

June 26, 2007

H.E. Mohammed Ehsan Zia  
Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development  
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)  
Kabul  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

H.E. Suharab Ali Saffary  
Minister of Public Works  
Ministry of Public Works (MPW)  
Kabul  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Excellencies,

*Afghanistan: National Rural Access Program (NRAP) co-funded by:*

- 1) National Emergency Employment Program for Rural Access (NEEPRA, IDA Cr. 3799/H054)*
- 2) National Emergency Employment Project, Phase 1 (NEEP-1, ARTF, TF50973) and*
- 3) National Emergency Employment Program for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (NEEPDDR) and for Rural Livelihood Support (NEEPRLS) (JSDF, TF53414)*

*Implementation Support Mission  
June 11 to June 21, 2007*

I am pleased to submit our aide-memoire for the above-mentioned projects which are implemented under the Government's National Rural Access Program (NRAP).

We are satisfied with the progress of implementation of these projects and expect that all of them will reach their intended development objectives and will close on time. In certain parts of the country, the works are being hampered by security problems and we share your concern for the safety of staff.

As part of the final implementation support mission of NEEPRA, the team has carried out an analysis of the staffing practices under the NEEP program and it is found that staff and officers who did not work on the program have received salaries or allowances from it. This is not a good practice and has contributed to the relatively high delivery cost of the program, thus cannot be continued in the proposed National Emergency Rural Access Project (NERAP). Under the implementation of the proposed project, it is recommended that staff levels be adjusted to the requirement of actual work load.

NEEPRA will close as scheduled on September 30, 2007 and we expect to carry out the mission that will prepare the Implementation Completion and Results Report (ICR) during the month of October 2007. We request that you start the preparation of handing over the assets from the Implementation Partner to the ministries as well as the borrower's contribution to the ICR.

Sincerely,



Nancy Zhao  
Acting Country Director for Afghanistan  
South Asia Region

Attachment: Aide-Memoire

cc: H.E. Anwar-ul Haq Ahady, Minister of Finance  
Mr. Ghazi, Chief Coordinator, PDCU  
Mr. Wahidullaha Azizi, Deputy Chief Coordinator  
Mr. Shuja Shah, Executive Director, World Bank  
Mr. Abdul Qadir Fitrat, Advisor to the Executive Director, World Bank  
Ms. Alice Mann, Livelihood Advisor, DFID  
Ms. Carol Wilson, Deputy Director, Alternative Development & Agriculture Office, USAID  
Mr. Robert Lopez, Deputy Program Officer, USAID  
Mr. Terry Kramer, Head of Transportation/Roads Group, USAID  
Ms. Diana Youdell, Head of Aid Counselor, CIDA  
Mr. Lars-Olaf Eliason, First Secretary Development, SIDA  
Mr. Otsuka Tomoko, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan  
Mr. Tom Nettleton, AusAID

Cleared with and bcc: Mr. Guang Z. Chen, Sector Manager for Transport, SASEI

bcc: Messrs./Mmes.: Sid Ahmed Dib (EDS06); Alastair J. McKechnie, Mariam Sherman, Ludmilla Butenko (SAC01); Constance Bernard, Bruce Mitchell, SASSD Sector Managers (SASSD); Juanita J. Gopala-Rao, Pratima Kochar (SARRM); Task Team, Mission Members, IRIS; Naila Ahmed (SASAR); Deepal Fernando (SARPS); David Freese (LOAG2); Susanne Holste, Mohammad Qahir Haidari, Hasan A. Zaidi (SASEI); Kenneth Okpara (SARFM); Mohammad Arif Rasuli (SASES); Andrew Beath (Consultant); IRIS