



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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Technical Training for 14 Provincial Mines Inspectors in Mazar-e Sharif

Mazar-e Sharif, Kunduz, 23rd November 2017 – Today, a three-week technical training ended for 14 provincial mines inspectors from the provinces Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Kunduz, Jawzjan, Samangan and Sar-e Pol. Previously, these mines inspectors had participated in a Training of Trainers (ToT) – an activity run by the German programme for supporting good governance in the Afghan extractive sector. The Afghan-German Cooperation supported the MoMP to organise the training and financed the entire activity.

The technical training covered open pit and underground mining processes, health and safety, environmental aspects and survey techniques. The mines inspectors further practiced their skills at a mining plant in Balkh. They are now able to conduct field inspections properly of about 55 mines in the area they are responsible for in the provinces they work in. They can examine whether mining activities comply with norms, standards, and regulations and check if the extracted volumes correspond to the values agreed in the contracts. That helps ensuring the payment of correct amounts and thus actual fees and taxes.

One participant from Faryab commented: “The training greatly enhanced our capacities. The modern knowledge we acquired during the training will help us to identify technical problems. Also, we are now able to propose suitable solutions to the mine sites’ management teams.”

Afghanistan is rich in mineral resources, including copper, iron, gold, lithium, rare earth and cobalt. These resources offer great potential to increase economic growth, generate additional revenues and create about 10,000 to 14,000 additional jobs in the Afghan extractive sector. However, to exploit this potential efficiently, mining activities have to be well managed, regulated and overseen transparently.

The programme Promoting Good Governance in the Extractive Sector in Afghanistan is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The Afghan mining sector offers great economic potential that could significantly boost growth in the country. To leverage this potential, the programme aims at increasing state revenues, promoting investment and fighting corruption in Afghanistan’s extractive sector. Among other activities, the project has organised 21 training courses on topics such as mine planning, mining economics and mining supervision for more than 310 mining inspectors and other employees at the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP) and provincial authorities since 2013. Further, the project supports the Afghan Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (AEITI) to promote transparency and fight corruption.