



Visits Programme

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE

Public Affairs Division

NEW EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS LINKS AFGHANS, EUROPEAN, REGIONAL COUNTERPARTS

***MBAW-sponsored visit to OECD, French legislature, universities
Covers anticorruption, budget, finance, parliamentary affairs, more***



Participants attending the fourth Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Peer-to-Peer Exchange (September 24-28, 2012) included representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, and members of parliament with budget oversight responsibility.

The UNDP Making Budgets & Aid Work Project (MBAW) continues its focus on building an independent research and analysis capacity within the Ministry of Finance (MoF) 1) through technical peer exchanges 2) by establishing links with European and regional counterparts, principally through working relationship with the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and based on this relationship, 3) to establish research partnerships with leading academic and intergovernmental institutions think tanks and similar organizations.

A fourth peer-to-peer exchange (September 24-28, 2012) featured technical presentations and discussion on topics including: anti-corruption, budget planning/management/accountability, conflict-and-stability, development-and-aid effectiveness, parliamentary oversight, regional cooperation, taxation and urban-rural linkage.

The Aid Management Directorate (AMD) manages the peer-to-peer exchange programme which began in 2010. Those selected for the programme typically have aid management, budget, and development accountability as part of their daily jobs. The latest peer-to-peer exchange included three members of the Afghan parliament with budget oversight

responsibility who met with French National Assembly and Senate counterparts, subject: how to prepare for, conduct a good budget hearing.

Consistent with the programme's research and analysis focus, MBAW currently is working to establish with the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), one of the leading, and most prestigious universities of its kind, together with a Cambodian university and the Afghan Civil Service Institute, a tailored master of public administration program also based in Kabul. The Kabul-based programme will provide access to significant numbers of applicants who otherwise might not attend.

OECD does *not* undertake projects but rather, functions as a network, an exchange, and a repository for information and good practices, useful in addressing economic development issues, and takes a corporate view that the stronger and more inclusive its working groups, the better its product. OECD and AMD previously collaborated on survey projects including PD Monitoring Surveys (2006 & 2008), PD Evaluation-Phase Two, and the 2009 Survey on Monitoring the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States.