RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF AFGHANISTAN

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

AFGHANISTAN SECONDARY CURRICULUM: PROCESSES AND PRODUCTS
(Grades 7 to 12)

26 August – 7 September, 2006
Kabul, Ottawa Hotel
Workshop objectives:

- To revise and improve framework provisions for secondary education (education structure; structure of the curriculum; learning outcomes for different stages and learning areas);

- To assess the existing drafts of syllabuses for secondary education in the light of international standards and agree on modalities of improvement (learning objectives; learning outcomes; scope and sequence; strategies for teaching and learning; assessment);

- Exploring good practices of converting syllabuses into textbooks (developing learning units focusing on student-centred approaches);

- Reflecting upon possibilities of improving curriculum processes in Afghanistan: to formulate recommendations and suggestions for follow-up.

Expected outcomes:

- Revised comprehensive draft of the *Secondary Curriculum Framework* incorporating the participants’ views and proposals on aspects such as learning objectives and areas of the curriculum; cross-cutting objectives and themes; gender issues; learning outcomes for different education stages; monitoring the quality of learning results.

- Overview of links between primary and secondary education (syllabuses and textbooks) envisaging coherence and consistency throughout the curriculum;

- Recommendations for improving secondary syllabuses: several models of improved syllabuses for different learning areas/subjects;

- Participants get acquainted with principles and means of student-centred materials design;

- Recommendations to improve both processes and products (phasing out activities; flow-charts; timelines; task distribution; quality control; sustained capacity building; institutional settings).
Prerequisites/Assumptions:

- The Curriculum Framework (2003) is distributed to participants with the invitation (if possible, existing draft syllabuses will also be made available and two such syllabuses will be translated into English);
- The presentations, inputs and handouts will be distributed to participants in Dari and Pashto;
- The workshop benefits from excellent translation and interpretation;
- Workshop schedule is observed and time is used fully and efficiently;
- Adjustments to the schedule will be provided flexibly according to needs;
- The final workshop agenda will benefit from the stakeholders’ inputs.

Documents to be prepared:

- Presentations and inputs from the MoE
- Presentations and inputs from the IBE team
- Handouts/Instruction sheets for group work and plenary sessions
- Reports from the groups
- Summaries of discussions/"consensus sheets"
- Samples of Curriculum Frameworks, syllabuses and textbooks from Afghanistan and different other countries
- Evaluation form
Chair persons/: Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General Director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate
General facilitators: Mr. Abdul Zaher Gulestani, Director, Curriculum Department
Mrs. Jeaniene Spink, Advisor to the Minister

Group Facilitators: Mr. Gul Ahmad Sagheri, Academic Council
Mr. M. Hasan Salimi, Academic Council
Mr. Hayatullah Naser, Academic Council
Mr. Yusuf Niazi, Academic Council

International resource persons: Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO programme coordinator
Mr. Omar Humos, Palestine, IBE consultant
Mr. Khalil Elaian, Jordan, IBE consultant

Secretariat: Mr. Mir Nagibullah
Mr. Anis Jonus
Mr. Hayatullah Osmani

Computer operators: Mr. Hamidullah
Mr. Abdul Fatah

Translators/interpreters: Mr. Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie
Mr. Masoud Younis
Mr. Sayed Ah. Moreed Sahidi
Mr. Mohammad Bashir Ahadi
WORKSHOP AGENDA

Day 1: Saturday, 26 August 2006

08:30-12:30 Opening session (Ministry of Education)

Chair: Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General Director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

National Anthem

Recitation of Quran

Mr. Haneef Atmar, Minister of Education

Mr. Anwar Al-Said, Programme specialist, UNESCO

10:30-11:00 Tea and coffee break

Introduction of participants and of resource persons; Participants’ expectations (25 minutes)

Mr. Seddiq Weera, Advisor to the Minister

Workshop overview: objectives; expected outcomes; working strategies (20 minutes)

Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General Director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO

Presentation of curriculum processes and achievements to date (15 minutes)

Mr. Abdul Zaher Gulestani, Director, Curriculum Department

Links with other programmes (20 minutes)

Mr. Seddiq Weera, Advisor to the Minister: Teacher Education

12:30-13:30 Lunch (Ottawa Hotel)
Secondary Education Curriculum and Textbook Development

13:30-16:00   Plenary (Ottawa Hotel)

Chair: Mrs. Jeaniene Spink, Advisor to the Minister

First case study: Palestine

Education System
Curriculum Framework
Institutional Settings

Mr. Omar Humos, Palestinian Centre for Curriculum Development

Plenary discussions

14:45-15:00   Tea and coffee break

Reflective exercise (groups): what is relevant for Afghanistan?

Day 2 – Sunday, 27 August 2006

08:30-12:30   Plenary

Chair: Mr. Abdul Zaher Golestani, Director, Curriculum Department

Input from MoE: Critical issues to be revised and improved in the Curriculum Framework for Secondary Education

Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General Director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

Response from international perspective: possible solutions to address the concerns raised

Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO
Mr. Omar Humos, IBE consultant
Mr. Khalil Elaian, IBE consultant

10:30-11:00   Tea and coffee break

(Presentations continue, if needed)
Day 3: Monday, 28 August 2006

08:30-12:30  Plenary

Chair: Mrs. Jeaniene Spink, Advisor to the Minister

Groups report to the plenary

10:30-11:00  Tea and coffee break

Summary of proposals/suggestions and consensus reaching (What is worth taking into consideration? Lessons learned)

Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General Director, Curriculum Department
Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO

12:30-13:30  Lunch

13:30-16:00  Plenary

Chair: Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

Curriculum Framework: its role and content

CF as guidance for syllabus development
CF: encouraging outcome-based approaches
CF: skills curriculum developers need in order to prepare a CF (writing exercise focusing on learning outcomes)

Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO
Mr. Omar Humos, IBE consultant
Mr. Khalil Elaian, IBE consultant
### Secondary Education Curriculum and Textbook Development

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:45-15:00</td>
<td>Tea and coffee break</td>
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<td>Presentations and discussions continue</td>
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**Day 4: Tuesday, 29 August 2006**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-12:30</td>
<td>Group activity: Drafting the Curriculum Framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>Tea and coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30-16:30</td>
<td>Group work continues</td>
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<td>14:45-15:00</td>
<td>Tea and coffee break</td>
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**Day 5: Wednesday, 30 August 2006**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-12:30</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chair: Mrs. Dkmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Groups present their work to the plenary</td>
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<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>Tea and coffee break</td>
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<td>Critical review of products (Curriculum Framework chapters)</td>
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<td>12:30-13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13:30-16:00</td>
<td>Groups finalise the draft Curriculum Framework based on incorporating comments and suggestions from the plenary</td>
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<td>14:45-15:00</td>
<td>Tea and coffee break</td>
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26 August – 7 September 2006, KABUL
Day 6: Thursday, 31 August 2006

08:30-12:30   Plenary

Chair: Mr. Abdul Zaher Golestani, Director, Curriculum Department

Links between Curriculum Framework and syllabuses

MoE: presentation of syllabuses drafted to date

Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General Director, Curriculum Department

A critical friend’s view from the inside

Mr. Nang Arsala, Advisor

10:30-11:00   Tea and coffee break

Feed-back from international perspective: Modern syllabus development - examples from different countries

Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO
Mr. Omar Humos, IBE consultant
Mr. Khalil Elaian, IBE consultant

12:30-13:30   Lunch

13:30-16:00   Group discussion: lessons learned from presentations

14:45-15:00   Tea and coffee break

Groups report to plenary; Conclusions

End of first week
Day 7: Saturday, 2 September 2006

08:30-12:30  Plenary

Chair: Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General Director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

Learning outcomes and assessment as part of a syllabus

Mr. Khalil Elaian, IBE consultant

10:30-11:00  Tea and coffee break

Consensus reaching on what a syllabus should encompass

Facilitator: Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO

12:30-13:30  Lunch

13:30-16:00  Groups develop draft of syllabuses for two subjects (grades 7-9; 10-12)

14:45-15:00  Tea and coffee break

Day 8: Sunday, 3 September 2006

08:30-12:30  Groups continue working

10:30-11:00  Tea and coffee break

12:30-13:30  Lunch

13:30-16:00  Group work continues

14:45-15:00  Tea and coffee break
### Day 9: Monday, 4 September 2006

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:30-12:30</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, Director general, Curriculum and Textbook directorate</td>
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<td><strong>Groups present to the plenary</strong></td>
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<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>Tea and coffee break</td>
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<td><strong>Critical analysis of outcomes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Facilitator:</strong> Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO</td>
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<td>12:30-13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13:30-16:00</td>
<td>Groups improve their syllabuses through incorporating comments and suggestions from the plenary</td>
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<td>14:45-15:00</td>
<td>Tea and coffee break</td>
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### Day 10: Tuesday, 5 September 2006

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:30-12:30</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Mrs. Jeaniene Spink, Advisor to the Minister</td>
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<td><strong>Converting syllabuses into textbooks</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mr. Omar Humos, IBE consultant</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mr. Khalil Elaian, IBE consultant</strong></td>
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<td>10:30-11:00</td>
<td>Tea and coffee break</td>
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<td><strong>Presentations and discussions continue</strong></td>
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<td>12:30-13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13:30-16:00</td>
<td>Group work: developing learning units based on syllabus models produced during the workshop</td>
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14:45-15:00  Tea and coffee break

Day 11: Wednesday, 6 September 2006

08:30-12:30  Group work continues
10:30-11:00  Tea and coffee break
12:30-13:30  Lunch
13:30-16:00  Plenary

Chair: Mr. Abdul Zaher Gulestani, Director, Curriculum Department

Groups present to the plenary
Critical analysis of products

14:45-15:00  Tea and coffee break

Lessons learned
Wrap-up and follow-up

Day 12: Thursday, 7 September 2006

08:30-12:30  CLOSING SESSION (Plenary)

Chair: Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General Director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

Open discussion: workshop outcomes
Recommendations and follow-up
Participants’ evaluation of the workshop

10:30-11:00  Tea and coffee break

Closing remarks

Mr. Haneef Atmar, Minister of Education

Mr. Malama Meleisea, Director, UNESCO Office Afghanistan

12:30-14:00  LUNCH

End of the workshop