

Kabul University

www.ku.edu.af

Kabul University, located in Kabul, Afghanistan, is a public university, which provides higher education services to the citizens of Kabul and other provinces in Afghanistan. It was founded in 1931 and officially inaugurated in 1932 when it opened its doors for the first time to students from across the country.

The university produces almost 50% of the higher education graduates in Afghanistan. It currently has 509 lecturers and around 12,000 students, of whom 2700 are women. The university is still recovering from the long period of war and chaos in the country. The main building was rebuilt about 500 metres from the old one, following almost the same design. Students pursue studies in the fields of agriculture, economics, pharmacy, law, literature, science, engineering, and fine arts. There are 14 faculties, 2 dormitories, a library, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, and 7 auditoriums.

Almost 20 years ago, Kabul University was the best public university in Afghanistan due to its qualified lecturers, employees, good physical infrastructure, and internationally updated curriculum. During the war, most of the lecturers and employees migrated to other countries. As a result, curricula have not been updated for many years and the university's physical infrastructure has been damaged. Student dropout rates increased because of lack of security, poor quality, and poverty.

After the Taliban regime, the interim and transitional government was unable to pay enough attention to higher education because of other urgent issues that had to be managed. Since the elections and the announcement of the new cabinet, the government has started focusing on higher education and has committed itself to reform Kabul University.

The University, has assessed the entire situation in terms of human capacity, physical infrastructure, and curricula. The assessment report shows a really challenging situation, where lectures are taking

place and students are learning and studying with almost no basic facilities. The human capacity, physical infrastructure, and curricula of Kabul University need investment and development.

Kabul University has completed its vision, mission, and action plan to achieve its goals and objectives. It has designed several development projects to implement the planning, development, and contracting of projects that will take at least six months.

Kabul University is a member of the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC), which was formed in March 2007 with the aim of promoting the development of a mountain specific curriculum and collaborative training and research. Under the umbrella of the HUC, a project proposal has been prepared to build the human capacity of Kabul University and other Afghan institutes. This project, which plans to provide scholarships and training, was confirmed at the end of the second HUC meeting in February 2008. ICIMOD took the lead in the project formulation and will have a coordinating role in its implementation, while funding is from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Under the project, Afghan University staff and other officials will undergo study and training, largely provided by other HUC members.



Dechenla Sherpa

Tomorrow's student, young Afghani boys