Partnership Objective:
This intervention was part of the partnership between the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), and Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU) Partnership in Master’s in Hydraulics and Hydrotechnical Construction (HHTC) Degree is to improve academic quality of KPU through curriculum and faculty development to ensure quality education and employment for a larger number of Afghan men and women in the HHTC field.

KPU faculty were exposed to and developed experience in doing research, writing syllabi and reviewing current policy document. KPU faculty were able to consult with UNO faculty and staff to learn how to conduct research. They also had an opportunity to discuss among themselves, with input from UNO faculty, their own abilities to adapt and adopt the appropriate techniques for their own situations.

The purpose of this academic training was to provide KPU faculty opportunity to present their current syllabi and discuss possible changes that would result in newer and more advanced syllabi and curriculum for their classes. KPU faculty had the opportunity to discuss their policy document, discuss and design their vision and mission for the department. KPU faculty were also provided with examples of scientific method and increase their expertise on different skills, such as formulation of research hypothesis, laboratory design, data collection, and analysis (accept or reject hypothesis), and writing, editing and publishing manuscripts.

UNO and UNL reviewed the KPU department by laws contents. UNO presented a lecture on ABET requirements. UNO and UNL inspired those KPU faculty members with a taste for research to acquire advanced skills and degrees that will build their capacity to conduct and publish innovative work in their fields.
The agenda for this training included:

Review, update, and provide feedback on the following syllabi:

1. Water Resource System Management
2. Wastewater Management
3. W & Sanitation
4. Numerical Analysis
5. Irrigation Engineering
6. Hydro Power Engineering
7. Hydraulics Engineering
8. Hydraulic Structures
9. Hydraulic and Hydrologic Engineering
10. Groundwater Mechanics
11. Geotechnical Engineering

The UNO team also worked with the Engineering faculty on developing research skills, reviewing ABET requirements, and reviewing their policy documents. UNO team members offered power point presentations and lead discussions concerning the topics mentioned above.

As planned, 10 faculty members from Kabul attended this training program. Four UNO team members who traveled to Goa conducted the training.

This seminar was very successful. The faculty of Kabul Polytechnic University attended 9 days of seminars covering a wide array of material. Afghan and American faculty who attended the seminars were able to learn a lot from each other. It was a great learning and team building opportunity for the attendees. The feedback received was that this seminar was very helpful to the attendees and they appreciated the time spend together.

UNO and Kabul Polytechnic University will jointly design further activities to build on these achievements.