



SAE eNEWSLETTER

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Dear Colleagues:

The Eid- ul-Udha (Eid Qurban) was on Thursday, September 24, 2015. Hoping that you had a celebration filled with peace, happiness, and gathering of your family and friends. On behalf of the Editorial Board of the SAE eNewsletter, I am wishing you and your respected families blessing for the belated Eid Qurban.

This issue of the SAE eNewsletter (newsletter) features report about a Conference on Rebuilding Sustainable Communities in Afghanistan, which was held in Boston on July 27, 2015. There are comments and suggestions about Kabul Urban Planning.

There is news about travel of SAE delegation to Kabul and Seminar on introducing Union of Afghanistan Societies of Architects and Engineers to the government of Afghanistan.

The newsletter also includes an interview with Professor Azam Gul and an informative article about Antibiotic Resistance: Emerging Threat in Agricultural and Environmental Systems.

We are looking forward to the receipt of your technical news, articles, comments, suggestions, questions, and opinions about SAE and this publication.

Very Truly Yours,

G. Mujtaba, MS- CE,
P.E., CPM;
Editor- In- Chief, SAE
eNewsletter

"This issue of the SAE eNewsletter (newsletter) features an article about Kabul Urban Planning and report about Conference on Rebuilding Sustainable Communities in Afghanistan."

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GREETINGS FROM THE SAE PRESIDENT

Dear SAE Colleagues Salaam:

Below you will find updates about recent SAE developmental activities; including, upcoming events, and information about the trip of our delegation to Kabul.

SAE Delegation Trip to Kabul (October 2015)



As I reported in the July 2015 issue of SAE eNewsletter, I traveled to Kabul and met with a few Afghan government officials. The results of my meetings were overwhelmingly positive. I found out that there is need for SAE to become actively involved in the development and construction efforts of our beloved country, Afghanistan.

To fulfill the request of the relevant Afghan Ministries, I requested that the seasoned SAE members, who have expertise in specific needed areas, to join me for an official SAE delegation trip to Afghanistan. My request was supported by our SAE elected officials and I am very grateful to my colleagues who volunteered to embark with me on this important trip. Over the past four months I have been in continued contact with the Afghan Ministry officials in Kabul. Their responses have been extremely positive and supportive. H.E. Mr. Sayed Sadat Naderi, Minister of Urban Development, in particular has been personally involved in every step of the way, even this morning as I writing this message, I had discussions with him.

The SAE delegation consists of highly experienced individuals with extraordinary length of services in their respective fields of engineering. The Afghan government officials specifically asked for the help of the SAE personnel with such knowledge and experience that the members of the delegation possess. While this trip is short in duration, we hope this will mark the beginning of many future trips for SAE members. The trip is anticipated to commence around mid-October. Specific details of the trip will be provided upon the delegation's return from Afghanistan.

The SAE delegation trip to Kabul coincides with the official signing ceremony for the formation the Union of Afghanistan Society of Architects and Engineers (UASAE) where the two existing Kabul based organization, the Society of Afghan Architects and Engineers (SAAE) and Afghanistan Engineers and Architects (AEA) will work together as a union on national and international matters of interest. The ceremony is part of a seminar where SAE delegation will fully participate on discussions related architectural and engineering topics.

Executive Committee Activities

Over the past few months, the SAE Executive Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss issues of interest to the Society and Afghanistan. I am very happy to report that several former SAE members have rejoined and are now actively engaged in the Society activities.

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At the last Executive Committee meeting we were very fortunate to meet with the Planning Director of Afghanistan's Ministry of Energy and Water. The Director shared her experience and provided important guidance for our delegation trip to Afghanistan. We also had very productive meetings with the President of our two Afghan sister organizations here in the Washington DC area.

Meeting with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE): The SAE President, Executive Committee, and the President of SAAE, Dr. Zabiullah Mojaddidy, held a meeting with officials of ASCE. During the meeting, discussions were held regarding the possibility of future joint cooperation in the area of the capacity building efforts. The meeting was productive and several topics of mutual interest were discussed.

Upcoming Events

I would like to inform our esteemed members that our upcoming 2016 annual SAE general assembly will be held on Saturday January 16, 2016. The meeting will be face-to-face in the form of seminar-style event. Details of the general assembly meeting will be available in October. This will provide the SAE distant members ample time to make arrangements to attend the general assembly in the Washington DC area. I hope that all SAE members will be able to attend this important seminar and share their opinions on the future direction of the Society.

I am excited to all that SAE has in store and what we can accomplish through our upcoming trip to Afghanistan. I look forward to getting back to you with full details and outcomes of the trip.

Sincerely,

Atiq Panjshiri

President, the Society of Afghan Engineers

Message from the Chairperson, SAE Board of Directors

Dear fellow SAE Members and Readers:

It is my hope this Eid Al Adha was blessed with peace, joy and good health to all. May Allah (SWT) bring continuous peace and prosperity to all mankind.

At the same time, I wish to express my deepest condolences to the families and all who were affected by the recent tragedy in Mecca. May Allah (SWT) grant them solace and comfort during the mourning period and we will remember them in our prayers and thoughts



I would like to commend SAE Board Members, the President and the Executive, as well as esteemed Members of SAE for the team work and effort that they demonstrated this year.

During the past few months, the Board of Directors held several meetings to discuss modalities and strategies on how SAE can achieve its goal of contribution to the architectural and engineering related restructuring activities of our beloved country, Afghanistan. Both the Board of Directors and the Executive are continuing to work as a team to achieve this goal.

The SAE Bylaws Subcommittee, Dr. Salah Keshawarz, Mr. Hafizullah Wardak, and Mr. Rafaat Ludin were assigned the task of reviewing and updating the SAE Bylaws. The Subcommittee worked diligently to update the Bylaws and they have presented them to the Board of Directors for further review and approval process.

I am very encouraged with what SAE has been involved in, with the wealth of talent and experience that exists in the Society, and trust that if we continue to demonstrate this great spirit of teamwork we can accomplish a lot and attain our goals.

Very truly yours,

Sohaila Sanie Shekib,
Chairperson, Board of Directors
The Society of Afghan Engineers

Comments and Suggestions

Kabul Urban Planning

Mr. Atiq Panjshiri, the SAE President, has forwarded the copy of the presentation that has been prepared by UN-Habitat in coordination with Ministry of Urban Development Authority. The presentation is related to Kabul Urban Planning.

Mr. Panjshiri has asked the SAE members for their comments and suggestions related to the presentation. Mr. Hafizullah Wardak, the SAE Board Member and former professor of Kabul University has responded to Mr. Panjshiri's email on September 28, 2015. In his email he has copied the Editorial Board of the SAE eNewsletter. The Newsletter Editors have found his comments and suggestion to be invaluable. The contents of his email are shared with the readers of the newsletter as described below:

By: Professor Hafizullah Wardak September 28, 2015

Dear Panjshiri Sahib Salaam:

Thank you for sharing this study. Must have cost fortune to complete this study.

Urban Planning is not my area of specialty; fortunately SAE has Azadzoi Sahib who is expert in this field and Sabir Jan Sarwary Sahib who has been managing city developments in California. Both may have professional inputs on this topic.

However, I have been thinking on the overpopulation and lack of essential resources for the jammed Kabul City for sometimes. It was a shock to me, in my recent visit, to see traffic jam of the magnitude unbelievable in a city that was planned for less than 500,000 residents. There are also other problems that local media discuss them in their daily news. I would like to take this opportunity and make few remarks related to it:

1. There is enormous pressure on vital resources in Kabul City- water, clean air, land, roads, electricity, general utilities, green areas, wetlands, proper sanitation & waste disposal, and parks..., to name few. This is due to uncontrolled growth and lack of urban planning. Since there is no proper planning and control, this has resulted in social and environmental problems. The excessive accumulation of people, and the lack of adequate infrastructure have created inconvenience for the residence. A heavy rain creates floods in most of the residential streets, due to lack of proper drainage system or flood control. It brings daily life to a halt-a burden and inconvenience for ordinary life of residents of Kabul City, especially the older residential areas.
2. Significant environmental impacts have occurred due to the modes of heating, cooking, burning of plastics, pumping sewage into septic tanks and consumption of open urban spaces. I remember seeing goats eating plastics. Pollution, traffic jams of used cars that release CO₂ and other toxic gases into atmosphere, etc., have become common features in Kabul City. The crisp

and clear blue sky of Kabul City and snow packed mountains in a distance that I remember have become part of history. The quality of life that existed is no longer there. The air quality that existed is no longer there. The availability of supporting resources has been compromised. The prolonged war and lack of security have forced families from the nearby cities to migrate to Kabul city for relative security, job opportunities and many other reasons.

3. This influx of large number of migrants have resulted housing shortage, that had resulted in irregular buildings, mud houses in unplanned areas and have created new irregular additions to the city of Kabul
4. It is time to formulate and develop plans for how to depopulate the city and move population out of Kabul City to other cities.
5. Development of new areas and annexation should be avoided and stopped. With annexation and addition, the current problems will exponentially increase and go out of control. It is already out of control.
6. I do not recommend adding and creating the “New Kabul City”, this project will never get complete but drain and divert resources from the main Kabul city. If this project is not halted it will be another failed city and source of problems to residents. The supporting resources are limited. Instead ways should be planned to move populations to existing outskirt cities. This can be accomplished by: (I understand there is cost in this option too)
 - a. Create high-speed train running from the city of Kabul to Kapisa-Parwan (64 km) and back to Kabul. It will take less than 30 minutes one way to destination, I am sure a large number will prefer to live in those areas.
 - b. High-Speed train running from the city of Kabul to Ghazni (129 km). It will take less than an hour to reach destination.
 - c. High speed train running from the city of Kabul to Gardez (76 km). It will take less than an hour
 - d. High speed train runs at about 160 km/hr.
 - e. Most important security in these surrounding and job opportunities should be made available and maintained.
 - f. This model can be replicated in Kandahar, Herat, Mazaar Sharif and other large cities in the future
7. Long range goal for gradual replacements of irregular housing in the old sections of the city with new organized habitable communities should be planned for the next 20-30 years. Demolish old Kabul city Bagh-i-Ali Mardan, Shahrara, Chindawel... etc. and incrementally replace them with new modern style self-sustained communities that

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include running water, electricity, roads, schools, shopping areas, sanitation, apartments and other essentials for a modern community.

8. A limit should be set on the borders of Kabul City and strict implementation of city building code & regulations should be implemented within the city limits.

The above were just few items in my mind how to bring common sense to Kabul City. I am sure one could write pages and pages of existing problems and solutions-it takes time.

With Regard

Hafiz Wardak

Rebuilding Sustainable Communities in Afghanistan, "The Way Forward"

An International Conference at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, July 27, 2015

Prepared by: Najim Azadzo, SAE Board Member

In March 1948, just after the end of World War II, the United States Congress passed the Economic Cooperation Act and approved funding of over \$12 billion for the rebuilding of war- ravaged Western Europe. That comprehensive European Recovery Program was nicknamed the 'Marshall Plan.'

In 2014, after over a decade of war in Afghanistan, records show that more United States and NATO money had been invested in the "reconstruction" of that country than was spent on the Marshall Plan.

Therefore, it seems that this is an appropriate time for the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, in collaboration with Azad Architects of Newton, MA, to host an international conference on ***Rebuilding Sustainable Communities in Afghanistan: The Way Forward***.

The one-day conference brought together high level US Government Officials, Academicians from



Participants and presenters of the conference. There were 23 presenters at this conference and over 100 attendees.

several universities, professional, engineers, architects, and experts on Afghanistan from all over the world. There was also a special session on the ***"Role of Women in the Reconstruction of Afghanistan"*** that brought together women representatives from the USAID and several Women organizations in the US. **The Society of Afghan Engineers** collaborated in organizing this conference.

The conference began with warm welcoming remarks by the Provost Winston Langley; Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts, Boston; Prof. Philip DiSalvio, Dean of College of Advancing and Professional Studies; and Prof. David Cash, Dean of John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies. http://youtu.be/LS_tkwvAUrU



UK Ambassador Peter Wilson

The **Keynote Speaker** of the conference was **Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations, Mr. Peter Wilson, CMG**. Mr. Wilson served as Asia Pacific Director in London where he covered North and South East Asia in 2010. Mr. Wilson also served at the British Embassy as a political Counselor in China from 2007 to 2010 and in Pakistan from 2005-2006. Ambassador Wilson was a member of the British Trade Commissioner in 1999 and he was the head of the Strategic Policy Team for the FCO in London from 2003 to 2005. Prior,

Mr. Wilson served with British and European Institutions on several key positions. <http://youtu.be/RjqGOrj5n2g>

Ambassador Wilson's talk mainly focused on "*Why Afghanistan Matters to the British, and What the UK is Doing About it, Abroad and at Home*". In his address he aimed to give a strategic overview of the UK's past policy, described UK's continued involvement, and also situated this in British counter radicalization policy at home.

Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad graciously accepted to be the Keynote Speaker of the Conference but regrettably could not attend the conference due to health reasons.

The Conference began with presentations of a three panelists from the **US Government's Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)**. Ms. Gabriele A. Tonsil Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Inspections; Mr. Timothy M. Nelson, Chief of Staff and Director of Strategic Planning; and Michael Bindell, Subject Matter Expert, Research and Analysis Directorate gave an hour long presentation on the investigation work of the SIGAR for Afghanistan reconstruction in the past 14 years.

Ms. Tonsil leads the agency's team of auditors, program analysts, and engineers deployed in Afghanistan and at SIGAR's headquarter in Virginia. She is responsible for ensuring the production of audit and inspection reports to comply with government audit and inspection standard, support Congress in its oversight of U.S. funded Afghan reconstruction programs, and provide actionable recommendations to the agencies implementing those programs.

Mr. Timothy M. Nelson is SIGAR's Chief of Staff and is directly involved in strategic planning, personnel decisions, budgeting, and all other aspects of SIGAR's operation.

<http://youtu.be/X5DUFTGWGx8>



SIGAR's Panelists; from Left to Right: Mr. Timothy Nelson, Ms. Gabriele Tonsil, and Mr. Michael Bendell

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Mr. Michael Bendell as a Subject Matter Expert writes the Economic and Social Development section of its congressionally mandated Quarterly Report to Congress.

The Conference Guest Speaker was Mr. Donald "Larry" Sampler, Jr., of the Office of United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Mr. Sampler is Assistant to the Administrator of Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs (OAPA) leading USIAD's efforts for the agency's two largest missions at Washington DC. Mr. Sampler has considerable experience in the private sector, the military, and in post and intra-conflict missions of both the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations. More recently, he served as a senior official in the US government focused on a whole of government approach to reconstruction and stabilization. He has travelled to Afghanistan over 60 times and lived in Kabul for several years.

<http://youtu.be/5LW6XIR7kt0>

Mr. Donald Sampler's talk focused on *"Afghanistan: Failure versus Facts"*. Risk versus reward; Fraud versus innovation; Waste versus need; Corruption versus capacity. He added: ***"It would be easy to conclude from these reports that all we have received for American blood and treasure are small successes tainted by the specter of lost and stolen taxpayer dollars." A large part of my time is spent separating the fact from the fantasy, and the truth from relentless - and sometimes misleading stream of negative images fed to us.***



Mr. Donald "Larry" Sampler, USAID Assistant Administrator of Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan

How the quality of life in Afghanistan changed over the past 14 years? And what has the USAID don to help ensure that those changes are positive, sustainable, and available to all? How has USAID performed as stewards for tax payer dollars? And how well have we balanced between the need for measurable outputs, outcomes and impacts as returns on our investment?

Mr. Sampler concluded that: The resilience, passion, pride and innovation that have brought Afghanistan this far, enhanced by access to healthcare, education and governance for all Afghanistan citizens, will ensure that they continue to make progress towards a better, brighter, and more prosperous future.

Session 1 of the Conference focused on **"A Rebuilt Afghanistan"** and it consisted of a five panelists that lasted for 1-1/2 hour, from 10:30 am to 11:50 am. The presenters were Mr. Darren K Stoker, Mr. Ahmad-Shah Durani-Khan, Mr. James Bullion, Mr. Paul Fishstein, and Mr. Theodore Sawruk.

<http://youtu.be/MaAnNxse7pQ>



Session-1 Panelists: L to R: Ms. Sonia Dorai (facilitator), Mr. Darren Stoker, Mr. Ahmad-Shah Durani-Khan, Mr James Bullion, Mr. Paul Fishstein, Mr. Theodore Sawruk, and Mr.Najim Azadzoi (moderator)

Mr. Darren Stoker is a professor from Cape Cod Community College and his topic was on *"Security and Mitigation of the Afghanistan Infrastructure: Reexamining from a Socio-functional Viewpoint"*.

Mr. Ahmad-Shah Durani-Khan is an Afghan architect and the author of the book *"The Leadership Zone"* and the title of his presentation was on *"A New Look at the Resources Allocation and Investment"*.

Mr. James Bullion is a former Director of US Department of Defense's Task Force for Business and Stability Operation and he presented his paper on *"The Critical Role of The Private Section in Afghanistan."*

Mr. Paul Fishstein is a Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and Tufts University's Feinstein International Center and the Director of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, a Kabul-based policy research institution. His topic focused on *"Private Sector Development in Afghanistan: Can we learn any Lessons on Sustainability?"*

And the last speaker was Professor Theodore Sawruk from the University of Hartford, Connecticut that presented his paper titled: *"Mayhem and Merriment: Middle-Class Architecture in Herat, Afghanistan."*

Session-2 of the Conference was on the **Role of Women in the Reconstruction of Afghanistan**. At this Session, there were five (5) panelists who presented their papers in the afternoon from 2:40 pm to 4:00 pm.

Ms. Shukria Dellawar is the advocacy for **Women for Afghan Women** and presented her work on *"An Overview of Afghan Women's role in the reconstruction Process."*

<http://youtu.be/zrYKpfQAddg>

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Ms. Kristen Cordell is one of the central architect of the **\$216 million Promote Program**, **USAID's largest single investment in gender equity and women's empowerment** and spoke about *"Women in Nation-building, the Case of Post-Conflict Afghanistan."*



Session-2 Panelists from L to R: Ms. Shukria Dellawar, Mr. Thomas Rzemysk, Ms. Nicole B. Dhanraj, Ms. Sonik Sadozai, and Ms. Kritten Cordell

Mr. Thomas Rzemysk; Ms. Hilary Johnson-Lutz; and Ms. Nicole B. Bhanraj presented their work on *"Women and Economic Development in the Post Conflict-Afghanistan: Learning from other Muslim Nations."*

Ms. Sonia Sonik, Director of **Afghan Women's Center for Excellence** presented her paper on *"Computer Literacy for the Afghan Girls with Technology for Building Their Careers."*

The last Session of the Conference focused on **"The Way Forward"**. This Session consisted of three Panelists: Mr. Thomas J. Mack, Mr. Richard Ghiasy, and Mr. James Bullion. The Session was moderated by Mr. Najim Azadzoi.

<http://youtu.be/jzyqW0klWCM>

Mr. Thomas J. Mack is a groundwater specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey and a senior hydro geologist on the USGS Afghanistan Project until 2014. His work included characterization of the regional water resources and their availability for public supply and mineral development. He outlined the importance of the **U.S. Geological Survey Activities in Support of Rebuilding Afghanistan's Water Resources Capability**.



Session-3 of the Conference, From L to R: Mr. Najim Azadzoi (Moderator), Mr. Thomas J. Mack, Mr. Richard Ghiasy, and Mr. James L. Bullion

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Mr. Richard Ghiasy is a Researcher at the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**. Richard studies Afghanistan's overall development and reconstruction. He presented his view on "The Way Out: Overarching Strategy, Coordination Approaches.

Mr. James Bullion, a former 30 years US Army Reserve and an expert on commercial banking and investment concluded that:

"After 14 years of conflict that followed decades of instability and invasion, Afghanistan's economy has become almost completely dependent on the international community, which contributes to billions of dollars every year. Unfortunately, those donations have done little to build a sustainable economy that could be weaned off of international dependence. The only viable solution is for the private sector, driven by international investment, to develop profitable business enterprises that can compete with foreign imports, create skilled jobs, generate exports and produce revenues for the government."



Members of the Society of Afghan Engineers from L to R: Mr. Ahmad-Shah Durani Khan, Mr. Najim Azadzo, and Mr. Sarwar Sabery (SAE Board of Directors)

Note: Members of the Society of Afghan Engineers played a major role in initiating, organizing, and coordinating this International Conference with Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disaster (CRSCAD) of the University of Massachusetts, Boston. The Conference was co-organized, sponsored and moderated by SAE Board Member, Mr. Najim Azadoi. A full report of the conference will be prepared for the next issue of the SAE Newsletter.

The SAE Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Fairfax, VA

September 19, 2015

Mr. Atiq Panjshiri called the meeting to order by welcoming the SAE attendees and guests. This was a joint special meeting of the SAE Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The meeting was held in the Office of Sanie Consulting Group from 4:00- 6:30 PM on September 19, 2015. Dr. Zabihullah Mojaddidy, the President of the Society of Afghan Architects and Engineers (SAAE) and Ms. Zia gul Saljuki, SAAE Member, were also present during the meeting.

Meeting Agenda

The following were the meeting agenda items:

- A tentative agenda for an upcoming joint SAE-SAAE Seminar on Introducing the Union of Afghanistan Societies of Architects and Engineers (UASAE) (Copy of the Preliminary DRAFT meeting agenda is attached)
- The travel of SAE delegation to Kabul during mid-October 2015
- Future collaboration/cooperation with SAAE and the newly formed Union in Kabul

Meeting participants:

The SAAE Guests

1. Dr. Zabiullah Mojaddidy
2. Ms. Zia gul Saljuki

The SAE Attendees

1. Mr. Atiq Panjshiri, President
2. Ms. Sohaila Shekib, Chairman of the Board
3. Mr. Farid S Abass, Vice President
4. Mr. Ashraf M. Roshan, Executive Committee (EC) Member
5. Mr. Hamayon Ibrahim, Member
6. Mr. Ahmad Farid Haidari, EC Member
7. Mr. Sadeq Ezzat, Member
8. Mr. Waheed Ahmad Jalalzada, EC Member
9. Mr. Gul Afghan Saleh, EC Member
10. Ustad Ghulam Mujtaba, Editor- In- Chief of SAE eNewsletter, joined the meeting by telephone

Discussions

The Travel of SAE Delegation to Kabul

Mr. Panjshiri reported that in response to the request of the Government of Afghanistan for the need of technical support, the SAE is going to send the following members/experts to Kabul to attend the seminar and meet with governmental agencies from October 15 to 23, 2015

1. Mr. Atiq panjshiri
2. Ms. Sohaila Shekib
3. Mr. Nazir Babacarkhail
4. Dr. Saleh Keshawarz
5. Mr. Amanullah Mommandi

Mr. Hashem Baluch is already in Kabul as well as Dr. Mahmood Samizay who have been coordinating SAE's efforts with Afghanistan Engineers' Association (AEA) and Society of Afghan Architects and Engineers (SAAE) for the upcoming seminar. However, Dr. Samizay will be returning back to the US by the time the delegation arrives in Kabul.

Mr. Panjshiri reported that the delegation members have volunteered to pay their air transportation costs themselves. However, after arriving in Kabul, accommodation for those individuals who may need it, and local road transportation, as well as security would be provided by the Afghan Government Ministries.

Suggestions/Decisions

1. It would be best if the Seminar could be convened on October 20, 2015.
2. It was suggested that the Seminar be extended throughout the day.
3. It would be better if some round-table or panel discussions with the ministries on topics of interest to the audience are planned for the afternoon session.
4. It was suggested if the participating ministers could be invited in two separate groups; one group to be invited for the morning session and the other for the afternoon.
5. It would be good if ministers and other presenters could share their speeches in advance. The organizing committee could respectfully ask the ministers to share their formal and prewritten speeches in which they can describe their specific expectations from UASAE.
6. It was suggested that the seminar should have a resolution. The resolution may include statements such as what UASAE can do for the government and what the government expects from them.
7. Certification of engineers and companies by the department of professional regulations or any other certification agencies should be part of the agenda for this Seminar.
8. Main purpose of the Seminar should be to introduce the UASAE and its goals. It should aim to highlight how the UASAE can support the Government.

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9. SAE should encourage the government to establish a department of professional regulations so this department could follow up on the development and implementation of the policy that will be suggested during the Seminar.
10. UASAE should seek Government support in providing a free of charge venue for the Seminar, take care of the event's security and contribute towards other expenses, if possible.
11. An official representative of the Societies of Afghan Engineers in Europe should be invited.
12. A Media Statement or Press Release should be prepared.

Points emphasized and/or clarified:

- Active participation of SAE members in all affairs of the association, especially in the areas of their expertise is needed.
- The Seminar must be publicized to the maximum extent possible.
- On the agenda, Mr. Arif Rasuli's name should be introduced as Head of Union of Afghanistan Societies of Architects and Engineers.
- There are a variety of shortcomings in technical, safety, environmental and engineering practices in Afghanistan. The Afghan engineering societies have the responsibility to identify, analyze and address these shortcomings as soon as possible, otherwise, if the situation continues as it is now and these problems are ignored, the consequences of these problems will be devastating in the next 10 to 15 years.
- There should be alternative options to facilitate broader participation of interested people such as live TV broadcasting of the event, use of telephone, skype and internet.
- The Union should be registered and should establish its committees soonest.
- SAE delegation should be part of the panel in this Seminar.
- SAE can support the Government in establishing of policies, regulations, norms, specifications, standards and engineering education.
- The Seminar organizers should work very closely with the participating ministries to get them involved as much as possible in planning for the Seminar.
- SAE needs to correct the AEA's currently misspelled name in its website as well as in documents relating to this Seminar.
- The Afghan Ambassador in Washington DC should be met and his support sought for this Seminar.
- SAE cannot join the UASAE in all activities inside Afghanistan, but we can work together with them. The UASAE members would be SAE's eyes and ears in Afghanistan.

SAE 2016 General Assembly:

The 2016 General Assembly of the Society of Afghan Engineers will be held in Washington DC area on Saturday January 16, 2016. It would be a one-day face-to-face meeting. The meeting agenda and the details of the program will be sent to the members by email.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by:

Dr. Gul Afghan Saleh, Manager
The Society of Afghani Engineers

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Draft Agenda

Seminar on Introducing Union Of Afghanistan Societies of Architects and Engineers				
Venue: Date Time				
S. No	Time	Activity	Key Speakers	Responsible Person
1	8:00 – 8:50	Registration and breakfast	All participants	All participants
2	8:50 – 8:55	Recitation from Holy Quran	Eng. (?)	?
3	8:55 –9:00	National Anthem		Organizers
4	9:00– 9:20	Welcome Address and Objectives of the Seminar	Afghan Engineering Association (AEA) (Head of Union)	
5	9:20 –9:40	Role and Potential of Afghan societies of architects and engineers in US and Europe (SAE)	Eng. Atiq Panjsheri SAE President	
6	9:40 –10:00	How to build the bridge between USAE and Afghan Government: Mechanism and legal issues of partnerships	A senior member of the Union	
7	10:00-11:00	Speeches of 7 ministers as: 1- Public Work 2- Urban Development 3- Mines 4- Water & Energy 5- Agriculture 6- Rural Development 7- Kabul Mayor	Ministers	
8	11.00 – 12:00	Presentation on (How to reduce cost of road projects construction having High qualities).	Eng. Asad Oryakhel and Dr. Shahghasi	
9	12:00 – 12:30	Question and Answer Possibly with Media??	Head of Associations and Union?	
10	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch? And end of the program		

The speeches and presentations' Explanation:

4- Welcome Address and Objective of the Seminar:

The speaker will be selected.

- Introduction of the Union.
- Goal of the Union
- Objectives of the Union
- Vision and mission of the Union
- Number of members
- Achievements of the Union
- Values

5- Personation on: Role and Potential of Afghan societies of architects and engineers in US and Europe (SAE)

By: Panjsheri

- Background of SAE
- Potential of SAE
- Ethical code of conduct
- Strengths
- Achievements of SAE
- Researches (Specially Applied Researches with Afghanistan Universities)
- Consultancy services
- Project life cycle management

6- How to Build the Bridge between USAE and Afghan Government (mechanism and legal issues of partnership)

The speaker will be selected.

- Recognition of Union by the Afghan government
- Issue of Government Grant to Union in sponsoring of consultancy services-legal issues and mechanism
- Role of the Union in supporting the Government, Providing advices, studying technical proposals of big biddings and proposals.
- Certification and accreditation of engineering documents and construction companies.
- Capacity building of Public and Privet Sector
- Developing Policies and strategies

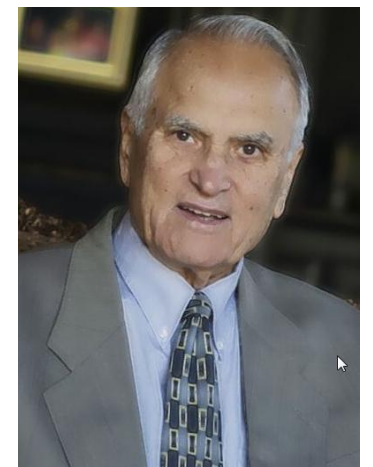
7- Speeches of the ministers have to be related to the Union

8- Presentation on (How to reduce cost of road projects construction having High qualities).

Interview with Dr. Azam Gul, former Professor and Assistant Dean at the Faculty of Agriculture, Kabul University.

By: Abdul Wahed Hassani, Ph.D., P.E., M. ASCE

Dr. Azam Gul has had an outstanding career. Based on his excellent scholastic background and successful career, he was appointed to high level managerial positions in the Government of Afghanistan. Professor Azam Gul has served in various academic and managerial positions in Afghanistan, USA, and Pakistan. In Afghanistan he has worked with College of Agriculture, Kabul University as Professor of Agronomy, Professor and Head of the Department of Agronomy, and Assistant Dean. He has also worked as Director of the Vocational Agriculture High School in Kabul, Afghanistan.



Professor Azam Gul has served as Manager of Agronomic Research for ARCO Seed Company in Kansas City, Missouri, USA. He worked with Swedish Committee for Afghanistan as Director of Agriculture and Rural Development. During his career service, Professor Azam Gul has written numerous professional research papers and technical reports in Afghanistan, Pakistan and USA.

Professor Azam Gul earned his B.S. degree from University of Wyoming in 1958 and M.S. degree from the same university in 1959. He received his PhD from Washington State University, and continued his post doctoral work at University of California, Davis, and University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Dr. Azam Gul's many research papers and technical articles have been published in the international publications. Professor A. Gul has prepared over twenty eight survey reports, assisted by agri-systems (overseas) Ltd., U.K. on various aspects of Afghanistan's agriculture from 1987-1995.

The author has known Professor Azam Gul since 1970, while he was student at Kabul University, and Dr. Azam Gul was teaching at the same university. They have remained in touch for years while both worked with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for Afghan Refugees in Peshawar, Pakistan and in the U.S. He is well acquainted with his academic and professional activities in Afghanistan, Pakistan and USA.

Professor Azam Gul is an active supporter of SAE and participated in the SAE international planning conference of "Empowerment of Afghan Professionals", organized in association with the Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, USA, in October 2003.

Professor Azam Gul is known for his dedication and love for his countrymen and honesty and professionalism in his duty. Therefore, for this issue of the newsletter, the author requested an

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interview with Professor Azam Gul which he gracefully accepted. His Kabul University students and colleagues all over the world will be very pleased to read his interview.

I would like to thank Professor Azam Gul for accepting the invitation of the Editorial board of the SAE eNewsletter to have the interview. The following are the interview questions/discussions (**Q**) and Professor Azam Gul's responses (**R**):

Q: It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to interview a friend, and a senior professor of Kabul University. Please briefly tell us about yourself, your children, your schooling, hobbies and current activities.

R: I was born in 1933 in Behsood, Ningrahar, graduated from Jalalabad middle school in 1951, and Kabul Agricultural High School in 1954. My family and I left Afghanistan in 1980 and have been living and working in Pakistan and USA since my immigration.

I have six children working in different parts of U.S.A. I received my higher education and degrees from the United States, attending various universities in different states. My hobbies include planting and gardening. I enjoy working in my yard!

Q: Please tell us that in how many institutes and where you have worked in Afghanistan and abroad?

R: I have worked with Vocational Agricultural School as Teacher and Director in Kabul, Afghanistan.

At Kabul University- worked as Professor, Assistant Dean and Head of the Agronomy Department.

At Washington State University- worked as Research Associate.

At University of California, Davis- worked as Research Associate.

At Swedish Committee for Afghanistan- served as Director of Agriculture and Rural Development in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Q: What were the areas of your teaching and research work?

R: I Taught genetics and plant breeding in various institutions in Afghanistan and other countries. My main research activities were on wheat and some other cereals conducted in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States.

Q: How do you describe your teaching career and how did your students think of you as a teacher?

R: I have a great passion for teaching and empowering students to gain knowledge and training in the field of Agriculture. My students have appreciated and valued my experience and commitments to this field of work.

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Q: You have an impressive resume, what was the key to your educational success and professional accomplishments?

R: The growth of the agriculture sector is vital for national food security and is a major economic driver for the entire country as it is the livelihood for approximately 75% of the population in Afghanistan. My first objective was to learn modern development in the field of agriculture and then share my findings with the farming communities who are the main producers (farmers). We have the possibilities to produce, but there is lack of scientific knowledge in the area of agriculture in Afghanistan. Our farmers are working hard, but, they follow only primitive practices. Unfortunately I personally did not find the chance to have gatherings and direct discussions with the farmers, therefore; I tried to extend the scientific methods by training my students and provided them with required skills to transfer that knowledge to the farmers in Afghanistan.

Q: Were you involved in educational programs of Afghan Refugees in Peshawar, Pakistan? Can you tell us of your level of involvement and the effectiveness of those programs?

R: During the war in Afghanistan and my stay in Peshawar, Pakistan, I tried to inform the interested people of the world through news media about the destructions of the agricultural system of Afghanistan. Also, I tried to provide guidance to the farmers regarding the importance of the production of wheat and other cereals in the Mujahedeen controlled areas. The lack of agricultural production would have caused increase in the number of migration of the residence. It would have made it difficult for Mujahedeen to continue their resistance against Russian invasion without the inhabitants' support.

Q: You have been a professor and a successful administrator, please provide us a few examples of the projects that you have completed, especially the projects that you have been involved as the principal researcher and project manager.

R: I have worked as the principal investigator of the following three projects:

- 1- Germ-plasm; Collection and preservation- performed from 1953 to 1954;
- 2- Development of a wheat variety for farmers in California at the University of Davis, California; and
- 3- Development of several wheat, corn and rice varieties for farmers under various environmental conditions in Afghanistan

Q: How many times have you returned to Afghanistan and how do you describe your personal experience and observations of Afghanistan?

R: I returned many times to Afghanistan to see the progress of my agricultural seed research projects, seed multiplication and other projects. I worked for 9 years in Pakistan while I was working with Swedish committee for Afghan Refugees. Hundreds of journalists interviewed me at my office. The majority of journalists were asking me about the time that it would take to

bring the Afghan agricultural production back to the prewar level. I was telling them that there would not be a hope for the development of Afghanistan if the people are not united. Security and stability are significant factors for any major agricultural development.

Q: Please tell us briefly about your experience of agriculture projects in various regions of Afghanistan.

R: We would thank Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for their contributions to the agricultural oriented projects in Afghanistan and investing in the agricultural sector. I am not in the country to analyze the current situation of Afghanistan. I am happy to hear that many irrigated fields have been changed to the horticultural crops. The trend should continue, because cereal and certain other crops are too expensive to be grown on irrigated land. Wheat production should be shifted to dry land (rain fed) and irrigated land should be utilized for valuable crops such as fruits and vegetables.

Q: Are there specific agricultural projects that you recommend to be implemented for development of Afghanistan?

R: Science and innovative technology are to be urgently implemented in the country. Afghanistan's soil, climate and labor are very suitable for high productivity. They have much higher capacity for this type of productivity, only if we introduce proper incentive to the farmers.

Q: As a Director of Agriculture and Rural Development of Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SAC), you conducted agricultural survey of Afghanistan during Russian occupation and continuous war after their troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. What was the extent of agricultural destruction?

R: There was vast destruction of agricultural system in Afghanistan. Irrigation systems were destroyed due to imposed war on Afghanistan or lack of proper maintenance. The lowest agricultural production was in 1986. The following are the major causes and effects of low production:

- 1- Lack of improved seeds for climatically different regions.
- 2- Insufficient availability of the quality fertilizer and expensive fertilizer price.
- 3- Unqualified extension agents to guide the farmers properly
- 4- No effective and applied research
- 5- No proper herbicide
- 6- Insufficient labor to work in the agricultural fields
- 7- Shortage of electric power
- 8- Destruction of irrigation canals and many more.

Q: What was the cost of total agricultural loss?

R: We had no knowledge or access to information regarding the financial situation of agricultural losses. Those numbers and statistics were not provided to us.

Q: What types of useful crops were distracted which will not be recoverable or tough to recover now?

R: To my knowledge, most agricultural corps have been recovered considering that Afghanistan has suffered years of destruction.

Q: You have conducted a research on the varieties of oats in Afghanistan, despite the availability and the healthy nature of this crop its use is very limited in Afghanistan. Are there specific reasons for limited use of this crop in Afghanistan?

R: I have not conducted research on oat in Afghanistan. I analyzed a variety of oats for amount of potassium nitrate at the University of Wyoming. They feed oat to horses. Potassium nitrate was a poison found in high amount in certain oat varieties which was detrimental to the health of horses.

Q: You had numerous cereal and crop researches in Afghanistan. Prior to the three decades of war in Afghanistan, there were varieties of rice breeds, such as Bara Rice of Baghlan and Lauangi Rice of eastern Afghanistan. Why did some of those brands have disappeared or their quality has been reduced in Afghanistan in recent years?

R: A variety crops do not last forever. The average life of a variety is not more than 6 to 8 years, after that they degenerate. Researchers always try to find new and better varieties than those previously distributed. Innovative research and development is extremely important in improving future varieties. Investments are needed in the modernization of the in new irrigation capacities to expand the areas of the irrigated wheat.

Q: You have conducted various surveys and research works on the agricultural aspects of Afghanistan, especially the northern Afghanistan insect damage survey. The example of those are, the famous fruit products of the northern provinces of Afghanistan including Baghlan, Kunduz and Mazari-Sharif, which are known for the growth of the varieties of melons. Due to the development of some sort of bugs or insects during the last thirty years, the quality and production of this product has been extremely affected. Can you tell us the types of plant diseases and how they could be eliminated?

R: Without proactive involvement, I am not able to predict how these insects can be eliminated. This problem has to be recognized and controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture. It will require proper study and laboratory analysis of the infected melon or any fruits to find out the type of bugs and proper treatment.

Q: What type of advice you offer for Afghan professionals living outside of their country who want to serve their motherland, but are unable to leave their current jobs and families?

R: We cannot solve Agricultural problems from abroad. The active involvement of the professionals is the key in solving the problems this field. My advice to the professionals residing outside the country is to utilize the abundance of resources available to them and become actively involved in making a positive difference in our war-torn nation. We cannot give up hope. Political stability and continued international commitment for reconstruction are positive developments predicted for the future. Farmers have limited access to new knowledge and improved production technologies.

Q: Do you have any further comments or anything that I should have asked you, but, I didn't, and you'd really like to talk about in an interview that is going to be read by a group of Afghan professional, academicians, and practitioners?

R: No, I do not have any additional comment.

Q: Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and experience with the readers of the newsletter. I congratulate you for your outstanding accomplishments and your lifetime of experience and successes.

R: Thank you. Please convey my greetings to the readers of the SAE eNewsletter, especially to my former colleagues and students.

Antibiotic Resistance: Emerging Threat in Agricultural and Environmental Systems

Conference Report: The 2nd International Conference on New Horizons in Basic and Applied Science. August 1-3, 2015, Hurghada, Egypt.

Dr. M. Nadir Sidiqi, an SAE member, was invited as a Session Chair as well as a speaker in the 2nd International Conference on New Horizons in Basic and Applied Science. The conference was organized by Al Azhar University and it was held in Hurghada, Egypt from August 1-3 2015.

Dr. Sidiqi is an agricultural advisor. He participated in the Seminar by presenting a valuable paper. During his trip his son, Mr. Shafi Sidiqi, accompanied him. Mr. Shafi Sidiqi is currently a pre-med student.

Indeed, the significance and vitality of the antibiotic resistance issue is crucially important to human society around the world and especially our beloved country, Afghanistan. Dr. Sidiqi has prepared the following article, which provides the highlights of his presentation.

By: Dr. M. Nadir Sidiqi

The outline of the presentation consisted of the following issues:

1. What are antibiotics as well as antibiotic resistance and why is it important to understand it?
2. What are the links between these two issues in the past, present, and future?
3. What are the connections of my presentation to the health of human society and environment based on ecological interactions, genetic interactions and physiological interactions?
4. What can we do to combat this critical global antibiotic resistance issue?
5. Acknowledgments
6. References

Dr. Sidiqi during his presentation



In the right photo we have Dr. Ilka Lutz from Germany as well as the President of Al- Azhar University Dr. Al-Abd, Dr. Sidiqi and other professors.

It is important to understand that the value and complexity of antibiotic resistance is beyond the scope of this presentation.

What are antibiotics as well as antibiotic resistance and why is it important to understand it?

- Like other discoveries of scientific research, Penicillin, the first antibiotic, was discovered by chance by Dr. Alexander Fleming, in 1928 at St. Mary's Hospital in London. He was examining a culture of *Staphylococcus aureus* (disease causing bacterium) on which he was doing some research.
- He noticed a strange event and contamination took place during his observation, mold began to grow on a Petri dish that demonstrated the remarkable ability which produced a substance

(penicillin) to stop the growth of bacteria. As a result in 1945 the Nobel Prize was awarded to Alexander Fleming and two other Oxford University scientists Ernst Chain and Howard Florey for their dedicated work.

- However, due to the World War II with Germany limited the efforts of the British scientists to produce enough quantities of penicillin needed for clinical trials on humans. As a result the United States took the responsibility and assisted for penicillin production at Peoria lab where scientists started working in July 14, 1941 according to the United States Department of Agriculture: Agricultural Research Service “Penicillin: Opening the Era of Antibiotics”
- It is very important to understand that misuse and overuse of antibiotics are involved in human health and agriculture (food production) but the ultimate result will end up as increased antibiotic resistance (Superbugs: bacteria and the antibiotic crisis, resistance) and is life threatening to human society.
- Antibiotic misuse by the doctors without proper diagnosis whether it is a bacterial disease or viral disease (common cold) or fungal disease (athlete’s foot) but antibiotic specifically designed with its mode of action to eliminate bacterial infectious diseases in humans, plants, and animals.
- The cost of expensive antibiotics that many poor people in countries such as Afghanistan and other developing countries cannot afford.
- Overuse of antibiotic release in the environment proposed for urgent attention in order to manage in a synergistic way to reduce morbidity and mortality in human society as well as animals and plants throughout the world.
- Most of antibiotics produced globally are used in animals, in the USA alone, animals and animal agriculture consumes 80% of all antibiotics used.
- Each year in the United States, at least 2 million people become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and at least 23,000 people die each year as a direct result of these infections according to the Center for Disease Control & Prevention.
- These types of life threatening issues due to antibiotic resistance and infectious bacteria alert our responsibility as a human society what are our shortcomings and mistakes intentionally or unintentionally in spreading the antibiotic resistance.

What is antibiotic resistance?

- The ability of certain types of bacteria, when an antibiotic lost its effectiveness to kill bacterial growth, they become “resistant” and continue to multiply resistance in the presence of therapeutic doses of an antibiotic.
- The current higher levels of antibiotic resistant bacteria are due to the overuse and abuse of antibiotics.

Ecological Interactions of Antibiotic Resistance:

It is important to consider antibiotic resistance that impacts public health and environment in context of soil, water, animals and plants.

Antibiotic resistance in plants:

- Fire blight is the most important bacterial disease of apple, pears and other related ornamental plants worldwide. The causal agent for this disease is pathogenic bacterium (*Erwinia amylovora*). A study indicates that the development of antibiotic resistance in targeted plant pathogenic bacteria is a real concern for the long term and sustainable use of antibiotics for plant disease control.
- In 2009, a total of 16,465 kg of antibiotics were applied to orchard in the USA. It is important to understand that antibiotics must be used with care and only when it is necessary that will help to minimize the antibiotic resistance in cropping systems and the environment for the benefit of public health because food commodities ultimately will arrive to the human body.

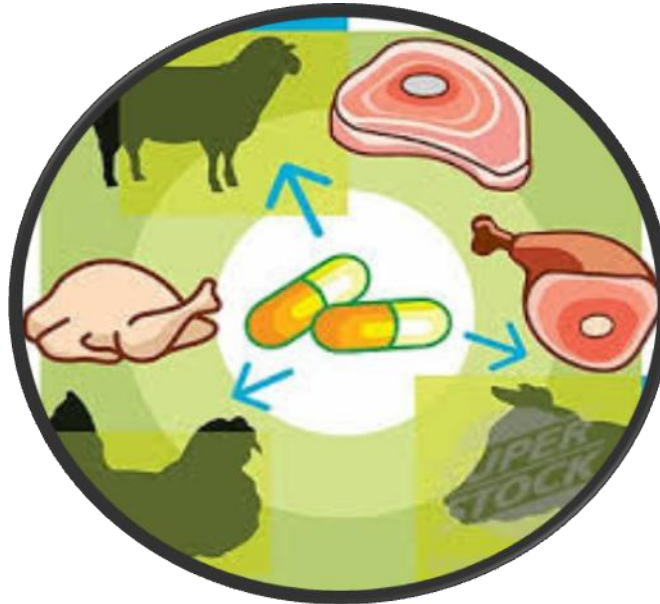
Antibiotic resistance in soil:

- Soil is the most suitable habitat where bacteria resides and over 80% of antibiotics in clinical use today originated from soil bacteria, either directly as natural products or as their semi-synthetic derivatives.
- Many scientific literatures indicate and acknowledge the concerns about antibiotic resistance using animal manure as fertilizers which come from the farming of poultry. For instance, use of antibiotics and metals is increasing in Chinese agriculture and industry, corresponding to enrichment of antibiotic resistant (bacteria) genes in the manure.
- Surprisingly, soil from a four million year old cave in New Mexico contained bacteria that were naturally resistant to a suite of modern antibiotics, including recently developed antibiotics as pointed out by Lisa Durso a research microbiologist at the USDA-ARS, Lincoln, NE
- According to New York Times January 7, 2015; Researchers reported in the Journal of Nature . The new drug, teixobactin, was tested in mice and easily cured severe infections, with no side effects. Teixobactin has not yet been tested in humans, so its safety and effectiveness are not known. Studies in people will not begin for about two years, according to Kim Lewis, the senior author of the article and director of the Antimicrobial Discovery Center at Northeastern University in Boston.

Antibiotic resistance in water:

- Water is a central nutrient for human, animal and plant health. It is essential to maintain water in a good sanitation status for the use of all living forms.
- A research indicates in the US reclaimed wastewater as a reservoir of antibiotic resistant (bacteria) genes.

- A research conducted in Elk Creek, British Columbia the distribution of antibiotic resistant bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) and (*E. coli* 0157) isolated from water, sediment and biofilms in intensive agricultural watershed. According to highlights of the study antibiotic resistant bacteria (*E.coli*) and (*E. coli* 0157) were prevalent and the resistance was highest to *tetracycline*, *ampicillin*, *streptomycin* and *nalidixic acid* (antibiotics) respectively.



Source: www.rainharvest.co.za

Genetic Interactions of Antibiotics Resistance:

- Genetic variation and genotypes are key engines for bacteria evolution and antibiotic resistance.
- Antibiotic resistance is a natural phenomenon (by a genetic mutation and by acquiring resistance from another bacteria), because when an antibiotic is used, bacteria that resist that antibiotic have a greater chance of survival than those that are “susceptible”.
Susceptible bacteria killed or inhibited by an antibiotic.
- A research has isolated resistant bacteria estimated to be over 2,000 years old from deep within glaciers in Canada’s high Arctic regions.

Physiological Interactions of Antibiotics Resistance:

Antibiotic resistant impact on food animals:

- 24.6 million pounds of antimicrobials are used in the U.S. for nontherapeutic purposes in chickens, cattle, and swine, compared with just 3.0 million pounds used for human medicine. Since 2011, the U.S. has experienced 3 major foodborne illness outbreaks from antibiotic resistance bacteria. Let's consider two examples of bacterial contamination in chicken and ground turkey as reports by Food & Water Watch "Antibiotic Resistance 101".
- Foster Farms Chicken: 574 people got sick as a result of a major outbreak of AR *Salmonella heidelberg* over a year mainly in California. The USDA issued a public health alert about products from three Foster Farms plants in October 2013 after 278 people in 18 states had fallen ill with *Salmonella heidelberg*.
- Cargill recalled 36 million pounds of ground turkey in August 2011, and an additional 185,000 pounds in September. This recall, the third largest meat recall in the USDA's records, represented several months' worth of production from one plant in Arkansas. In total, 136 people across 34 states were infected, yielding 37 hospitalizations and one death.
- Human society faces disastrous situations pertaining to bacteria which are becoming extremely resistant to existing antibiotics, due to overuse and misuse of antibiotics.

What Can We Do to Combat This Global Antibiotic Resistance Issue?

- The key to antibiotic resistance is prevention.
- To educate and prevent the spread of antibiotic resistance bacteria and their development in the first place (the source).
- To improve the quality of treatments and eliminate unnecessary use of antibiotics on humans by prescribing/stewardship around globe.
- Global collaboration in developing new drugs and diagnostic tests.
- To support organic farming in the production food commodities without antibiotics.
- Washing hands and food sanitation is highly important in the prevention of germs.
- Let's conclude with a poem from Hazrat Saadi (Gulistan: the Rose Garden Book)
- "Human beings are members of a whole, in creation of one essence and soul. If one member is afflicted with pain, other members' uneasiness will remain. If you have no sympathy for human pain, the name of human you cannot retain."

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the conference organizers Al Azhar University especially, Dr. Alaa Osman and other colleagues for their invitation and also Prof. Mr. Ghulam Mujtaba Editor in Chief SAE e-Newsletter, Prof. Mr. Manan Khalid, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Wahid Hassani; the Editorial Board members of the SAE e-Newsletter for their review, valuable

time, and publishing of this article. I hope this will be useful and have potential to improve health quality and I pray to Almighty God for peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and the entire world.



Dr. Sidiqi's son Shafi Sidiqi who participated in the seminar and accompanied/helped his father during travel. The Editorial Board of the SA eNewsleter wishes Shafi Jaan good luck in the pre-medical studies and wishing him continued success in his future scholastic activities.

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Membership News

In this section, the news about new membership, awards, promotions, retirement and loss of the Society members will be provided.

Achievements and Awards

The newsletter will inform their readers of winners of awards or any other successes of Afghan professionals and students, especially, their Society members. You can help the SAE eNewsletter editors by providing the news of the achievements, award winners, promotions, retirement, and any other success stories.

“Advise us of success stories or achievements of the Society members and any Afghan professionals and students.”

Membership Renewal 2015

The SAE Membership Renewal Fee and Donations (As of 10/30/2015)

Date	First Name	Last Name	Fee Paid	Donation	Total Payment
7/14/2014	William H.	Haight III	60	40	100
1/1/2015	Ahmad Farid	Haidari	60	0	60
1/1/2015	Homayon M.	Ibrahim	60	0	60
1/1/2015	Rafaaf	Ludin	60	140	200
1/1/2015	Ashraf	Roshan	60	60	120
1/1/2015	Atiq	Panjshiri	60	0	60
1/12/2015	Hafizullah	Wardak	60	0	60
1/12/2015	Ghulam	Mujtaba	60	40	100
1/12/2015	Yacob	Munir	60	0	60
1/12/2015	Fahim	Panjshiri	60	0	60
1/12/2015	Steve	Rossi	60	60	120
11/22/2014	Gul Afghan	Saleh	60	0	60
1/24/2015	Abdul Nazeer	Babacarkhial	240		240 ¹
2/6/2015	Abdul Wahed	Hassani	60	0	60
2/12/2015	Abdul Manan	Khalid	60	0	60

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	Mohammad				
3/6/2015	S.	Keshawarz	120	0	120 ²
3/6/2015	Abdul Saboor	Rahim	60	0	60
3/6/2015	Najim M.	Azadzoi	60	0	60
3/6/2015	Sayed F.	Abass	120	0	120
3/6/2015	Sohaila S.	Shekib	60	0	60
3/6/2015	Aziz	Ghani	60	0	60
3/6/2015	Mahjan	Saleh	60	0	60
3/27/2015	Sayed Aziz	Azimi	60	190	250
3/27/2015	Zarjan	Baha	60	40	100
4/1/2015	Mahmoud	Samizay	60	0	60
4/2/2015	Abdul	Chahim	60	0	60
4/11/2015	Aziz	Ghafoory	60	0	60
4/10/2015	Reza M.	Afshar	60	0	60
4/25/2015	Painda M.	Fakoor	60	0	60
4/25/2015	Sadeq A.	Ezzat	60	0	60
5/27/2015	Yar M.	Ebadi	120	0	120 ²
08/2015	Zabi	Zaca	120	0	120 ³

1-Mr. Babacarkhial has sent his membership fee for period of four years -Payment for 2014-2017

2- Dr. Keshawarz and Dr. Yar M. Ebadi have sent their membership fees for 2 years

3- Mr. Zabi Zaca sent membership fees for 2015 and 2016.

The attached form includes application for the new members and membership renewal. The application forms may be viewed at SAE website. The members are requested to take a few minutes of their time to inform the Society by sending their updated contact information. **The completed application/renewal forms may be mailed to**

Mr. Atiq Pnajshiri,
SAE President
P.O. BOX 11097
Alexandria, Virginia 22312

Thanks to members who have updated their membership renewal and have paid their annual membership fees. Also, the treasurer has received donation checks from a few members. Thanks for their generosity.

THE SOCIETY OF AFGHAN ENGINEERS ORGANIZATION

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