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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear respected colleagues:

I am pleased to present the quarterly update from the Society of Afghan Engineers (SAE) in this issue of the SAE e-Newsletter. As the new Editor-in-Chief, I have been invited by Mr. Jalal Masumi, SAE President, and the editorial board members of the SAE, to take on this important responsibility for the current administration term of office running to December 2026. I am delighted to be part of this endeavor and will make every effort to provide you with up-to-date information, news, and valuable technical, educational, and informational articles on engineering, architecture, and urbanism that may be appreciated by our readers.



With this prediction, I should mention that the important intent and goals of the Newsletter cannot be accomplished without the hard work, advice, support, and efforts of the editorial board members. My special thanks to Ustad Mujtaba, Dr. A. Wahed Hassani, and Ustad Manan Khalid for their continuous support and membership of the Editorial Board. It will be an honor to continue working with them.

It is important to acknowledge the hard work by my predecessors: Professor Hafiz Wardak, who served as Editor-in-Chief in the previous administration, and Mr. Najim M. Azadzoi, who assumed the role of Acting Editor-in-Chief while also serving as SAE President. The April 2024 and July 2024 issues of the Newsletter, jointly prepared by Ustad Mujtaba and Ustad Manan Khalid, who took on the responsibility as Acting Editor-in-Chief, were excellently published. It is noteworthy to mention that Ustad Mujtaba served as the Editor-in-Chief of the e-Newsletter from 2011 to 2022. I am very grateful for all their services and the important roles they played in the continuous publication and on time distribution of the SAE e-Newsletter.

As we begin this new chapter together, I am confident that the SAE e-Newsletter will continue to thrive. Your contributions are essential to its success, and I encourage and invite you to submit your technical and educational articles, comments, suggestions, and opinions for the publication. Your input and support will be greatly appreciated. We hope that you find this issue of the newsletter interesting and useful. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

I am looking forward to sharing this journey with you.

Warm Regards,

Bashir Kazimee, AIA

Professor Emeritus

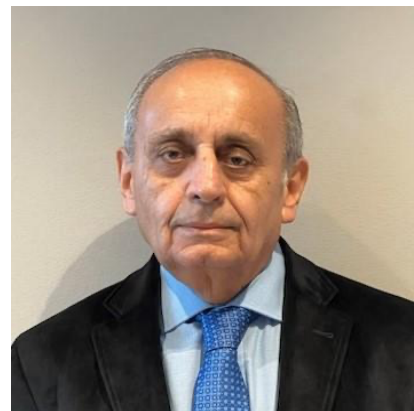
Washington State University

Former Chairperson: SAE-Architecture and Urban Design Division

MESSAGE FROM THE SAE PRESIDENT

At the service of the Society, I am grateful to address you through this July 2024 Issue of SAE Newsletter.

During the last quarter (April/May/June) our Afghan community cherished and celebrated two ominous occasions of Eid-al-Fitre and Eid-al-Adha as heavenly rewards. At the dawn of another summer season, I hope global warming and climate change trends don't turn out to inflict a high toll on humanity at large, and the local communities that our dear members reside in. Notwithstanding this humble hope, however, is the rage and destruction caused by recent floods that swept some of the provinces in Afghanistan during May, inflicting heavy losses of life and property to residents of Baghlan, Ghor, Logar, and Faryab provinces. It was elating to see SAE members acting passionately to extend a helping hand of limited financial support for the victims of that natural disaster.



With hopes for positive outcome, I continue to pledge my devotion to working in concert with all members to make SAE more relevant and responsive to the moment. Involvement of all members may appear to manifest itself in the prism of elected directors. But it does not quite make up for hands-on participation by all members to share in tackling and executing SAE business. On that note I humbly request every member who reads this message to please reflect with their suggestions/feedback on what can be done and what they can do as far as goals and achieving them are concerned. As a segway, I am so delighted to announce that very recently Professor Bashir Kazimee graciously accepted a request to take charge of SAE Newsletter as its editor-in-chief. I remain grateful for his kind acceptance and very expeditious endorsement of this appointment by the Board of Directors.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter edition you will find information about SAE activities during the quarter ending June 30, 2024, and planned activities for the quarter ending September 30, 2024.

Enjoy the summer season with your families and loved ones.

With warm and kind regards,

Jalal Masumi

President

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, SAE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear readers of the SAE eNewsletter,

First, I would like to congratulate and welcome Professor Kazimee as the next Editor-in-Chief of the SAE eNewsletter. I am confident that under his leadership this quarterly publication will flourish further and become a vibrant source of news and useful information.



By the time you read this message, Eid will be behind us. I hope you had a happy and healthy Eid and hope you prayed for the well-being of humanity, and especially the impoverished people of our homeland.

It was heart breaking to watch the horrors brought on the local population in parts of Afghanistan by the recent destructive floods, causing them grave suffering. It makes me think that sometimes even nature is merciless to our people. I recently read the horror story of the “Johnstown Flood” that happened in the State of Pennsylvania a while ago, and would not like for our trouble-stricken people to go through such an ordeal ever. Unfortunately, and regrettably, lack of resources, preparedness and awareness causes our people to continue to build shelters and live in flood prone areas.

A 2017 World Bank report prepared by GFDRR (Global Facility for Destruction Reduction and Recovery) states that “within low-income countries, Afghanistan takes second place, only surpassed by Haiti in terms of the number of fatalities from natural disasters ...”. That is quite an alarming ranking. INFORM (Index for Risk Management) 2022 Index ([EU, 2022](#)) places Afghanistan as the third most at risk country among the highest risk prone countries from natural disasters which is just one degree higher than the World Bank ranking.

There are many factors that places Afghanistan in such rankings, and the unplanned urban sprawl is one of the major factors. There have been numerous studies, reports and risk assessments, but to date, the focus has been on response and recovery rather than prevention and preparedness. We cannot control nature, but as professional and experts in the field, we can certainly help those in the path of such destructive forces with awareness and technical expertise. Presentations by some of our colleagues have kick started this important issue. Let’s continue on that path to find and recommend more means for prevention and preparedness.

Have a great summer.

Manan Khalid, PE, LEED AP (BD+C)

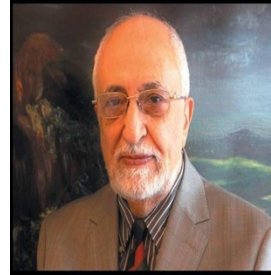
Chairman, Board of Directors

INTERVIEW WITH ENGINEER FAZEL AHMAD AFGHAN

By: Jalal Masumi

Interview Opening:

Dear Engineer Sahib Afghan. On behalf of the Society of Afghan Engineers (SAE), it is a great pleasure for me, Jalal Masumi, to conduct this interview with you, to be published in the Society's quarterly Newsletter. The Editorial Board of the SAE Newsletter determined it appropriate to conduct, from time to time, interviews with senior members of our professional community, with the intent to share their reflections and experiences for the benefit of Society membership at large and as a measure of interest in and recognition of such senior members. Please accept sincere appreciation of the SAE Newsletter Editorial Board in availing yourself for this interview.



As a point of information for the readers, I, Jalal Masumi, completing this interview with you on behalf of SAE, has had the privilege of knowing you closely as a mentor, guide, effective manager, and a dedicated servant of Afghanistan for the last half a century.

Q-1: Please tell us about your birth place and location of your primary, secondary, college and graduate educations.

R-1: Dear respected colleagues of the Society of Afghan Engineers, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to interview with you.

I was born in Salihan, a village located in the Panj-Wayee District of Kandahar. My birth name is Fazel Ahmed. After migrating from our homeland due to political upheavals of the 1980's, I took interest in free lance writing, and chose "Afghan" as my pen name. I completed my primary education up to grade nine in Habibia High School, followed by grades ten to twelve at the Afghan Institute of Technology (AIT) in Kabul. I attended Kabul University and obtained my bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Engineering in Kabul, in 1964; and finally, I earned my master's degree from the University of Manitoba in Canada in 1972.

Q-2: Please tell us about your career path in Afghanistan and in other countries.

R-2: In the fourth year of college in the Faculty of Engineering, the late Dr. Qaisani, Dean of the Faculty, was teaching us soil mechanics. One day when he entered the classroom, he wrote three names on the board: Engineer Sahib Abdul Qayum, Engineer Sahib Abdul Shokoor, and a third person whose name I cannot remember now. He mentioned that these three individuals would work on designing six

teacher training colleges financed by US AID after graduation. As the third individual declined the offer, Dean Qaisani named me instead. At that time, there was no engineering office in the Ministry of Education. So, after graduation we were assigned to work under two American engineers and an architect in the US AID office in Kabul. After some time, it dawned on me that as Afghans working on Afghan projects in Afghanistan, we should rather have our own office in our country instead of working in an American office. I convinced the two Americans to help establish an office inside the Ministry of Education, physically closer to the decision-makers. Once they agreed, I arranged a meeting with the late Dr. Akram Khan, the deputy minister of education. He concurred with the idea and we were granted an office and a spacious room for engineering personnel. We moved to the new office and set up engineering tables and chairs. At that time (1965), the Ministry only had a general directorate of maintenance in its organization for schools in Kabul City. With the set up of this engineering office inside the Ministry, the general directorate got upgraded to a presidency unit as Construction Division, and late Abdul Ghafoor Khan Ahmadi, was appointed as its acting president. After a year, Engineer Sahib Shokoor and I, one after another, were sent for 7-months practical training in engineering to Los Angeles, California with a firm of consultant architects, engineers, and planners known as DMJM abbreviation for Daniel, Mann, Johnson, Mendenhall. Upon completion of this training and return to Kabul, the late Mohammad Akbar Saifi was serving as president of Construction Division. When I reported to work following return from training in DMJM, I was appointed as the director of the engineering and technical office. In 1969, I pursued graduate studies, arranged under a scholarship, and obtained my master's degree in Canada. Before my return home in 1972, I was already considered to serve as the vice president of the Construction Division.

Q-3: What are your most outstanding impressions as a student during school life in any cycle of education?

R-3: School life at Habibia High School during primary cycle was filled with fun. However, after transitioning to AIT, I matured and became more focused on my education. I also had a wonderful time with my classmates and our friendly, knowledgeable teachers. In grade twelve, I was so happy to have the honor of being the president of a conference in celebration of Teachers' Day at AIT. Following graduation from AIT in 1960, I enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering and Agriculture. The faculty facilities at the time were located in a building behind the Faculty of Medicine in Ali Abad. The facilities later moved to the new campus for Kabul University (Pohantoon) in Jamal Mina in 1963. After four years of hard work and plenty of enjoyable moments, I finally graduated in 1964. We were fortunate to have excellent Afghan professors including the esteemed Dr. Sahib Zarjan Baha who taught us surveying in the field during the freshman year. I am proud to be a graduate of the Faculty of Engineering and to be called an engineer and now being a member of SAE.

Q-4: What are your most memorable experiences as an engineer?

R-4: After graduating from the Faculty of Engineering, I played a key role in setting up the engineering department within the Ministry of Education for a brief period. Following this, I had the opportunity to gain valuable experience during practical training in the U.S. at the renowned engineering firm, DMJM. This experience provided me with insights into design, inspection, and the overall operations of an engineering project. Additionally, simultaneously, I took a night course on stress analysis at University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), which I personally funded and found it incredibly beneficial. However, upon my return to Kabul, I found myself primarily focused on supervising engineering and administrative tasks rather than directly engaging in engineering.

Q-5: What are your most memorable experiences in the civil service when working for the government?

R-5: (1) One of the most memorable experiences in my beloved country was when I faced numerous challenging tasks after being appointed the vice president of construction division. One significant challenge was the difficult task of replacing foreign engineers and architects with knowledgeable and hardworking Afghan professionals, ultimately aiming to reduce costs paid in foreign currency to the foreign personnel. To achieve this, I arranged a meeting with the late Dr. Qaisani to visit the Faculty of Engineering and meet with graduating class of civil engineering students, as a recruitment attempt. During this meeting, I discussed the work of construction division in the Ministry of Education and the important tasks ahead, encouraging students to join us after graduation and offering them scholarships for further education. I also spoke with the late Ghulam Sakhi Khan who was serving as AIT Principal to address the graduating class of students, urging them to consider working in the Ministry of Education as draftsmen and technicians. As a result, Engineer Sahib Ata Jan Tajyar, Engineer Sahib Jalal Jan Masumi, the late Engineer Sahib Zahir Jan Aman, Engineer Sahib Khwaja Yaqub, and the first female graduate from the architecture department, Miss Shukria Jan Aman, along with Engineer Sahib Atar Sing and other graduates from various institutions, joined our team. This influx of talent allowed the engineering department to handle a wide range of projects independently, without the need for foreign expatriates. I proudly once in a meeting informed the late President Sardar Mohammad Daud, his soul be in peace, that in the Construction Division that he had assigned me, there were no foreigners - all staff were Afghan. I was truly enjoying my achievements.

(Jalal Masumi Note: I recall vividly the memory of a summer day in July 1972, towards the end of the Highway Engineering class, being taught by Ustad Dr. Saboor Rahim, who introduced a young tall handsome man dressed in black suit as Mr. Fazel Ahmad the vice president of the construction division of the Ministry of Education. Mr. Ahmad, on a recruiting spree, made an impressive job of convincing some of us (including myself) to be persuaded by his presentation and sign up to be employed by the Ministry of Education, as we were about to graduate in August that year.)

R-5: (2) Before the establishment of our engineering department, school designs were all being handled by the Construction Division of the Ministry of Public Works. This process often took months, from administration and design to the final blueprint reaching the provincial directorates of education. In order to streamline this process, our Division with UNESCO experts help, divided the country into five zones based on climate, earthquake occurrence, and frost lines underground. We accordingly created construction prototype plans for primary and secondary schools to be constructed in rural areas using local materials, and in urban areas using red bricks and concrete. This approach allowed us to expedite the sending of blueprints to the provincial directorates of education to construct school buildings.

R-5: (3) Up until when I was appointed as the president of the Construction Division in October 1973, all aspects of planning, budgeting, administration, employment, and finances were being managed and handled within the administrative setup of the Ministry of Education. This setup posed challenges for tasks such as hiring and firing employees, creating yearly budgets for schools, and securing internal and foreign financial resources for school construction projects. To address these issues and streamline the process, I made the decision to separate the Construction Division from the administration of the Ministry of Education. I proposed and recommended to establish a semi-autonomous construction unit directly under the Minister of Education, granting it the freedom to make decisions independently in various matters to expedite the work. I am grateful that my proposal was accepted and during my tenure as the president of the Construction Division, I was able to successfully implement this change.

R-5: (4) In 1966, the USAID provided financial aid to construct several agricultural schools, with the condition that the design would be done in the USA. However, during the budget approval process by parliament, it was noted that the cost of the design was prohibitively high, leading to the cancellation of the project. Later, when I served as the president of the construction unit, the USA once again proposed financial assistance for these agricultural schools. This time, I advocated for the design to be done within the country by our professional engineers and architects available in the Faculty of Engineering in Kabul University under an organizational umbrella called Center for Engineering Consultancy Service and Research (CECSAR for short). Thankfully, the USAID agreed to this proposal, and it received approval from the Ministry of Planning and the late President Sardar Mohammad Daud. He was pleased with the decision I made, and the project's design was entrusted to the Faculty of Engineering, under the leadership of the esteemed Dr. Zarjan Baha. This experience stands out as one of the most memorable moments during my time as president of the construction unit.

Q-6: You are an SAE member. Please tell us how the Society can improve its services to the community.

R-6: Before answering your question, I would like to pay tribute to the founders of the Society for their dedication and hard work since its establishment. Their vision

and efforts have laid the foundation for the success and growth of the organization. I express my deepest condolences for the loss of those who have unfortunately passed away, and we honor their contributions and legacy.

To those who have retired, I extend my warmest wishes for a long, healthy, and happy life. Indeed, their years of service and commitment have made a lasting impact on the Society, and we are grateful for all that you have done.

To the present members, I wish a long, healthy, happy, and successful journey ahead. Your continued dedication and passion are essential to the continued success of the Society. May you all thrive and achieve great successes together.

With this short note, and with great pleasure, I would like to address your very important and fundamental question.

As we are all aware, since April 1978, many of our professional engineers and architects have left the country in search of better opportunities, leading them to even take on non-professional jobs in order to support their families. Some who initially intended to join professional associations for voluntary services found themselves compelled to seek income elsewhere to sustain their livelihoods. This unfortunate reality has resulted in a loss of the dignity and honor they had strived for back home. It is crucial to make significant changes within the Society to provide meaningful employment opportunities for our professionals, allowing them to utilize their expertise and live with dignity. To address this issue, transforming the current non-profit model into a profitable "Afghan Engineering Consultancy" is proposed. This transformation would not only create opportunities for Afghan engineers and architects to join the consultancy but also attract organizations such as the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Food Programme, and USAID who seek consultancy services and advice for project design and management in third-world countries.

Below, I outline the details of this proposal.

Proposal: Transformation of the Society of Afghan Engineers into Afghan Engineering Consultancy

Introduction:

The Society of Afghan Engineers has long been dedicated to promoting the interests and professional development of engineers and architects in Afghanistan. Recognizing the evolving needs of the engineering industry and the potential to contribute on a global scale, I humbly propose a transformation of the Society into a comprehensive engineering consultancy.

Objective:

The primary objective of this transformation is to establish the Afghan Engineering Consultancy as a reputable organization capable of providing consultancy services furnished through international organizations such as USAID, World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, and the like. This consultancy will leverage the expertise of Afghan engineers and architects to address critical challenges and provide innovative solutions in various sectors worldwide specifically.

Scope of Services:

The Afghan Engineering Consultancy will offer a wide range of consultancy services including but not limited to:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Providing expertise in designing, planning, and implementing infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, utilities, and more.
- **Environmental Engineering:** Offering solutions for environmental conservation, sustainable development, water resource management, and renewable energy projects.
- **Urban Planning:** Assisting in urban and rural development projects including city planning, land use management, schools/educational facilities, other public service facilities such as hospitals, historical places and housing initiatives.
- **Disaster Management:** Providing expertise in disaster risk reduction, emergency response planning, and rebuilding efforts.
- **Capacity Building:** Offering training programs, workshops, and skill development initiatives for local engineers and architects.

Partnerships and Collaborations:

To ensure the success and sustainability of the consultancy, partnerships will be established with relevant stakeholders including government agencies, international organizations, academic institutions, and private sector entities. Collaborations with local and international NGOs will also be sought to leverage resources and expand the reach of the consultancy.

Job Creation and Professional Development:

One of the key outcomes of this transformation is the creation of employment opportunities for qualified engineers and architects in Afghanistan and the engineers and other professionals. By engaging with international organizations and undertaking projects in different countries, the consultancy will provide job opportunities for Afghan professionals to work as advisors and consultants. Additionally, continuous professional development programs will be offered to enhance the skills and expertise of the workforce.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the transformation of the Society of Afghan Engineers into the Afghan Engineering Consultancy represents a strategic move towards leveraging the expertise of Afghan engineers and architects on a global scale. By providing consultancy services to international organizations, we aim to not only contribute to the development of various sectors worldwide but also create meaningful employment opportunities for Afghan professionals. We look forward to the support and collaboration of all stakeholders in this endeavor.

Regards

God bless you all.

Interview Closing:

Engineer Sahib Afghan! Thank you for a candid, interesting, and friendly interview. We leave it for the readers to possibly remark on the take they may pick from your wonderful experiences and input, including your recommendation about SAE future

SAE2024 SECOND QUARTER EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT

1. Planned vs Actual

The SAE President submitted the 2024 Proposed Plan to the Board of Directors, on behalf of the Executive Team, on January 22, 2024. It included several action items to be dealt with over the year. The following table captures the 2nd quarter plan items and the corresponding status.

Item No	Action Item - April 2024	Status - June 2024
1	Continue filling vacant positions (if any) in SAE office holders	A pre-requisite for this endeavor was Board approval of an organization frame, which was granted in BOD Meeting 3 on March 7, 2024. President call for volunteers to head Engineering Committee, Architecture Committee, and Advisory Council chair did not come to fruition. One prospective individual member who was approached by President asked for job description details. Preparing this document is in progress. The item will continue to slide to next quarter.
2	Seek BOD approval for convening annual meeting of Members	BOD Meeting 4 held on April 25 resolved that President and Executive Team decide how to convene the General Assembly Meeting. BOD Meeting 5 held on May 23, 2024 resolved that General Assembly Meeting (GAM) be held virtually on September 28, 2024.
3	Prepare report on Q2 activities to cover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What did not go right as planned b) Number of active members – start of Q2 c) Number of active members – end of Q2 d) Bank account balance – start of Q2 	a) i- Relating to filling vacant positions indicated in item 1 above, the aim was to staff three main units (Engineering Committee, Architecture Committee, and Advisory Council) within SAE organization frame. These three units effectively remained out of commission on account of no staffing. ii- Relating to sub-units under Engineering and Architecture, logically, staffing finds shape and form when someone leads the Committees to begin with.

<p>e) Bank account balance – end of Q2</p>	<p>iii- Staffing or lack thereof proved a very involved problem beyond the President’s inability to achieve it, and whose details are beyond the scope of this report. But keeping hope alive should not be dismissed.</p> <p>b) Based on initial unverified records, there were 69 members (living in U.S. & Canada) and 20 members living in Afghanistan at the start of Q2. Fresh endeavor, at the end of Q2, shows that the final numbers are higher which need to be verified in the interest of accuracy and accountability.</p> <p>c) Number of members to be verified.</p> <p>d) SAE bank account showed a balance of \$27,954 on April 1, 2024</p> <p>e) SAE bank account shows a balance of \$26,240 as of June 26, 2024; major expenditure was \$1500 donation to victims of floods in May in Baghlan & Ghore provinces.</p> <p>f) President used an estimated total of 80 hrs during 2nd quarter, handling SAE business</p>
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2. News from Afghanistan

- Online lectures/presentations were provided by SAE in collaboration with Afghan Education for Better Tomorrow (AEBT), as follows



Fig. 1: Seminar on renewable energy, presented by Engineer Ghulam Mohammad Feda in May 2024 to Kandahar University students.



Fig. 2: Lecture No. 17 (in the series of lectures) on methodology of research, presented by Dr. Nadir Atash in March 2024 to students of Medical Faculty of Paktia University.

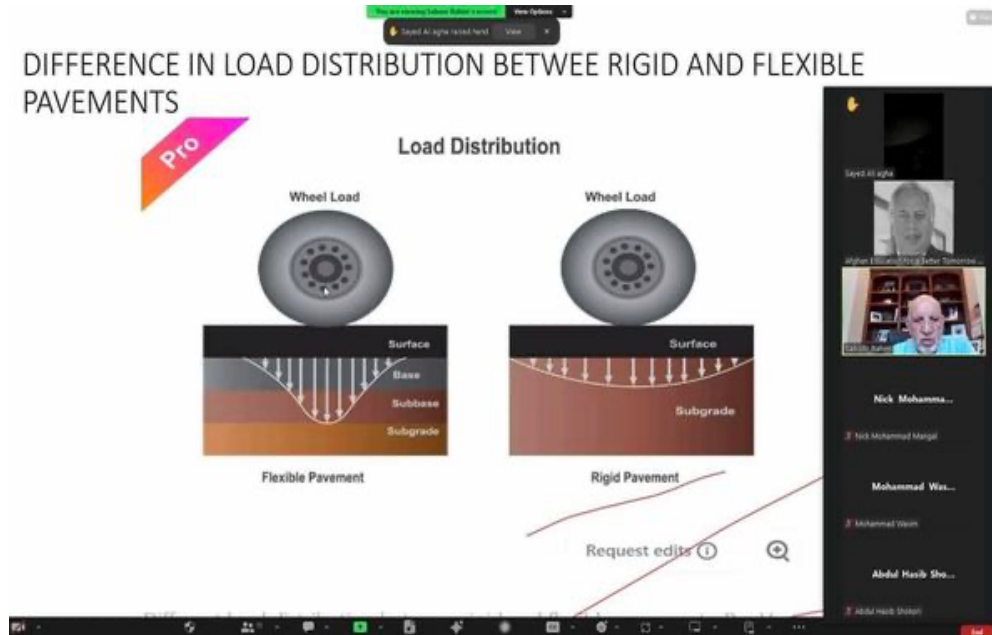


Fig. 3: Seminar on pavement design covering highway transportation, presented by Dr. Saboor Rahim in March 2024, to Faculty of Engineering students of Kabul University

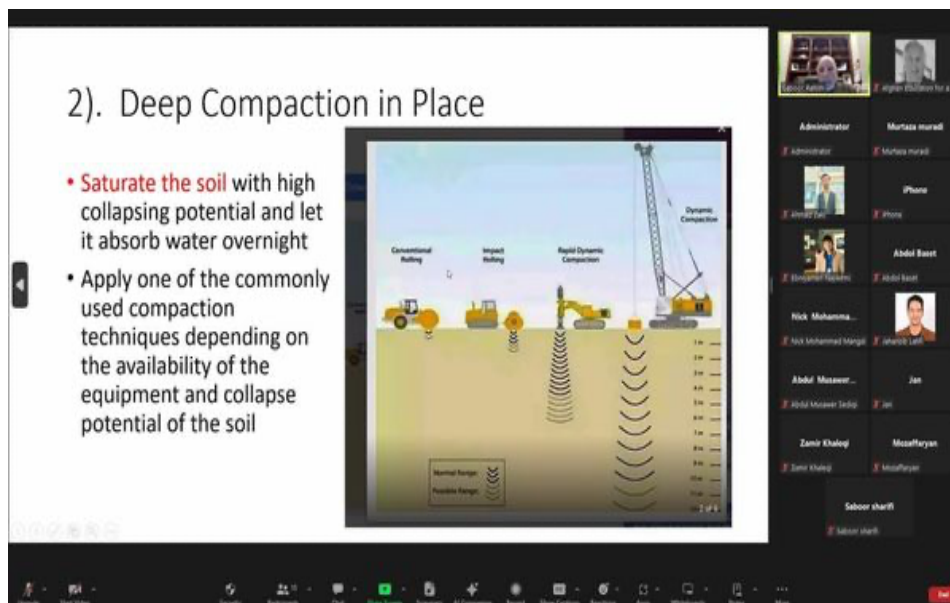


Fig. 4: Lectures on soil mechanics, presented by Dr. Saboor Rahim in January 2024 to Faculty of Engineering students of Kabul University.

- SAE Resident Representative in Kabul (Engineer Walid Howaida) reported that he was invited to the graduation ceremony of students graduating in engineering sciences from Kabul University and Kabul Polytechnic. He reported that all male graduates numbered 772 men in total, 550 of whom earned their bachelor's degree, and 222 whom earned master's degree. Sadly, no female students had the opportunity to graduate.



Fig. 5: Graduation Ceremonies at Kabul and Polytechnic Universities

- Devastating floods destroyed much of the local developments in Baghlan, Ghor, Faryab and other north-western provinces in May 2024, inflicting heavy tolls of life and property damage. SAE management contributed \$1500 donation out of SAE funds to help the victims. Individual members pitched in individually separately.
- SAE has been exploring the prospects of how and if it can be engaged in projects of engineering nature/caliber inside Afghanistan. This exploration is on-going through involvement of its Resident Representative in Kabul in coordination with local authorities. The following brief serves as recent example:

On May 27, 2024, Engineer Howaida met Dr. Farouq Azam at the Ministry of Energy and Water, in the attempt to obtain up to date photos of the Dehrawood hydrological station, requested by BOD member Engineer Amanullah Mommandi, in conjunction with the technical paper that Engineer Azimi recently wrote, titled Recharging Kabul's Aquifers.



Fig. 6: Mr. Walid Howaida with Dr. Farouq Azam

Mr. Howaida also met on May 30, 2024 with Kabul municipality deputy mayor for urban services, Mufty Khalid Sajestani, related to Mr. Azimi's article on Recharging Kabul's Aquifers. The deputy mayor reportedly welcomed the topic of recharging Kabul aquifers and appreciated SAE's offer for cooperation in technical fields. Howaida efforts is continuing to reach to representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Urban Development regarding aquifers recharge.

Engineer Howaida also reported on his finding commissioned by the Board of Directors about requirements to get SAE registered as an organization in Kabul. Accordingly, in addition to meeting rigid administrative procedures set by Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Economy, payment of registration fee (\$5000 per year) is also mandated.

3. News from the U.S.

- 11 SAE members attended a brainstorming session on February 22, 2024 aimed to identify approaches to better organize SAE efforts in being more relevant and successful. A follow up session of this effort was convened on May 15, 2024. The second session resolved that the effort needed to continue further to bring additional input and exchange of ideas, with a TBD timeline.
- 9 SAE members attended an online presentation on April 30, 2024 arranged by Engineer Atiq Panjshiri but prepared and delivered by Engineer Aziz Azimi. The presentation was entitled Recharging Kabul Aquifers, highlighting the dire need for attention to the drawdown of Kabul City underground water levels posing serious future threats.
- Several SAE members attended, at their own expense, an event held on May 26, 2024 in Lake Forest, California, courtesy of an initiative by two former graduates of the Faculty of Engineering, Kabul University. The event intended to provide a re-union of the Faculty of Engineering Alumni and its graduates prior to 1985. Implied by its name, the gathering was the first of its kind. It provided an atmosphere of warmth, cordiality, fraternity, professional comradery, and sentimental feelings for some seeing college time friends after several years of no visitation. Thanks to the organizers, SAE President Jalal Masumi had an opportunity to briefly address the gathering and talk about SAE's past-present-future, and solicit valued involvement of attendees going forward.

THE HYDRO POLITICS OF THE HELMAND RIVER (Part II)

An Introduction to the Helmand River and Water Rights Treaties Between Afghanistan and Iran

By: Amanullah Mommandi, M.S, PE

Abstract

Part I was published in the SAE eNewsletter in January 2024 and focused on the context and background related to previous commissions studies and recommendations up to the 1973 Helmand Water Rights Treaty between Afghanistan and Iran. After a brief overview of the geography of the Helmand River and a more detailed review of historical agreements between Iran and Afghanistan regarding water allocation, Part I outlined the responsibilities of Iran and Afghanistan under the Water Rights Treaty signed between Afghanistan and Iran in March 1973. Part II brings to fore the letter written by Abdul Majid Zabuli, who held cabinet position at the time as Minister of National Economy, which was appended to the 1951 Report of the Helmand River Delta Commission. Mr. Zabuli's letter documents unfair practices by Iran at the time, including widening and deepening of the Sistan River to divert more water to Iran than their allocated share and depriving Chakhansur residents of the necessary water to sustain their livelihoods, forcing them to leave and migrate to other parts of Afghanistan.

Background:

Water rights related to Afghanistan's longest river, the Helmand River (Figure 1), have been a point of contention between Iran and Afghanistan for many years. In 1947, the United States began facilitating negotiations between Iran and Afghanistan related to Helmand River, driven by its interest in maintaining stability in the region. By February 1948, the U.S. Department of State proposed the formation of a neutral technical commission to be appointed by both Iran and Afghanistan to study the Helmand River issue and suggest a solution. The Helmand River Delta Commission was formed as a result, comprised of three impartial experts in hydraulic and irrigation engineering selected by Afghanistan and Iran. The three members were Francisco J. Dominguez, a professor from the Universidad de Chile; Robert L. Lowry, a consulting engineer from El Paso, Texas, USA; and Christopher E. Webb, a district water resource engineer from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

The Commission officially commenced its work on September 7, 1950. They traveled to Asia, dedicating time to study the situation in both Iran and Afghanistan. Commission members were warmly welcomed in Kabul and Tehran by high-ranking officials and heads of state, which aided their field studies of the Helmand River. In February 1951, the Helmand River Delta Commission released its findings in a report titled.



Figure 1. The Helmand River and its Tributaries

“Report of the Helmand River Delta Commission: Afghanistan and Iran”

The Commission’s report, which included several recommendations for both countries, was presented to their respective governments. After the release of the Helmand River Delta Commission’s report, both countries began assessing their claims based on the volume of water flowing through the Helmand River at Band-I-Kamal Khan. According to the Commission’s finding, the total water allocation for Iran was determined to be 20.73 cubic meters per second. Nevertheless, Iran did not accept the Commission’s report, seeking a larger share of the water from the Helmand River.

Mr. Abdul Majid Zabuli letter carried the caption of “Cultivation in Chakhansur” and was dated November 5, 1950, written to the Helmand River Delta Commission on behalf of the Afghan government. He was a prominent Afghan banker, economist, and politician. Born in 1896 in Herat, Afghanistan, Zabuli is often credited with playing a significant role in modernizing Afghanistan’s economy. He founded the first national bank of Afghanistan, named Bank-e-Milli, and was instrumental in establishing other economic institutions and infrastructure projects in the country. Zabuli’s efforts were aimed at improving Afghanistan’s financial independence and economic stability. Zabuli became the Minister of National Economy and served in this position until the early 1950s. Zabuli died in November of 1998 in Nahant, Massachusetts, USA.

Zabuli’s letter, written in English, was also published in February of 1951 in the Appendix of the Report of the Helmand River Delta Commission. The letter documents the rich historical agricultural practices of the Chakhansur inhabitants. It also highlighted the non-cooperative practices of Iran Government related to the widening and deepening of the Seistan River, which draws more water toward Iran and deprives Afghan inhabitants living on the right bank of the Helmand River in Nimruz Province.

The author felt obligated to highlight Zabuli's work to inform younger generations about their patriotic Afghan elders who defended Afghanistan's share of the Helmand River water rights seventy-four years ago. A copy of the full report of the Commission can be viewed at the link furnished below:

<https://scottshelmandvalleyarchives.org/docs/evl-51-18.pdf>

Summary of points made by Mr. Zabuli in his letter to the Delta Commission:

1. Historical Water Rights and Agricultural Decline:

The ruins of dried-up canals, and abandoned villages in Chakhansur are cited as evidence of a once thriving agricultural community reliant on water from the Helmand River. Mr. Zabuli explains that historical water rights based on these ruins justified a favorable decision for Afghanistan in the McMahon arbitration, awarding Afghanistan two portions of water to Iran's one.

Before 1939, Chakhansur enjoyed prosperous agriculture, including significant cotton production evidenced by a cotton ginning factory in Kang. However, changes in the riverbed dynamics post-1939 led to a decreased water supply, severely impacting agriculture and forcing widespread migration of farmers seeking livelihoods elsewhere.

2. Impact of Geographical and Engineering Changes:

Mr. Zabuli writes that structural changes in the riverbed due to natural causes and lack of cooperation from Iran have resulted in more river water diverting to Iran, exacerbating water scarcity for Afghan agriculture and community needs. Mr. Zabuli criticizes Iran for not assisting in constructing customary diversions which otherwise would help manage water flow more equitably.

3. Socio-economic Consequences and Migration:

The acute water shortage has not only reduced agricultural output but has also led to significant social and economic distress. Approximately 6,000 families migrated between 1947 and 1949 due to the inability to sustain agricultural livelihoods. This migration also exacerbated manpower shortages, impacting the maintenance of essential irrigation infrastructure.

4. Unilateral Actions and International Mediation:

Mr. Zabuli explains that despite an agreement to form a commission through U.S. mediation to address these issues, unilateral actions by Iran in using modern engineering to further manipulate water flow have heightened tensions. This intensified the hardships faced by the people of Chakhansur.

5. Technical and Fair Distribution Needs:

Mr. Zabuli advocates for the establishment of more reliable gaging stations and technical installations to ensure fair and accurate distribution of water between Iran and Afghanistan, reducing reliance on estimates that may lead to disputes.

6. Call for Equitable Management and Protective Measures:

Mr. Zabuli emphasizes that any technical advancements or projects by either party affect the livelihoods of communities across borders. Afghanistan had previously postponed its own irrigation system improvements due to the potential impacts for Iran. However, with Iran undertaking significant projects, the rights and well-being of Chakhansur's residents were considered to be at risk, pressing Afghanistan to consider protective measures to safeguard its people from further adversity.

Conclusion:

The complexities surrounding the hydro politics of the Helmand River, as detailed by the author in this series, illuminate the enduring challenges and vital importance of equitable water management between Afghanistan and Iran. The historical insights provided by Abdul Majid Zabuli's letter underscore a longstanding pattern of disputes and the critical need for cooperation and fair sharing of water resources. Mr. Zabuli's detailed account from 1950 reveals not only the struggles faced by the residents of Chakhansur but also highlights the broader implications of unilateral actions on bilateral agreements and regional stability. As we move forward, it is imperative that both nations build upon the framework established by the 1973 Helmand River Water Treaty and other preceding agreements to ensure sustainable water usage that supports the livelihoods and preserves the ecological balance of the region. This ongoing series serves as a crucial reminder of the historical context that shapes current negotiations and the continuous effort required to achieve lasting solutions in the management of shared water resources.

Appendix :

APPENDIX IV

Cultivation in Chakhansur

PRESENTED TO THE HELMAND RIVER DELTA COMMISSION
BY H. E. MADJID KHAN ON NOVEMBER 5, 1950

1. During their study of cultivation and the quantity of water in Chakhansur, the honored commissioners have observed the ruins of the past civilization of this area, and the present plight of the people of this region, and must have noted that:

a. All these ruins, dried up canals, and abandoned villages are good testimonies of a once prosperous agricultural civilization which must have had its foundation upon resources of the Helmand River. The presence of all these ruins prove the right of the region of Chakhansur to the water from the Helmand, both in the ancient and also at the time of McMahon. It was because of the indications of the past civilization of this region and the abundance of ruins that, in spite of the development of the Iranian Seistan to 128-148 thousand acres (1903) and the developments in Chakhansur of between 24-28 thousand acres that McMahon in his decision awarded two portions of water to Afghanistan and only one portion to Iran.

b. Before 1939, when the bed of the river toward Rud-i-Seistan was high and the river was flowing its natural course, Chakhansur enjoyed not only extended autumn cultivation but had also appreciable summer crops, which included vast cultivation of cotton. The presence of a cotton ginning factory at Kang is a sign of prosperous cultivation of cotton in this region.

c. When the bed of Rud-i-Seistan was high, the Afghans were ever ready to cooperate with the Iranians in the construction of the Kohak Diversion. But ever since 1939, when because of floods the bed of Rud-i-Seistan has been washed low and the entrance to the Common River has been left high, the Iranians have not assisted us in the construction of the customary diversion at Kohak. Thus the bulk of the river flows to Iran and the agriculture on the Afghan side is on the decline. This situation has not only affected summer agriculture but has affected autumn cultivation also. Because of lack of water the land remains fallow and the farmers who lack other means of subsistence have to abandon their land for search of a livelihood elsewhere. From the available information, 6,000 families of farmers have migrated to other regions between 1947-1949. This migration brings other problems in its wake. With the

migration of the able-bodied farmers the problem of manpower, to the extent that it affects the digging of the canals that get filled with sand during the 120-day winds, becomes very acute. Hence the problem of the people, in digging the canals, is increasing as a result of such migrations. The honored commissioners who have studied the problem of the canal digging from close distance can easily realize that the entire welfare of Chakhansur is in danger.

d. Iranian Seistan has taken advantage of the circumstances and after the deepening of the bed of the Rud-i-Seistan, unlike the assistance that they were receiving from us prior to this situation, have not helped us to get our rightful share of the water. Even today, in spite of the agreement of the Iranian Government to the formation of a commission through the good offices of the Government of the U.S.A. to study this problem, they have undertaken unilateral action in expanding their efforts to utilize modern engineering facilities in aggravating the situation. This situation has caused great concern among the people of Afghanistan.

e. According to available information, even now the greater part of the water of Rud-i-Seistan flows into Hamun and gets wasted while the farmers of Chakhansur lack water for drinking for themselves and their animals, much less for their cultivation.

f. Still more important is the poverty and the destitution of the people of Chakhansur. The honored commissioners, we are sure, have seen the miserable plight of the people of this area who have been driven to the sorry state of affairs because of the shortage of water and the paucity of agriculture.

2. The data obtained from the gaging stations at Chaharburjak and Kohak and the measurement of water elsewhere on the lateral streams and the terrific loss from seepage and evaporation between the station where the water is divided and the station where water is taken is worthy of note and further consideration.

3. In order to distribute water between Iran and Afghanistan equitably we consider it necessary that possible gaging stations and other technical installations should be erected, so that both parties can easily take their rightful share without resorting to unreliable guess work.

4. It is evident that the Common River is so directly related to agriculture and the life of the people of this area that the installation or furtherance of any technical project by one party directly affects the life of the people of the other party. It was because of this fact that Afghanistan temporarily postponed the project for the improvement of irrigation in Chakhansur that she had on hand in 1935. But today that Iran has undertaken a vast project in Seistan, it is inevitable that the rights of the people of Chakhansur will be affected adversely. Hence if their program in the down-river area is not amended now, Afghanistan will be forced to protect the people of Chakhansur from further miseries by taking appropriate steps.

[150]

Biography of Engineer Amanullah Mommandi, M.S, P.E.

Mr. Mommandi graduated from the Faculty of Engineering at Kabul University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1968. Subsequently, he joined the Afghan Army Reserve for one year and then joined Water and Soil Survey Authority in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation where he served as a water resource engineer until 1973. Mr. Mommandi pursued graduate studies in Water Resource and Hydraulics at Colorado State University located in Fort Collins, Colorado, USA where he obtained his master's degree in 1975.



Mr. Mommandi then returned to Afghanistan and started working for the Ministry of Water and Power (MPW) as General Director of Planning, General Director of Technical Monitoring, and Inspection, and finally as the President of Kunduz Khanabad Water Resource Authority.

After immigrating to the United States, Mr. Mommandi briefly worked in the private sector as a consultant before joining the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). Mr. Mommandi's career at CDOT spanned over 35 years before his retirement in 2019. At CDOT, he served as the Hydraulic Program Manager and later as the Director of the Applied Research and Innovation Branch. Mr. Mommandi coauthored many publications related to water resource and transportation. His research documents can be accessed at the following link.
<https://www.codot.gov/programs/research>

In 2012 Mr. Mommandi presented on various water resource hydraulics and transportation applications at the Ministry of Public Works and at the College of Engineering at Kabul University. Mr. Mommandi accompanied Minister Aoudjan and others to inspect the highway from Kabul to Khenjan including the Salang Tunnel. He also joined Mr. Aoudjan and his delegation to inspect Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnel along I-70 west of Denver, Colorado, USA. The author facilitated the signing of Technical Memorandum between Afghanistan Minister of Public Works and CDOT.

Mr. Mommandi joined the Society of Afghan Engineers (SAE) in the early nineties, chaired the SAE Colorado Chapter and served two terms as member of SAE Board of Directors and Vice President. He is currently SAE Board member.

Amanullah Mommandi, M.S., P.E.

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THE PEACOCK HOUSE IN MURAD KHANI-KABUL (PART II)

By: Hashmatullah Atmar, PhD

Abstract:

In Murad Khani two styles of architecture are used: Kabuli architecture and English architecture. The houses in this area are mostly built in two stories with a basement, which has classical forms and art of Islamic architecture that is seen in its buildings. The walls of water spilled thatched mud. Wooden gates and cloisters show the historicity of the area. The foundations of the old buildings of Murad Khani is stone, raw clay, mud plaster and wood. There are many beautiful and different houses in Murad Khani, one of the most famous of which is called the peacock house.

The first part of the article, which included general information about rooms, staircases, and windows, was published in the April 2024 issue of the SAE eNewsletter.

This article is continuation of part I of the article, which mainly discusses the house building gate, doors, cabinet, decorative cantilever peaks of inner walls, roof gutters, doorbells, etc.

Peacock House Building Doors:

The doors of the bedrooms are wooden, two panels with nice decorative elements on the top of the cornice. In the family gathering room (Saloon) can be seen wooden cabinet which is in the middle and inner of the walls. This cabinet has decorative nice arms located at the two sides of the cabinet and this cabinet has two opening leaves with 4 mm thickness of 3 equal glass, but inner cells are different. (Fig.1)



Fig.1: The family gathering room

The widths of cabinets are 1100 mm, and the range of their heights is from 1100 mm to 1400 mm but bottom of the cabinet is higher 700 mm from the finish floor. The decorative wooden cornice is located at the top of the cabinet. (Fig-2)



Fig.2: The cabinet

In addition to wooden and mud cabinets can be seen about 200 mm cantilever peaks all-around of inner walls of Saloon with special mud decoration.

The construction of peak starts from hammering of wood nails to the wall at each 200 mm distance and using thin wooden stick (wooden bar diameter 50-70mm) on the top of all wooden nails and mud by experienced manufacturer's-

The thickness of cantilever at start of the peaks is 100 mm but at the end it connects to the walls, and it is 200 mm. The family member of the house uses local mud product dishes for decor of Saloon (Fig.3)



Fig.3: A cantilever peaks around the inner walls

On the top parts of cantilever is shown two skirting with equal heights of 200 mm. One of them is wooden and the other is made of mud. The wooden skirting is connected to the roof sticks, but the mud skirting is located lower than wooden skirting which has good match between walls and ceiling. The surface of the ceiling has smooth planks covers too.

Ceilings are made of three 250 – 300 mm diameter pole beams in each location located on the top of room walls, then laid wooden plank length of 2000 mm, width 200 mm and thickness of 20 mm, bamboo, 100 - 150 mm mud, 100 mm soil and then 2 layers of thick straw mud. (Fig.4)

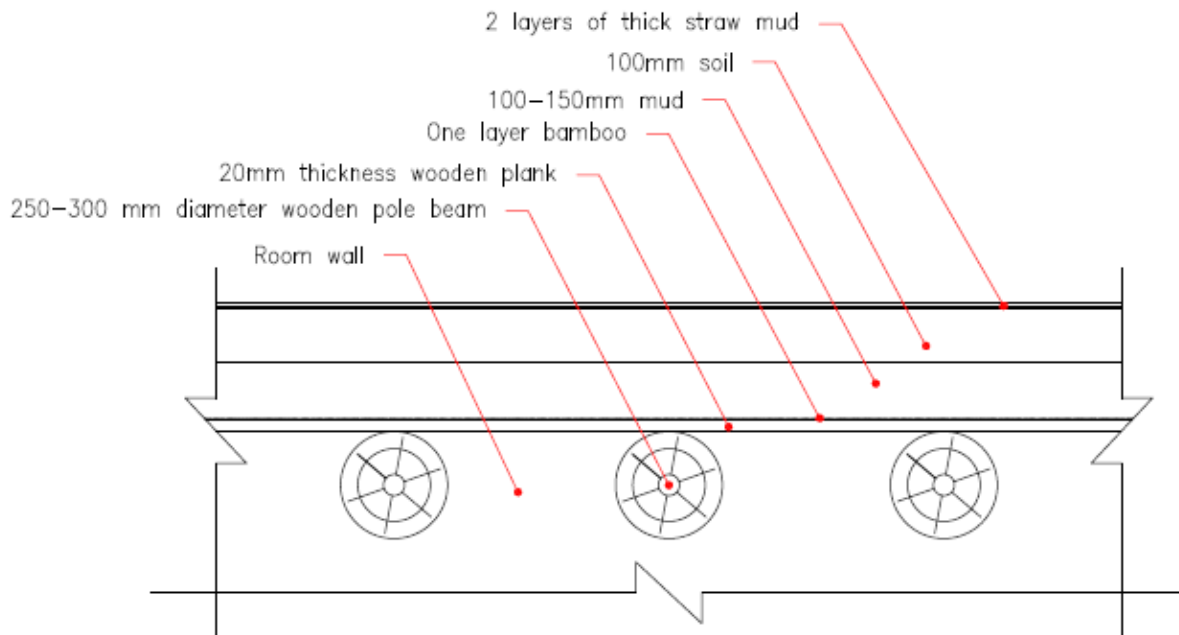


Fig.4: A section drawing of ceiling for materials.

Peacock House Building Roof:

The manufactured process can be done from the ceiling of the basement, first floor, but for the roof considered salt mixing (0.2 kg per square meter) in the straw mud to make roof finishing harder and make easier for the walking on the roof and clear of roof snow during wintertime by wooden or poly vinyl chloride (pvc) shovels. The roof of all the rooms is flat and has suitable slopes for the passage of rainwater, and each roof has its own wooden gutter, which are mostly intended for the street, but due to the restrictions, they are also placed in the yard.

Every year in the fall, the roofs are thatched. The annual thatching process increases the weight of the roofs over time. After 10 years, the owner of the house removes all the layers of thatch and overlay a new thatch layer so that the weight of the roofs does not increase.

Roof of building doesn't have a railing, so for access of children and other security options building has covered roof staircase and lockable wooden door from both sides.

Each roof has a separate wooden gutter that's made of 3 parts. Length of gutters is 1000 mm, widths of gutter outside end-to-end are 120 mm, thickness of the planks is 17.4 mm but each side lip is equal to 100 mm, The end 150 mm parts of gutter is flat that can be fixed to their wooden beams by construction nails (Fig.5):



Fig.5: A picture of wooden gutter of roof

Peacock House Building sidewalks:

The courtyard of the mansion has a sidewalk next to the surrounding walls that are 1000 mm wide. The materials used on the sidewalks are red brick so that they can easily clean and sweep during wintertime. (Fig.6)



Fig.6: A picture of sidewall

There is also a water well in the courtyard of the mansion and it is used for various purposes such as: bathing, cooking, drinking, and watering trees, flowers, plants, watering the courtyard, corridors, staircase and sometimes outside the alley. Its surrounding walls have a width of 350 mm. After Upon completion of stone masonry work of raw clay and a height of 3000 mm, and in the upper part of it, the walls have been built capping to prevent their damages due to snow and rain. The width of these capping is 450 to 500 mm, and the height of the middle part is 350 mm, which means that the shape is like that of the jump. Two sides, the inner and outer sides of the surrounding walls, have been straw mud to resist against the rain, snow, and wind damages.

House has a very interesting wooden entrance gate which is, thick and has two equal panels one of which is always open, which means it is used, and the other is opened when necessary. This gate is very strong and thick, which is without any hinges. In the upper part its end is a cylindrical wooden joint in the panel and the lower and upper circular holes in the gate frame that this gate panel cylinder moves into its hole in the frame is made ball bearings. (Fig.7)



Fig. 7: Pictures of ball bearing door panel at lower and upper connection

The panels are made of thick planks, so that there would be no need for construction nails in the gate. These planks are connected from the inside by other thick wood (transverse), the nails which produced by the local blacksmith is connected in such a way that the nail is from the outside of the gate, which is a strong and has decorative element like a washer, it is bent and secured from the inside after passing the outer planks and the inner wood. These strong receiving sticks are located at the top, middle and bottom of the panels. (Fig.8)



Fig.8: Pictures of decorative nail made by a local blacksmith is hammered from the outside, and after passing through the boards and support wood, it is bent.

One of the two panels of the gate has a wooden structure attached vertically to the side called a nose, it has been installed for the purpose of strengthening the second panel (leaf) and hiding the middle seam (gap) that caused the interior view of the courtyard.

The gate has two inner and outer strengthening chains, which after tightening the door, cylindrical metal locks are used, and this gate is mostly open to the inside due to safety, in the final part of the outside of the gate, a strong chain in an oblique shape, it is fixed on one side of the gate frame and on the other side to the gate panel, which does not reach the gate panel hits the wall, this type of method is called door stopper in today's architecture and construction. See (Fig. 7)

In the part of lintel and in the middle of the gate of the alley, our eyes are on a very simple but meaningful and important wooden structure, it turns out that its task surprises every viewer.

This wooden structure is called own wooden lock (wooden trap), whose task is to secure or bind the alley gate from the side. It has outside the own wooden lock a length of 400 mm, a width of 660 mm and a thickness of 70 mm, one side of which is fixed by a big and strong nail to the wood of the handle of the vault and the other side is open. Its tail or tip is shaved, its length is 40 mm, and its thickness is 30 mm, which does not allow the gate to be opened from the outside.

This means that whenever one of the family members wants to go out, there is no need to bother others and close the gate from the inside, but the person himself can lift the trap, and leave it. Later, pull the gate from the chain to the outside and the gate it is blocked by itself. (Fig.9)



Fig.9: A picture of own lock (wooden trap) of house building gate



After closing the gate by means of one's own lock (wooden trap), a person cannot open it. To open the gate the family members and guests must knock the door with local door bell (chain), the family members to open it from the inside. The outer chain, which in today's architecture is known as the doorbell, rings, so that the family members will open the alley gate for them and invite the guests or members of the family inside. (Fig.10)

Fig.10: A picture of doorbell (Chain)

Summary:

What is remarkable in Murad Khani is the short gates and covered alleys, it shows the unique type of defence system in this region. In other Islamic cities, the gates are usually built in such a way that two pregnant camels can pass through it at the same time.

Also, from the perspective of height, a horseman can enter the city without dismounting from his horse. But the gates of the old buildings of Murad Khani are very short. Murad Khani houses have large balconies facing the mansion, the balconies that open to the outside are very small.

The fame of Murad Khani is not only limited to its history, but the first new school in Afghanistan was established about 112 years ago in the mud buildings of Murad Khani. After that, this place became a cultural place; where Mahmoud Tarzi, the father of the Afghan press, started printing official letters and money in this place for the first time.

Author's biography

Hashmatullah Atmar was born on 24 May 1963 in Bulan village, Qarghae Distract of Laghman province, Afghanistan. He completed his Primary and high school studies at Aqa Ali Shams School and Habibia High School in Kabul,



Mr. Atmar received his bachelor and Master degree in architecture from the Azerbaijan Civil Engineering Institute (Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction) in 1988. He received his PhD in Architecture from the same university in 2007. He worked with PAMA (Central Planning Project Institute) as the head of education and health department, and lectured at the Faculty of Engineering of Kabul University (part time) for 10 years.

In 2000, he started working with Zone of Maximum Design (ZMD), a Turkish Design and Construction Company as a project manager in Kabul. He then worked as Technical Manager with Technology Innovation Manufacturing (TIM International), a Turkish based prefab company in Kabul till 2017.

Mr. Atmar is currently working as controller of architectural projects at the Directorate of Design of Construction Affairs and also lectures at the engineering faculty at Salam University. He has prepared more than 800 architectural details and shop drawings for small, medium and large complexes in Afghanistan, and abroad.

Furthermore he is the author of 72 books, out of which, 30 are about architecture, especially Afghan Architecture, 10 are about Islamic Architecture and the other 32 are novels in Pashto and Dari languages. He is the author of 30 articles in Dari, Pashto, Russian and English languages.

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POHAND ZABIHULLAH HAMIDI'S OBITUARY

January 3, 1939 – June 16, 2024

By: Ghulam Mujtaba, MS, PE, CPM and A. Wahed Hassani, PhD, PE

The Society of Afghan Engineers is saddened by the passing of Professor Zabihullah Hamidi.

Pohand (Professor) Zabihullah Hamidi was born on January 3, 1939, in Ghazni, Afghanistan. Mr. Abdul Salam Khan was his father and Mrs. Gulafshan was his mother. He completed his elementary and middle schools in Ghazni and earned his high school Diploma in Civil Aviation from the Afghan Institute of Technology (AIT), Kabul, Afghanistan in 1958, and BS degree in Civil Engineering from the Faculty of Engineering, Kabul University in 1962. Professor Hamidi received his MS degree in Hydraulic and Irrigation Engineering from University of Roorkee, India, in 1967. From 1969-1970, Professor Hamidi was awarded a scholarship for postgraduate studies and research at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA.



Professor Hamidi served as a lecturer in the USA from 1973-1974.

Mr. Hamidi started teaching as assistant professor in the Civil Engineering Department of the Faculty of Engineering, Kabul University, following his graduation from the same University. Professor Hamidi was an excellent professor and a professional researcher at the Faculty of Engineering, Kabul University. He taught various undergraduate courses and was also instrumental in advancing the quality of the programs and the development of various civil engineering testing and research laboratories. He had excellent skills in staff development and the organization of research activities.

Professor Hamidi was a very successful researcher, who conducted numerous research projects at the Faculty of Engineering, Kabul University as well as overseas. His most prominent research projects are:

- ❖ Hydraulic Performance of Short Pipe Outlets, MS Thesis, India, 1967,
- ❖ Hydraulic Performance of Jungaluk Pumps, 1968,
- ❖ Hydroelectric Power Project for Yakaolang, 1971,
- ❖ Design of Water Supply System for Sia- Sung Project, 1972,
- ❖ Study and Comparison of Afghan and Russian Cements, 1973,
- ❖ Spillway And Under sluices Model Testing of Khanabad Barrage, 1976,
- ❖ Design of Diversion for Laghman River, 1976,
- ❖ Hydraulic Model Study of Khanabad River, 1977,
- ❖ Possibilities of Utilizing Wind Energy in Afghanistan, 1978,
- ❖ Hydraulic Model Study of Kajakai Spillway, 1979,
- ❖ Micro Hydro Electric Research, Peshawar, Pakistan, 1991.

Professor Hamidi is the author of many publications, including textbooks and laboratory manuals such as:

- ❖ Hydraulic Laboratory Manual, 1972 – in English

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- ❖ Fluid Mechanics Laboratory Manual, 1972 - in English
- ❖ Materials of Construction,–textbook (Persian), Peshawar, 1990,
- ❖ Fundamentals of Fluid Mechanics textbook (Persian) Peshawar, 1992,
- ❖ Water Supply and Sanitation textbook (Persian) Peshawar, 1993.

In June of 1989, Professor Hamidi immigrated with his family to Peshawar, Pakistan. He joined the International Rescue Committee (IRC) Construction Related Engineering Programs for Afghan Refugees. He served as Professor, Manager and Assistant Coordinator of IRC's Engineering Programs.

In 1995, Professor Hamidi with his family immigrated to Melbourne, Australia.

Professor Hamidi was a very smart, educated, hardworking, and caring person. He loved his teaching profession and was held in high regard by his students and colleagues equally. He was known for dedication to his duties, love of his countrymen, honesty and professionalism. He was a highly respected professor of the Faculty of Engineering at Kabul University as well as the Engineering Programs of IRC. His students will always remember him.

It was a privilege to be Professor Hamidi's student. The authors were fortunate to work with him as close friends, and as colleagues, at the Faculty of Engineering of Kabul University.

Dr. Hassani was very pleased that he and Professor Hamidi worked together at IRC's Engineering Programs in Peshawar, Pakistan. He was a very knowledgeable professor and a man of dignity and respect.

Professor Hamidi passed away in Australia on June 16, 2024. His funeral and burial services were held at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Melbourne, Australia on Thursday June 20, 2024.

Professor Hamidi is survived by his wife, Mohtarama Najiba, four smart, highly educated daughters, Suraya, Lara, Hassina, and Suma; three grandsons, five granddaughters and two great grandchildren.

The Society of Afghan Engineers expresses their heartfelt condolences and sympathy to Professor Hamidi's wife, children and rest of his family, relatives, friends, and engineering community of Afghanistan for the great loss.

May Allah Almighty have mercy on him and may his soul rest in peace in heavens.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Planate Management Group, LLC

[Mechanical Engineer \(Remote in the US\)](#)

[Lead Electrical Engineer \(Remote in the US\)](#)

[Structural Seismic Engineer \(Remote in the US\)](#)

[Purchasing Administrator \(Remote in the US\)](#)

[Industrial Hygienist \(Palo Alto, CA\)](#)

[Industrial Construction Superintendent \(Washington DC\)](#)

[Program Manager \(to be based in Iraq\)](#)

[Property Manager/Deputy Program Manager \(to be based in Iraq\)](#)

[Safety Manager \(to be based in Iraq\)](#)

[Lead Mechanic \(to be based in Iraq\)](#)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Expanding membership base is a high priority. Active member is understood as one who has paid annual membership fee. In 2024 so far 4 members (2 female and 2 male) joined SAE and became active members. SAE Management strongly desires that these numbers grow.

Membership fee payment, on the other hand, is in need of jolt. As of this report, 32 out of 80 (40%) members outside Afghanistan have not yet paid their 2024 membership renewal fee.

The 2024 SAE Membership Renewal

Dear Members of the Society:

The Management of the Society of Afghan Engineers (SAE) would like to remind all members that 2024 membership renewal and annual fee of \$120 are due. Your membership fee collectively enables us to pay for some basic needed services of the Society such as website security monitoring, updating, and maintenance. Also, your membership fee would provide SAE management the financial means to organize and host events and seminars on relevant technical topics.

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:

THE SOCIETY OF AFGHAN ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 11097
Alexandria, Virginia 22312

Thanks to members who have updated their membership renewal and have paid their annual membership fees.

Thanks for their generosity.

Two membership rosters are provided below, one for members inside Afghanistan. SAE bylaws exempted these members from membership fee payment. The other is for members outside Afghanistan. These members must pay annual membership fee to be considered “active” member.

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM THE SOCIETY OF AFGHAN ENGINEERS



ROSTER OF SAE MEMBERS OUTSIDE AFGHANISTAN
Membership Fee Payment Information

No	Member Name		Email Address	May-24			date paid	pay method	application on file	Remarks
	Last	First		Fee	Donation	Total				
1	Abdul Qayum	Abdul Rauf	abdulrauf22@hotmail.com			\$ -			Yes	This roster is developed based on a listing of active members prepared in March 2023, showing a total of 54 members and their membership payment status. Members in Afghanistan are exempt from membership fee payment and are thus recognized as ACTIVE members. Members in the U.S. and Canada are required to be current in membership fee payment in order to be recognized ACTIVE. Of the 54 members shown in the March 2023 listing, 32 (highlighted in red) did not pay the annual fee to renew their 2024 membership. The listing updated in June 2024 shows 80 members, bringing the count of ACTIVE members to 37. Thus the total count of ACTIVE members as of June 2024 is 80-32 = 58.
2	Abdullah	Ehsan	ehsan.abdullah2@gmail.com			\$ -			Yes	
3	Abdulrahimzai	Mushtaq	Abdurahimzai@gmail.com			\$ -				
4	Afghan	Fazel Ahmad	afghanfazel37@hotmail.com	\$ 120.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 150.00	2/15/24	Check		
5	Afshar	Reza M.	afghanrelief@aol.com			\$ -				
6	Ahmady	Ahmad Jawid	drajniazi@gmail.com			\$ -				
7	Amiri	Donya	donya@aimeci.com	\$ 120.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 360.00	2/20/24	Zelle		
8	Aria	Wais	wais7676@gmail.com			\$ -				
9	Atayee	Tamim	tatayee@rivertec.com	\$ 120.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 200.00	2/21/24	Zelle	Yes	
10	Azadzo	Najim	azadarch@aol.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	3/27/24	Check	Yes	
11	Azimi	Sayed Aziz	azimi@technologistsinc.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	3/11/24	Zelle	Yes	
12	Babacarkhial	Abdul Nazeer	engineernaz@aol.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	3/18/24	Zelle		
13	Baha	Zarjan	bahaz@purdue.edu	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	1/1/23			
14	Baha	Abraham	ab@mygsi.com			\$ -				
15	Baidariwal	Fazal	baidariwal@yahoo.com			\$ -				
16	Baluch	Hashem	baluch56@yahoo.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	2/8/24	Zelle	Yes	
17	Corcoran	Edward	ed@corcorans.org	\$ 120.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 125.00	2/28/24	Check	Yes	
18	Durani	Ahmad Shah	asdk@sympatico.ca			\$ -				
19	Ebadi	Yar M.	yebadi@ksu.edu			\$ -			Yes	
20	Farooqi	Najibullah	najibfar@aol.com	\$ 120.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 200.00	3/27/24	check	Yes	
21	Fasihi	Fayeq	fasihi.mohammad@yahoo.com			\$ -				
22	Feda	Ghulam	gfeda12@gmail.com fedag@yahoo.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	1/16/24	PayPal		
23	Ghani	Aziz	agdesignstudio@gmail.com			\$ -				
24	Goethert	Reinhard	rgk@mit.edu			\$ -				
25	Hassan	Islamudin	islamudin.hassan@gmail.com			\$ -				
26	Hassani	Abdul Waheed	awhassani@gmail.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	2/22/24	Check		
27	Homam	Mukhtar	mukhtar.homam@utoronto.ca			\$ -				
28	Hossainy	Said Sharif	sharifhossainy@hotmail.com	\$ 120.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 150.00	3/1/24	Check	Yes	
29	Hussaini	Sayed Ruhollah	srhussaini93@gmail.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	3/16/24	Zelle	Yes	
30	Ibrahim	M. Hamayon	hamayonibrahim@ccl-eng.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	3/18/24	Zelle	Yes	
31	Kazimee	Bashir	bkazimee@wsu.edu	\$ 120.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 150.00	2/22/24	Check	Yes	
32	Kazimi	Najib	najib_kazimi@dot.ca.gov			\$ -				
33	Keshawar	Saleh	keshawarz@hartford.edu	\$ 60.00		\$ 60.00	1/1/23			
34	Khalid	Manan	manank10@gmail.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	1/18/24	Zelle		
35	Khoja-Omary	Najib	nkhwaja_omary@hotmail.com			\$ -				
36	Ludin	Rafat	rludin@ludinconsulting.com			\$ -				
37	Mahmood	Amin	amahmood@amstructural.com			\$ -			Yes	
38	Masumi	Jalat	jalal.masumi@gmail.com	\$ 120.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 200.00	1/26/24	Venmo & Zelle	Yes	
39	Mehrza	Jan	mjmehrza@mehrdel.com			\$ -			Yes	
40	Miller	Hamida	hamidamillerteam@gmail.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	2/26/24	Zelle	Yes	
41	Mohabbat	Kamela	kameliamohabbat@yahoo.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	6/10/24	Zelle	Yes	
42	Mohabbat	Yar	ymohabbat@yahoo.com	\$ 60.00		\$ 60.00	6/10/24	Zelle	Yes	
43	Mommandi	Amanullah	mommandia@gmail.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	2/22/24	Check	Yes	
44	Mujtaba	Ghulam	mujtabaghulam@bellsouth.net	\$ 120.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 220.00	1/31/24	Check		
45	Munir	Yacob	munir@hitech-eng.net	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	4/11/24	Zelle	Yes	
46	Murtaza	Malik	mmortaza4@gmail.com			\$ -				
47	Nadi	Abdullah	abdullahnadi@aol.com			\$ -				
48	Naimi	Qaseem	mqnaimi@yahoo.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	1/28/24	Check		
49	Noorzad	Abdullah	anoorzad@noorzadconsulting.com			\$ -			Yes	
50	Noorzay	Mohammad Saber	nazirnoorzay@hotmail.com			\$ -				
51	Omarzad	Mustafa	mu_omarzad@yahoo.com			\$ -			Yes	
52	Panjshiri	Atiq	atiqpanjshiri@yahoo.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	2/28/24	Check	Yes	
53	Poya	Najib M.	mnpoya@yahoo.com	\$ 120.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 200.00	3/29/24	Check	Yes	
54	Poya	Omar	omar_poya@dot.ca.gov			\$ -				
55	Qadir	Abdullah	abdullah.qadir@gmail.com			\$ -				
56	Rakin	Hadi	ahrakin@gmail.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	1/1/23			
57	Rasuli	Mohammed Arif	mrasuli@worldbank.org			\$ -				
58	Rayek	Hashim	rayekfamily@gmail.com			\$ -				
59	Roshan	Tooba	ararchgroup@aol.com	\$ 120.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 200.00	1/26/24	Venmo & Check	Yes	
60	Rossi	Steve	steverp@thinkrenewables.ca	\$ 120.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 220.00	2/1/24	Check	Yes	
61	Sabet	Mehdi	mehdi.sabet@zu.ac.ae msabet52@gmail.com			\$ -				
62	Saleh	Gul Afghan	gulsaleh@gmail.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	2/6/24	Zelle	Yes	
63	Saleh	Mahjan	mahjansaleh@msn.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	1/19/24	Zelle	Yes	
64	Salik	Shakaib	shakaib.salik@gmail.com			\$ -				
65	Samizay	Mahmoud	m_samizay@wsu.edu			\$ -				
66	Samizay	Rafi	rkhamosh@yahoo.com			\$ -				
67	Sarfraz	Zabiullah				\$ -				
68	Sarwary	Mohammad Saber	SSarwary@redwoodcity.org	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	3/18/24	Zelle	Yes	
69	Sattari	Masood	masood@svestimating.com			\$ -				
70	Sawez	Mohammad David	david@eurocraftmetal.com			\$ -				
71	Sediq	Khatol	khatolsediq02@gmail.com	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	3/27/24	Check	Yes	
72	Shekib	Sohaila	sohaila@saniecg.com sshekib@saniecg.com	\$ 120.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 150.00	2/28/24	Check	Yes	
73	Shirzay	Ahmad Wali	ahwshairzay@gmail.com			\$ -				
74	Sidiqi	Nadir	nadirisidiqi@yahoo.com			\$ -				
75	Taraky	Yar Mohammad	ytaraky@gmail.com			\$ -				
76	Wardak	Hafizullah	hwardak@comcast.net	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	4/29/24	Check		
77	Wardak Hassan	Wazma	wazma786@aol.com			\$ -				
78	Yamayee	Zia	yamayee@up.edu	\$ 120.00	\$ 380.00	\$ 500.00	2/28/24	Check	Yes	
79	Zaca	Zabiullah	zabihulla@comcast.net	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	2/9/24	Zelle	Yes	
80	Zahori	Sayed	szahori@redwoodcity.org			\$ -				
						\$ 5,905.00				

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM THE SOCIETY OF AFGHAN ENGINEERS



ROSTER OF SAE MEMBERS INSIDE AFGHANISTAN

NO	Member Name		Live in Afghanistan (Y/N)	Phone number (optional)	Email Address
	Last	First			
1	Kamran	Matiullah			matiuallahkamran@gmail.com
2	Momand	Mohammad Ishaq			ishaq_moh@yahoo.com
3	Zahid	Hasibullah			hasib.zahid315@gmail.com
4	Saberi	Safi			safi.saberi97@gmail.com
5	Asim	Arif			arif.asim2018@gmail.com
6	Naimi	Kazim			kazim.naimi2016@gmail.com
7	Howaida	Ahmad Walid			walidhowaida@gmail.com
8	Maihan	Regina			reginamaihan@gmail.com
9	Alizoi	Mohammad Azim			mazimalozai@gmail.com
10	Hussaini	Muzhda Sahadat			muzhda.sahadat@gmail.com
11	Qadery	Qadria Shewa			qadriashq2021@gmail.com
12	Momand	Abdul Bari			abdulbarimohmand786@gmail.com
13	Atmar	Hashmatullah			atmar_hashmatullah@yahoo.com
14	Halimi	Rukhsar			rukhsarhalim96@gmail.com
15	Zhakfar	Zabihullah			z.zhakfar2015@gmail.com
16	Rahmat	Habib			habib.rahmat@gmail.com
17	Mahmood	Sahar			engsaharmahmood1@gmail.com
18	Noori	Zuhal			zuhalnoori41@gmail.com
19	Momandi	Rafi			rmommandi@gmail.com
20	Waziri	Haseeb Shah			haseebshah.4071@gmail.com
21	Ranjber	Adina			ranjberadina@gmail.com
22	Azadzo	Manzoor			manzoorazadzo@gmail.com
23	Hamza	Lima			lima.hamza1@gmail.com
24	Akbary	Asrar			asrarakbary1996@gmail.com
25	Halimee	Kamil			kamil.wardak@gmail.com
26	Jafari	Aliyaser			aliyaser.jafari@unibas.it
27	Faridoon	Sayed			arch.fridoan@gmail.com
28	Naimzad	Aref			naimzad@gmail.com
29	Amini	Huda			hodahassib@gmail.com
30	Qiam	Seqiq			sediiqqiam@yahoo.com
31	Raffiq	Hamayoun			zhraffiq@gmail.com
32	Mohseni	Kabir			kabirmohseni@yahoo.com
33	Naderi	Hamid			hnaderi24@gmail.com
34	Khalid	Jamil			jamil.kh@gmail.com
35	Noori	Khalid			khalednoori@hotmail.com
36	Rahim	Sabor			asrengineering@sbcglobal.net
37	Zareh	AJ			ajzareh@gmail.com
38	Momand	Fahim			momand.fahim@gmail.com
39	Kazimi	Najib			najibkazimi07@gmail.com
40	Hashemyan	Sayed			hedayat@comcast.net
41	Amiri	Sayed			andarab45@gmail.com
42	Arghand	Moheb			mohebagand@yahoo.com
43	Ghasi	Emamudin			egomarkhail@gmail.com
44	Naweed	Jawad			jawadnaweed@gmail.com
45	Noori	Nader			mnoori916@yahoo.com
46		Nazroad			nazroad@aol.com
47	Karimi	Mustafa			mustafa7karimi@gmail.com
48	Sekander	Timor			abautowholesale@yahoo.com
49	Ahmad	Nazir			nazir_ahmad88@yahoo.com
50	Niazi	Ahmad Jawad			dr.ajniazi@gmail.com
51	Habibi	Hekmat			hekmat8352@gmail.com
52	Mehrde	Mehrza			mjmehrza@mehrdel.com
53	Afroz	Yusuf			afroozmy@gmail.com
54	Kadodrydis	Gearge			gkatodrytis@aus.edu
55	Naim	Wahid			naimw@hotmail.com
56	Painda	Fakoor			pmfakoor@hotmail.com
57	Noorzay	Tamim			tamimnoorzay@sbcglobal.net
58	Naweed	Hamid			hnaweed3@gmail.com
59	Matin	Sayed			matinsayed24@gmail.com
60	Kawish	Khojasta			kh_kawish_azadani@yahoo.com
61	Ibrahim	Jawad			jihai04@aol.com
62	Naimzad	Aref			naimzad@gmail.com
63	Sharifzai	Seraj			sarajsharifzai@gmail.com
64	Najem	J			jsnajem@yahoo.com
65	Olumee				olumee2002@hotmail.com
66	Safi	Qayum			safiqayum@gmail.com

THE SOCIETY OF AFGHAN ENGINEERS ORGANIZATION

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Treasurer: Mahjan Saleh, **Secretary:** Gul Afghan Saleh

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Hadi Rakin, Hashim Baluch, Ghulam Feda, and Zabi Zaca

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Hadi Rakin, Mohammed Hashim Rayek, Ahmad Wali Shairzay, Sohaila Sanie Shekib, and Malik Mortaza

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SAE eNewsletter Editorial Board: **Editor –in –Chief:** Bashir Kazimee, AIA

Editorial Board Members: A. Wahed Hassani, Ph.D.,P.E. ; A. Manan Khalid, M.S., P.E., LEED AP

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Society of Afghan Engineers

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Office: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Degree Level: _____ Field of Expertise: _____ Years of Experience: _____

Member Since: _____

For Active Members Renewing SAE Membership:

Please mark (X) the appropriate box related to your address and contact information.

- Yes, the above information is a change in address or contact information.
- No, the above information is the same as previously reported to SAE.

For Persons Seeking SAE Membership Afresh:

Please mark (X) the box below relating to your educational background and experience.

Regular member: I have completed at least four (4) years of architectural or engineering education.

January 2024

The SAE is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. The annual membership fee for 2024 as approved by SAE Board of Directors is **\$120** (*)

Donation: _____ Total: _____

(*) Please remit your \$120 membership fee (and any gracious/generous donation) using one of the following two options to suit your convenience:

1. (1) Personal check or money order payable to the Society of Afghan Engineers, and send to THE SOCIETY OF AFGHAN ENGINEERS, 6265 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310.
2. (2) Using Zelle mobile app on your smart phone, using SAE account ID as sae.members@yahoo.com

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM THE SOCIETY OF AFGHAN ENGINEERS

Please email mahjansaleh@gmail.com (attaching the completed membership application/renewal form) after remitting your membership fee, and inform us which payment option you chose, so we can track payment receipt and maintain accountability.

Your Suggestions/Comments: