

UNO Wrap-up Meeting Report

Kabul, Afghanistan

Dec. 17– 19, 2018

Introduction/Background

The UNO partnership with KPU started in September 2016 and successfully ended in December 2018. According to the project timeline, the process to officially handover the program by USWDP to KPU happened through a final meeting in Kabul in mid-December 2018. The UNO team planned a trip to Kabul to take part in this event.

The UNO team arrived in Kabul on December 17, 2018, to attend different meetings with KPU leadership and MHHS professors to receive their feedback and suggestions about the program. Part of the agenda included two lectures presented by Prof. Junke Goa to the MHHS students.



In the first meeting, the UNO team met with MHHS professors and Dean Mr. Mohammad Nasimi at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoon Dec. 17, 2018.

At the beginning of this meeting, Sher Jan Ahmadzai, Director Center for Afghanistan and Project Director for this partnership, briefly talked about the purpose of their visit and successful completion of the project with KPU. Attending the final meeting, hearing and receiving feedback, sharing information about KPU faculty's experience and possible challenges were points that UNO wanted to learn about from the KPU faculty members. Mr. Ahmadzai mentioned UNO's commitment to continue its academic support throughout the project duration, and would like to know how UNO can help KPU in the future. MHHS faculty members and leadership were in attendance at this meeting.

Dean Nasimi welcomed the UNO team and thanked them for their commitment and hard work during the life of the project. He also congratulated everyone on the successful completion of the partnership. He mentioned that the new curriculum, which was designed with the technical assistance and support from UNO professors, is being applied in their master's degree program. Right now, KPU Department of

Hydraulics and Hydrotechnical Structures has an updated program for master's degree and this is one of the best degree programs among all others at KPU based on a standardized curriculum, updated teaching materials, and presentation style.

As the hydraulic engineering program was already running at KPU, there were less challenges with bringing new changes and introducing an updated curriculum. Attending different exchanges in India and in Dubai helped MHHS faculty learn new concepts and issues relevant to teaching methodology and development of curriculum. Acquiring the new teaching skills helped them in bringing positive changes in their undergraduate program too, since a number of MHHS faculty teach in undergraduate programs also.

The following table shows names and affiliation of participants present at the meeting.

No	Last Name	First Name	Organization
1	Chancellor Kakar	Mohammad Sayed	Kabul Polytechnic University
2	Dean Nasimi	Mohammad	Kabul Polytechnic University
3	Prof. Lewall	Maujood Shah	Kabul Polytechnic University
4	Prof. Safai	Mohammad Anwar	Kabul Polytechnic University
5	Prof. Safi	Hakim	Kabul Polytechnic University
6	Prof. Paiman	Zabiullah	Kabul Polytechnic University
7	Prof. Sekandari	Ahmad Wahid	Kabul Polytechnic University
8	Prof. Malikzoi	Rohullah	Kabul Polytechnic University
9	Prof. Ahadi	Baqi	Kabul Polytechnic University
10	Prof. Guo	Junke	UNO
11	Mr. Ahmadzai	Sher Jan	UNO
12	Mr. Anwari	Hamidullah	UNO/KABUL
13	Mr. Shah	Masiid	USWDP

Findings:

This two-year partnership was one of the significant opportunities for MHHS professors to enhance their skills and knowledge and make a standardized curriculum for master's degree program. Project achievements can be summarized as below:

- Designing a new curriculum, course policy, syllabi for each course, assignments for each course, teacher and students' assessment methods, and research methodology.
- Establishing a reference library that helps KPU faculty and students to have access to newly updated materials and resources.
- The new changes and curriculum in the MHHS degree program has increased the program's credibility and the demand for enrollment has increased.
- Teaching quality has improved and the faculty and staff are equipped with new teaching materials and skills. The faculty were also provided with new laptop computers for their use in classes and preparing teaching material for their courses.

Major Challenges Discussed in the final meeting:

Paper work and bureaucracy in the country affects how to follow the administrative process for any new changes and it slows down their activities. Generally there aren't any serious issue related to academic parts of this program. Major challenges can be summarized as below:

- Part of the larger project was the provision of equipment for KPU's technical lab. It was not in UNO's mandate to provide these equipment though. USWDP was mandated to provide these instruments and equipment, but they have not been delivered yet. This had caused frustration for KPU leadership and faculty members that affected UNO's relationship at occasions. As a result, KPU postponed the official closing ceremony and the process of handing over the department until they receive the lab equipment.



- The undergraduate program curriculum is still out of date and needs to be revised.
- New students with less professional background enrolling in the MS program face more challenges.

Recommendation and Suggestions:

- In order to add more capacity, MHHS young professors need to pursue their PhD degrees in the future.
- According to existence gaps in knowledge



between the undergraduate and graduate programs, KPU recommends upgrading the undergraduate program in the future.

- UNO in collaboration with other organizations can help in upgrading KPU's undergraduate curriculum also if given the opportunity. The undergraduate programs function as a feeder to the masters' program.

As part of the agenda of the visit, Prof. Junke Goa offered two lectures to the first semester students at KPU. Lectures were scheduled from 4:30PM to 6:00PM every day. KPU students found it very interesting to have an American professor teaching them with an American style and level. Both lectures were about fluid mechanics. They proposed to have such opportunities to learn directly from UNO professors in the future. Lectures were offered in English and students were able to listen without translation. Prof. Junke promised to conduct two more lectures through skype in the next semester.

UNO team also had a meeting with KPU chancellor Mr. Mohammad Sayed Kakar on December 19, 2018 in his office. After a briefing by Mr. Ahmadzai and Prof. Junke Goa about UNO's role in this project, he thanked the UNO professors for their hard work and support.



Mr. Kakar requested to have an academic relationship among both universities, to help KPU and provide more academic support in the future. KPU leadership found the program very positively and effective for the faculty of the Department of Hydraulics and Hydrotechnical Structures at KPU.

