

Project Progress Report

Oct to Dec 2016

Top stories in this newsletter



IQEUs' inauguration by H.E. Minister



Launch of Pilot Phase of Self-assessment



KU, SREU, and KMU SIDP Presentation Session



OBE - SCL Workshop (Kabul Medical University)

Internal Quality Assurance Units Inauguration



The Internal Quality Enhancement Units IQEUs of three Kabul-based universities namely, Kabul University, Kabul Medical University, and Kabul Education University were inaugurated by H.E. Minister.

Launch of Pilot Phase of Self-Assessment of Quality Assurance and Accreditation



The self-assessment process of 8 universities to include: KPU, KU, Balkh and Kandahar plus AUAF, Katib, Kardan, Khatam-ul-Nabiyeen have been started. As per the plan, the self-assessment report will be completed in 6 to 8 weeks by pilot universities. The QAA department of HEDP in close coordination with the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Directorate of MoHE developed an annual work/action plan for 2017. The plan will help the MoHE in achieving the set deliverable for QAA in 2017.

Finalizing and Publishing SIDPs



To strengthen the autonomy of universities, three universities to include Kabul University, Shaheed Rabbani Education University, and Kabul Medical University have developed and finalized their Strategic Institutional Development Plans. The mentioned plans have gone through different filters of MoHE and are finalized by the MoHE's leadership in an official gathering.

OBE - SCL Workshops



To enhance the quality of teaching and learning at the universities, and so to help learners achieve better outcomes, activities around framing ICT-Enhanced teaching and learning are undertaken by HEDP.

IQEU Leads Development Workshop in Delhi



This training workshop mainly focused developing the capacity the existing and new IQEU leads on their role and objectives, developing a strategic plan for the IQEUs, filling out the scorecard for monitoring and progress purpose and engaging the institution in the QA process.

OBE-SCL Events

OMST in the last quarter of 2016 planned to implement 4 events on OBE-SCL component. The events are as follow:

1. Two-day Workshop will be held in company of 24 champions to finalize and standardize the OBE-SCL Workshop syllabi. Champions will be recognized and awarded certificates in an official event by MoHE officials.
2. Train 76 Faculty Deans on OBE-SCL teaching and learning philosophy and highlight the deans' important roles in its institutionalization, implementation and sustainability.
3. An OBE-SCL Conference will be held in coordination with UTM for 100 university chancellor and vice chancellor of 24 universities as well as MoHE's officials.
4. Advanced OBE-SCL Training for 60 participants from 24 Universities is planned in two phases in 2017.

Social and Environmental Safeguard

Environmental Safeguard department has been planning to continue the capacity building to specific audiences. The department has been successful to complete the following activities.

- New Format of ESMP has been received. 4 ESMP for HEDP projects in Bamyan, Konar Badghis and Ghazni in 2016 has been developed and shared with the Bank.
- A draft of the annual report has been developed and shared with the Bank.
- Projects' site selections for 2017 project with engineering team of MoHE have been started. They have visited Parwan.

As part of the social safeguard department, OMST has been able to work on a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and has been able to finalize a grievance redress manual for the MoHE. Moreover, it has been successful to prepare few selected social reports to the donor.

Information and Communication Technology

MoHE has been successful to create 600 new positions for IT Technicians, from which 510 are allocated for provincial universities. Moreover, the work of the ICT Centers in Ghazni, Konar, Takhar, and Paktia are in final stages and contracted out.

Research Projects

To improve the quality of teaching and to promote economic and social development and culture of research in Afghanistan higher education system, HEDP has announced the awardees for the second round of the World-Bank sponsored Research projects for the academics in priority disciplines for the year 2017.

Gender Development Related Activities

As a stimulus to increase female enrollment in higher education, the following steps have been taken. The term "disadvantaged" has been defined and accepted by the MoHE as a ground for a scholarship scheme to be provided for disadvantaged female. Additionally, a child care center is established in Kabul Medical University and the plans for child care facilities are in process for them to be established in Bamiyan and Takhar universities. Counseling facilities are also planned to be established in Bamiyan, Mazar, and Parwan. Kankor guideline has been updated and the allocated seats for the female students in Kankor are revised.

Concluding Note

Hitherto, with the coordination received from OMST, the HEDP/MoHE appears to have its steps on the journey to success and effective project implementation. It has been heading toward success to increase access to higher education especially among women and in priority disciplines and sub-disciplines. Additionally, effective work on raising the quality of the higher education system and facilitating the expansion of higher education in the country with a strategic focus on the future development has been going on. Overall, the HEDP/MoHE is on target for its planned activities. The MoHE-HEDP has been successful in following up and performing the activities listed by the new aide memoir that has been effective from December 2016. The second half of the progress of the HEDP based on the recent aide memoir will also be reflected in the next quarterly project Progress Report; as the HEDP expects another plan to be received early April 2017.