



The Government of Japan



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Launch of the 2nd phase of Literacy for Empowering Afghan Police Project (LEAP-II)

KABUL, 01 October 2013

More than 15,700 Afghan National Police (ANP) officers will continue to improve their literacy skills, following the launch of the second phase of the police literacy project funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoI) with technical assistance from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Literacy for Empowering Afghan Police project, or LEAP-II, will deliver quality literacy skills training for ANP officers. This consolidates the previous phase of the project, LEAP-I, ensuring the quality of existing police literacy classes and building institutional capacity within the Literacy Department at the MoI.

The MoI estimates that at least 70% of the 155,000 ANP officers are illiterate, constituting a major hurdle to providing quality policing for better public protection and law enforcement.

"Improving the literacy skills of police officers is fundamental in reinforcing the performance of ANP in their professional duties and in contributing to the security and safety of the Afghan people across the country," General Mohammad Ayoub Salangi, the Executive Deputy Minister of Interior Affairs, said at the launching ceremony. "The Ministry of Interior Affairs, with assistance from the Japanese Government and UNESCO, will push through with these efforts," Executive Deputy Minister Salangi added.

Building on the successes and lessons learned from LEAP-I, LEAP-II will further strengthen the capacity of the Literacy Department in the areas of training for police literacy teachers/facilitators, development and publication of supplementary learning materials as well as providing literacy classes across 19 provinces.

Mr. Mio Maeda, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Embassy of Japan to Afghanistan, added that "The Government of Japan believes that the MoI's initiative to enhance police literacy and numeracy skills will lay a solid foundation for a stable and prosperous Afghanistan".

With the development of police-focused teaching and learning materials, LEAP-II will cater for the learning needs of the police officers who, upon completion of the 9-month literacy skills training, will have literacy and numeracy skills equivalent to that of primary level grade-3. The long-term objective of LEAP-II is to establish a sustainable mechanism with which the MoI is able to plan and implement the nation-wide police literacy training by 2015.

Mr. Paolo Fontani, UNESCO Representative to Afghanistan, thanked the Government of Japan for its significant contribution to the project, and the Ministry of Interior Affairs for this vital initiative and valued partnership.

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