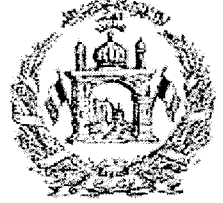




د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوري  
د پوهنې وزارت  
جمهوري اسلامي افغانستان  
وزارت معارف



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**  
**Ministry of Education**

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Sunday, 01 July 2007

Dr Marika Vicziany,  
Professor of Asian Political Economy  
Director, Monash Asia Institute  
Monash University

Dear Professor Vicziany,

I am pleased to thank you and your partners the Monash School of Music – Conservatorium and the Monash Science Centre for facilitating, supporting, and providing funding for Dr. Sarmast to visit Kabul in order to discuss with us a proposal for the funding and establishing a vocational school of music for talented Afghan orphans. It is my pleasure to confirm that what Dr Sarmast initiated with the support of the Monash Asia Institute and its partners fully agrees with the intention and plans of the Ministry of Education of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the rebuilding of music education, which is included in National Strategic Development Plan for vocational education in Afghanistan.

Given this opportunity, I would like to confirm that I met with Dr Sarmast on 26 June 2007 and we had a long discussion about the Monash project for the revival of music and music education in Afghanistan. Dr Sarmast also met with Dr Omary, the President, Director General of the Department of the Ministry of Education for Vocational Education on several occasions.

I highly appreciate the plan of the music school presented by Dr Sarmast, which is designed by the Friends of the Revival of Afghan Music (ROAM) project. It is well designed and will be a great facility for our future music students. I would like to confirm that the proposed design will be adopted for the future music school. We already have the land available and we are keen to begin approaching various international donors to assist with the costs of construction. From our experience we believe that to realize Dr. Sarmast's design to the stage of a fully functioning music school, it will realistically take 2-3 years.

Therefore, while we are seeking support from international donors, I have proposed to Dr Sarmast a transitional phase to speed up the process and enable the implementation of key elements of the future school. This involves renovating the current School of Fine Arts, which is presently being used for both music and fine arts, and using this solely as a music school. The School of Fine Arts building was originally a music school and adjoins the land we are offering for the future music school. We would refurbish this building so it is suitable as a music school for approximately 150 students.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the Monash project for rebuilding music education in Afghanistan, according to your plan to house orphans as well as regular students studying at the school, we will construct a low-budget dining area and kitchen, and rent two additional premises to be used as dormitories for girls and boys.

We are currently working on budget estimates for the refurbishment of the existing building and construction of the dining area, the rental of additional properties for dormitories, equipment for the school (desks, office cabinets, computers, TVs etc) and also for quality musical instruments.

While the Ministry of Education of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will do its best to raise funding for the construction of the future school of music through international donors, during this transitional stage we confirm that we will use our available resources for transforming the existing School of Fine Arts building into a functioning school of music if the Monash Asia Institute and its partners is able to undertake the logistics and cost of making the school operational and sustainable.

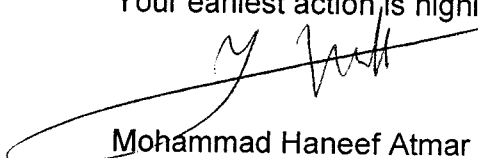
Specifically we would hope that Monash would undertake the following:

- curriculum development
- specialist teaching staff
- teacher training
- text books and teaching materials
- music archives and library
- an accreditation system
- provision of specialist administrative staff – a director, administration officer and a librarian for 2-3 years at the same time training Afghan staff in these roles so a 'soft' transfer can occur

While we would seek support from international donors to acquire a range of quality musical instruments, both traditional and Western, as part of our resource mobilization, we would hope that Monash could advise with the quality, type and the most competitive prices for such instruments.

We are very dedicated to implementing Dr Sarmast's excellent plan and we believe that our proposal for this transitional phase of using and capitalizing on our existing resources, is a vital and efficient way to begin realizing the wonderful vision of the future music school. In laying this essential groundwork, once we have the funds to build the new school, all the essential elements such as curriculum development and teacher training, instruments, teaching materials and equipment, will have been achieved. Once this music school is operational, it will be an excellent prototype for establishing other music schools throughout Afghanistan.

Your earliest action is highly appreciated



Mohammad Haneef Atmar  
Minister of Education  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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