Special Seminar on Education in Afghanistan

Ten years ago: Where we are Now and Planning for the Future

When: Thursday 19th April 2012, 2pm - 4pm

Where: UTS City Campus
Level 5, Building 10, Conference Room CB10.05.580
Jones St, Broadway (a short walk from Central Railway Station)

Presenter:
Dr Attaullah Wahidyar Senior Advisor to the Minister of Education; Director Publication & Communication, Ministry of Education, Kabul.

Chair: Dr Nina Burridge; Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology, Sydney

Introduction
Dr Wahidyar will speak on how the Afghan Ministry of Education is developing the education system. According to Dr Wahidyar, ten years ago, Afghanistan's education system was in tatters. There were fewer than one million children in a school and hardly any were girls. There was no unified curriculum and education in many of the more troubled areas depended on the goodwill of non-government organisations.

A decade on, with support from the Government of Afghanistan and international donors it's a different story. There are more than seven million children in school and about four in every ten are girls. Australia alone has financed the construction of 30 schools with another 36 underway in Uruzgan province, one of the country's poorest areas. "The expansion of education in Afghanistan is a remarkable success story," says Dr Wahidyar. (see link to full text of story below)

Dr Attaullah Wahidyar comes from Afghanistan. He is a medical doctor and an educational specialist. His passion for his country led him away from medicine to focus on education. He said he was asked what he would do if he came across a man in Afghanistan who was desperately hungry but was also about to be killed—would he give the man food first and then save him or the other way around? He decided then that safety and security was the priority for Afghanistan and for this the country needed better education. He is now at Sydney University doing a doctorate in education under an Australian Leadership Award Scholarship, provided by AusAID through the Australia Awards for Development. His thesis topic is on Extending girls' education in Afghanistan.

See AusAID's website for an article on Dr Wahidyar's work with the Afghan Ministry of Education:

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