



## German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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### **Academic Mining Education: Afghan University Lecturers Attend Geology Training in Prague**

**Prague, Czech Republic, 22<sup>th</sup> October 2018** – A three-week training activity in Prague, Czech Republic, ended for seven lecturers from Kabul Polytechnic University's (KPU) mining and geology faculty and Kabul University (KU). They participated in a geology course at Charles University in Prague to extend their skills and knowledge. Students at KPU and KU will benefit from improved mining education thanks to their lecturers continuing education. The Afghan-German Cooperation's programme Academic Mining Education in Afghanistan (AMEA) facilitated and financed the activity.

A professor at Charles University, Mr Faryad, was involved in implementing the training course and commented: "I appreciate the enthusiasm of our Afghan colleagues. They were eager to enhance their knowledge and skills throughout the activity. I hope this course helps them to succeed in Afghanistan."

The course covered different subjects such as structural geology, geodynamics, and petrology. The latter subject is an important part of modern mining education and deals with rock structure and composition. Participants received theoretical and practical training for two weeks, followed by a one-week excursion to relevant geology and mining sites in Czech Republic. In total, they visited twelve different locations. Complementary to theoretical and practical training, participants had the chance to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills on-site.

One participant commented: "We are grateful for the valuable exchange with our colleagues at Charles University. The training programme will be very beneficial for our work."

Improved mining education shall facilitate the full utilisation of the Afghan extractive sector's potential. The training course aimed at improving lecturers' skills and knowledge in line with their needs. Students at KPU and KU will benefit from increasingly qualified teachers. AMEA implements various activities to support teaching quality improvements at both universities. For example, the programme facilitates the implementation of updated curricula developed by KPU's professors and lecturers. Training courses are another integral part of the programme.

*The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH implements the programme Academic Mining Education in Afghanistan (AMEA) since 2014 on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office (AA). AMEA aims at improving academic mining education in Afghanistan to facilitate the full utilisation of the Afghan extractive sector's potential. The programme has been helping to modernise university training, adapting it to industry and labour market needs and building an educational network in close cooperation with the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), the Afghan Ministry of Mining and Petroleum (MoMP) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). So far, AMEA has organised academic courses, scholarships and internship programmes in Iran, Germany, and China for more than 240 Afghan students and lecturers, providing them access to up-to-date technical knowledge and innovative teaching methods. The programme has also provided practically oriented advanced training and networking events on mining education for more than 600 university lecturers.*