



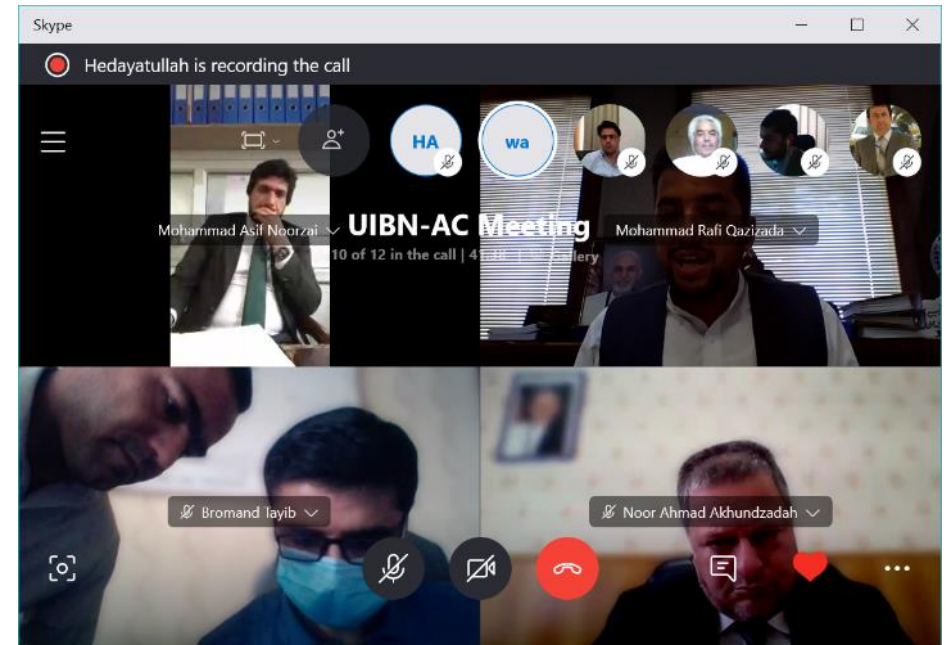
Upper Indus Basin Network

Country progress report

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Progress on UIBN-Afghanistan Country Chapter

- Since the last UIBN-RSC meeting, Afghanistan held 3 country chapter meetings (2 in Kabul and 1 in Dubai)
- 1 organization added as a member of UIBN-AC: Afghanistan National Water and Environment Research Centre (ANWERC)
- 2 technical papers presented to the team: Gender and ground water
- 6 thematic working groups updated their progress

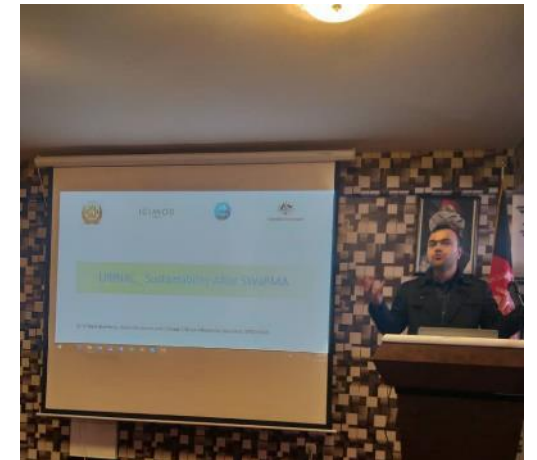


Progress on UIBN-Afghanistan Country Chapter

One Technical presentation was presented by Dr. Wasim Eqbal, Director of ANWERC on the 6th UIBN-AC meeting organized in Kabul, 23 February 2020.

Topic of the Presentation: Effective and sustainable researches and publications on Water Resources & Disaster risk reduction in UIB

- Few academic publications are available in the 6 thematic areas in Afghanistan , which UIBN is concentrated on.
- Identify indoor and outdoor Afghan researchers to conduct joint researchers on 6 selected topics
- Encourage the policy makers to formulate the policy and plans based on the findings of science and researches



Progress of the 6 Technical working groups (TWGs)

Progress of TWG 6:

Research on Gender and social inclusions considerations in the water resources management agencies (MEW & MAIL) was conducted by Mr. Mohammad Khalid Habibi & his researchers team from Gender Department Kabul University. Key findings were:

- Percentage of the female employees in MEW is 6% and in the MAIL is 4% compared to Afghan government policy which is 30%. Fewer women in leadership positions
- Women's participation and inclusion is not highlighted clearly in the policies often in policy making
- Gender departments established in both ministries, emphasis on inclusion of women in policy making positions



Progress of the 6 Technical working groups (TWGs)

Progress of TWG 4:

Research presentation delivered by Prof Naim Eqrar on Groundwater shortage and quality in Kabul city. Key findings of the research were:

- Due to low annual precipitation, rapid population growth (4 million inhabitants), the intensity of deep wells and over-pumping throughout the city, the groundwater level gradually declined by 0.5–1 meter
- The research paper approved to be published by ICIMOD in 2020
- Government should pay more attention on artificial recharge and formulate policy for public awareness on GW conservation



Progress based on intermediate outcomes of UIBN

- For sustainability and effective research, 6 technical groups transferred to ANWERC and coordinating by research center.
- Young and professional researchers will lead each 6 technical groups, mainly academia
- Afghanistan will introduce MSc and Ph.D students to regional universities to strengthen its capacity in research in 6 topics.
- Small research grants will allocate for scientific research in the 6 thematic areas
- Top policy makers attending in the UIBN – AC meetings
- More female researchers will be joint in technical working groups (**3 females included in the TWGs**)
- Hydro-meteorological observations network extend in mountainous area
- Research based curriculum will be consider in Kabul universities and other provinces
- Afghanistan is interested on scientific and research based cooperation in the UIBN platform

Future plans for the country chapter

- Afghanistan chapter will be coordinated by ANWERC and researchers and professors will lead each group
- AC is willing to conduct joint research and studies on selected topics (**50 sub-topics identified considering the needs of sectorial ministires**)
- UIBN-AC asked other member countries in capacity enhancement of Afghan colleagues
- Government will allocate research fund to ANWERC for sustainability of technical working groups.
- Indoor and outdoor Afghan researchers will be invited to joint the TWGs
- Afghanistan plans to publish more scientific papers on 6 thematic areas in more reliable academic journals (in the next 6 months, Afghanistan will publish 3 papers
- Monthly and quarterly meetings will be held to increase the TWGs outputs and outcomes
- Afghanistan is willing to host the next RSC meeting in Kabul. **Considering the security condition**

A wide-angle photograph of a high-altitude mountain range. In the foreground, a dark, rocky, and gravelly slope leads up to a large, white glacier. The glacier stretches across the middle ground, with patches of snow and ice. In the background, several sharp, jagged mountain peaks are visible, some covered in snow and partially shrouded in mist or low-hanging clouds. The sky is a deep blue, filled with soft, white, wispy clouds. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and grandeur.

Thank you