and the people in charge of this program were very satisfied with the efficiency and usefulness of this program and believed that it had met teachers’ educational and professional needs to some or a high degree. However, the research also

uncovered some problems of this program. The qualitative results show that passing this training is necessary for all teachers, especially those teachers who lack necessary professional and specialized capabilities. They need to receive the training, and the program continues for longer periods. The master trainers and trainers who train the teachers need to be qualified people and be employed strictly from amongst those who meet high standards of academic and pedagogical qualifications. The program needs to be continuously monitored to make sure its effectiveness and efficiency.

Award Distribution of Talent Contest in Filming Art

In the second round of talent contest, students from journalism and arts faculties of Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar and Khost universities participated. The program was sponsored by NATO Diplomacy Committee and coordinated by the NCPR. In the contest Herat University students (Sharq - East Team) got the first and Kabul University students (Didgah-e-Naw - New Perspective Team) got the second position. The first position received cash prize and the members of both teams received their certificates in a ceremony which was held in academic council room of Kabul University on June 18. Professor Mohammad



Hadi Hedayati, the administrative vice chancellor of Kabul University, Ambassador Maurits Jochems representing NATO Diplomacy Committee, Dr. Hamidullah Noor Ebad, the director of NCPR, faculty deans, professors, members of winning teams and students had attended this ceremony. The ceremony was watched live at NATO headquarter in Brussels through video conference.

Security Studies Seminar

The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of this centre held the follow up seminar of 'Comprehensive Security in Afghanistan' on June 18. The seminar was facilitated and taught by Dr. Gunhild Hoogensen Gjorv, professor at Tromsø, Norway. The seminar discussed current security challenges, transition period and the outcome of international community engagements in Afghanistan. Twenty students had attended this seminar.

July/August 2014

Continuation of Cooperation between Kabul, Frankfurt and Malaysian Kebangsaan Universities

In continuation of trilateral cooperation among Kabul University (through NCPR), Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia on capacity building of lecturers and students, and exchange of views and experiences, two separate programs were held in Frankfurt, Germany and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In Frankfurt meeting (July 21- August 2) one lecturer and four students of Kabul University participated, and in Kuala Lumpur meeting (August 12 - 22) one lecturer

and one student of Kabul University participated. These meetings ended the three year program between the universities. Looking at the results of this program, the three universities ponder on another five year program with different content and a framework.

New Publication of National Centre for Policy Research

The report of the research project of Law and Political Sciences Department of this centre titled '**Unemployment and Its Effects on Intensity of Insecurity in Afghanistan**' was published. This research was conducted by a team of Kabul University lecturers and students and a researcher from outside university, supervised and guided by the head of Law and Political Sciences Department of the centre. This research concludes that 'unemployment is one of the important causes of insecurity that brings about many economic, social and sociological problems in the society. If the unemployment persists, the unemployed may resort to illegal conducts and commit crimes so that they can meet their needs and solve their problems. In particular, in present conditions of Afghanistan, due to weakness of Afghanistan government, unemployment can have huge impact on insecurity because unemployed people can be simply contacted by intelligence agencies or manipulated by terrorist groups. This is a significant threat to the security of Afghanistan, and therefore addressing unemployment can be crucial for ensuring security in this country.'

The research project report of Peace and Conflict Studies Department of this centre

which was conducted on ‘**The Role of Employment in Peacebuilding**’ by two lecturers of private universities and assisted by six Kabul University students was published. The results of this research reveal that ‘the relation between employment and peace in this country does not accord to a conventional expectation, which states that the higher the unemployment rate the higher threat to peace. What explains this divergence is found in the cultural understanding of peace and realities of life in this country. The way that people here define peace and the expectations they have from peace, purpose of employment, welfare, security and development are to a great extent different from the societal underpinnings and cultural circumstances in which positive and negative peace have been defined’.

To improve the quality of higher education, amongst other things, standard text books need to be written in national languages and made available for students. The need for text books in national languages become more compelling when the students cannot use materials available in foreign language and lack the necessary knowledge and skill to use materials through internet and modern technology. To respond to the demand of Afghan Universities, this centre has published a text book titled ‘**Basics of Microeconomics**’ authored by Dr. Hamidullah Noor Ebad, director of NCPR. This book has been written in 259 pages and is meant to be taught in two semesters of economics faculties of Afghanistan Universities. Copies of the book have been distributed to libraries of universities for free.

Capacity Building in Internet-based Research

Associate Professor Baryalai Hakimi, the head of the Law and Political Sciences of this centre and lecturer at Law and Political Sciences Faculty of Kabul University participated in an academic program from June 15 to August 26 in Washington University. The program focused on capacity building in internet-based research, which was organized and facilitated by the University of Washington. Mr. Hakimi had been introduced to this program by his faculty

Conference in Bamyan

On August 24-25, the office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Kabul, partner and donor of NCPR, held a two-day conference in Bamyan. The lecturers and students of Bamyan University and members of civil society of that province had participated in this conference. On the first day of the conference, Mr. Nils Wörmer, the director of KAS office in Afghanistan, talked about the relations of international community with Afghanistan after 2014. Dr. Hamidullah Noor Ebad, director of NCPR, then talked about social market economy, and the consequences of applying market economy in Afghanistan. On the second day of conference, Mr. Noorullah Navayee, acting head of Peace and Conflict Studies Department of this centre, talked about nonviolent communication as a peacemaking tool and skill.



September 2014

Capacity Building for Employees of Ministry of Economics

The National Centre for Policy Research (NCPR) and German International Cooperation (GIZ) is implementing a joint project for building the capacities of employees of Ministry of Economics. The program aimed at training the employees of the ministry from Kabul and provinces in making computer based statistic reports. The

first round of the program trained the employees in excel program from 6th to 15th of September in NCPR, in which besides employees from Kabul, the ministries provincial directors from Balkh, Badakhshan, Jauwzjan, Takhar, Baghlan, Samangan and Kunduz also had participated. Other similar courses will be held for the employees of mentioned provinces.

NCPR and DI Joint Projects

The National Centre for Policy Research (NCPR) and Democracy International (DI) have jointly planned the conduct of two research project on 'Political Parties' and 'Youth Education'. It has been planned that, first researchers are recruited from the five zones of Afghanistan and trained; thereafter they will start field work of the projects in the provinces and districts all over Afghanistan. The first round of training was held in Konrad Adenauer Hall of the National centre for Policy Research of Kabul University for the central zone from 6th to 13th of September.



Likewise, the researchers from eastern zone at Nangarhar University, those of northern zone at Balkh University, western zone at Herat University and southern zone at Kandahar University were trained from 15th to 21st of September, 27th to 30th of September, 11th to 16th of October and 18th to 22nd of October respectively.

October 2014

GARF Programs in Kandhar, Parwan and Bamyan

National Centre for Policy Research held research methodology (German-Afghan Research Forum 'GARF') courses in provincial universities. These courses were held for 35 lecturers of Kandahar University from September 25 to October 2, for 35

lecturers of Parwan University from October 11 to October 16 and for 35 Students of Bamyan University from October 13 to October 20 in their respective universities. The purpose of these courses is to train good researchers at the level of Afghanistan universities. The plan is to hold similar courses in other provincial universities by the end of the year.

Nonviolent Communication and Conflict Resolution Workshops

The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of this centre is holding three rounds of workshops for 90 male and female students who stay in Kabul University dormitories. Each workshop last for one week and train 30 students. The first round of the workshop was



held from October 11 to October 15 in the conference hall of NCPR. In the opening ceremony of the first round of the workshop, the director of NCPR, advisor of the ministry of higher education, the managers of the dormitories and the commander of Kabul University Security Personnel addressed the audience. The third rounds of the workshops will finish on November 5. This program is funded by the Civil Peace Service (zfd) of GIZ.

Seminar on India's Foreign Policy

The office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Kabul, partner and donor of NCPR, held a one-day seminar for law and political sciences and economics students of Kabul University on October 12. The seminar, which was held in Konrad Adenauer Hall of NCPR, was presented by Mr. S Tripathy, an Indian specialist, who had been invited by KAS

office. He discussed the Indian Foreign Policy under Modi and shared his views with students.

Establishing the Chair of Manfred Wörner in Kabul University

The Diplomacy Committee of NATO, in cooperation with National Centre for Policy Research of Kabul University, announced the post of Manfred Wörner academic chair to the Afghanistan universities and higher education institutes in August 2014. Three professors from Kabul, Herat and Balkh universities shortlisted, and after rounds of interviews, Dr. Alef Shah Zadran, social sciences professor at Kabul University and the head of Social Sciences Department of this centre was choose as the person in charge of Manfred Wörner Chair for International Security Studies at Kabul University. The occupant of the chair is tasked with conducting researches, giving



seminars and convening conferences and lecturing at university classes on NATO works for reconstruction and security of Afghanistan.

Two Day Conference in Herat

The office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Kabul held a two day conference in Herat on 21st and 22nd of October. Lecturers and students of Herat University and members of civil society of Herat province participated in this conference. On the first day of the conference, Mr. Marc Frings, Head of Section South and Central Asia - KAS Berlin and Mr. Nils Wörmer, director of KAS office in Kabul addressed the audience on KAS activities and projects in Afghanistan and the prospects of international relations with Afghanistan after 2014 and heard the comments and views of the audience in this respect. In the afternoon, Mr. Noorullah Navayee, the acting head of Peace and Conflict Studies Department of this centre, talked about the method and principles of nonviolent communication. On the second

day, Dr. Hamidullah Noor Ebad, NCPR director, talked about the social market economy and elaborated on the outcomes of adopting market economy in Afghanistan.

GARF Program in Balkh University

In continuation of the research methodology trainings (German-Afghan Research Forum ‘GARF’) in provincial universities, a training seminar was held for 37 young lecturers of Balkh University from 25th to 30th of October. These programs aim at training skilled researchers at the level of Afghanistan universities.

November 2014

Life Skills Workshops for Dormitory Students

The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of this centre in cooperation with Gender Department of Ministry of Higher Education



held joint nonviolent communication workshops for 90 male and female students who stay in Kabul University dormitories. Three rounds of these workshops were held and were to be followed by three rounds of Life Skills workshops for the same students. Two of the three life skills workshops have been held from 18th to 29th of October and from 8th to 19th of November and the third is to be held from 20th to 31st of December.



Training Project for Employees of Supreme Audit Office (SAO)

National Centre for Policy Research of Kabul University and German International Cooperation (GIZ) held a joint capacity building program for the employees of Supreme Audit Office from 1st of November to 10th of December. 22 employees of the office were trained in principles of procurement, budget and budget control and computer programs for accounting assessments, and their questions and problems in the mentioned areas were addressed. In closing ceremony of this program, the certificates has been distributed through regulators offices (NCPR, GIZ, SAO) to the participants.



Second Phase of Trainings for Economy Ministry Employees

National Centre for Policy Research of Kabul University and German International Cooperation (GIZ) ended the first phase of trainings for senior employees of the ministry of economy on September 15. The employees of the ministry in Kabul and the directors of respective ministry directorates in provinces (Balkh, Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Jawzjan, Samangan and Kunduz) were trained in Excel programs and received certificates. The second phase of the course was held in Balkh University for 29 employees of above mentioned provincial economy directorates from 8 to 17 November. These trainings aimed at building the skills of Economy Ministry senior employees in Kabul and Northern provinces of the country.

Manfred Wörner Chair Inauguration at Kabul University

Manfred Wörner Academic Chair, established by NATO Diplomacy Committee in agreement with Kabul University Chancellorship and NCPR collaboration, started its activity officially on November 25, 2014. In

inauguration ceremony of this chair that hereafter will work under ‘Manfred Wörner Chair for International Security Studies’, Kabul University Chancellor, NATO spokesperson in Afghanistan, senior representatives from the ministry of defense and interior, faculty deans and a group of lectures and students had attended. Professor Alef Shah Zadran, the director of the mentioned chair briefed the audience about the activities and plans of the chair.

Capacity Building Program for MPs

National Centre for Policy Research of Kabul University and the Center of International Private Enterprises (CIPE) started a capacity building program for members of parliament on November 16. The program consists of lectures on economic issues including principles of public procurements, taxation structure, fighting money laundry, privatization and foreign trade of Afghanistan.

Topic Selection Workshops for NCPR Research Projects 2015

The departments of National Centre for Policy Researches of Kabul University (Law and Political Sciences, Peace and Conflict Studies, Economics and Social Sciences) held consultative workshops consecutively on 11th, 18th, 25th and 30th of November to rate topics for their 2015 research projects. The participants, altogether 110 experts in the areas of law and political sciences, economics, sociology, psychology, peace, human rights and anthropology, representing universities, think tanks including the academy of sciences, discussed extensively the topics suggested by the respective departments and expressed their views. At the end they rated the topics laid out

in questionnaires based on the priorities and relevance that they held for each topic, to be researched by NCPR departments. After the questionnaires are analyzed, the research topic of each department will be determined for 2015.



December 2014

New Publications of National Centre for Policy Research

The report of the research project of Economics Department of this centre, titled ‘**Potential Possibility of Import Substitution in Afghanistan**’ was published. This research was conducted by a team of Kabul University Economics Faculty lecturers. The findings of this research reveal that ‘there are many goods that can be produced in Afghanistan, and their production factors are easily available in cheap prices and good quality. Though there are many opportunities to increase internal production and increase the exports, the priority must be given to the production of goods that can be more easily produced. If ... foodstuff, construction materials including metal items, medicines, stationaries, drinks and paper are produced domestically and their imports replaced, first there will be 10 to 15 percent decrease in the trade balance deficit because approximately 3.5 billion dollar worth imported goods will be produced domestically.

Secondly, this will have tremendous impacts to relieve unemployment.’

Writing standard textbooks in national languages and making them available for students, amongst other things, is an important step for improving the quality of higher education. Taking this into consideration, this centre published a text book titled ‘Some Topics of Economics’ MA Program – Advanced Macro Economics, Advanced Economic Policies, International Monetary Problem’ that is meant for masters’ degree program of economics faculty. Authored by Dr. Hamidullah Noor Ebad, the director of this centre, the text book has been printed in three sections, seventeen chapters in 306 pages and is freely available to universities’ libraries.

Financing the Printing Costs of Afghanistan Universities Academic Magazines

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) of Germany, partner and donor of National Centre for Policy Researches of Kabul University, as previous years continued to finance part of the costs for printing Kabul University Academic Magazine and Herat University Academic Magazine (Andesha) throughout 2014. The foundation has committed itself to finance the printing cost of academic magazine of Faculty of Economics of Kabul University as its publication restarts, from December 2014.

Research Methodology Trainings Completion for 2014

As previous years, the National Centre for Policy Research of Kabul University continued offering research methodology training programs (German-Afghan Research

Forum ‘GARF’) and monograph writing and seminar presentation trainings at Afghanistan Universities throughout 2014. These programs which were held in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Balkh, Laghman, Parwan, Konar and Bamyan Universities in total trained 700 people including 150 young lecturers.

Social Sciences Department Focus Group Discussion

To enrich the qualitative aspects of its research on ‘Social Consequences of Corruption in Afghanistan’, the Department of Social Sciences of this centre held a focus group discussion on Tuesday, December 2. 14 experts from Kabul University and other relevant organizations gathered in Konrad Adenauer hall of this centre and shared their views and comments about the social consequences of corruption and possible ways to tackle corruption in Afghanistan.

The NCPR Research and Scientific Publications

1- The recent three years published projects:

A. Department of Law and Political Sciences

- Effects of Unemployment on Intensity of Insecurity in Afghanistan (2014)
- Challenges of Afghanistan Foreign Policy (2013)
- Administrative Corruption in Afghanistan and its Solutions (2012)

B. Department of Economics

- Potential Possibility of Import Substitution in Afghanistan (2014)
- Unemployment and It's Economic Impact in Afghanistan (2013)
- The Situation of Trade and Transit between Afghanistan and Pakistan during the years 2002 – 2010 (2012)

C. Department of Social Sciences

- The Situation of Teacher Training Program of MoE (2014)
- The Attitudes of Students and Teachers about MoE New Textbooks (2013)
- The Problem of Homelessness in Kabul City (2012)

D. Department of Peace Studies

- The Role of Employment in Peace Building (2014)
- The Role of Universities in Peace in Afghanistan (2013)
- Peace and Conflict Studies and Peace Education (2013)
- Pathway to Peace, Peace Journal, No II (2013)
- Nonviolence Communication: Life Language, translation,(2013)
- The Role of Education in Building Peace in Afghanistan (2012)
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