Reconstruction of “Knowledge” through an Encyclopedia

Professor Haddad, an alumni of the Hiroshima Afghan Fellowship Programme with the First Encyclopedia produced in Afghanistan in 40 years.

A former participant of the UNITAR Hiroshima Afghan Fellowship programme has completed the Afghanistan’s first encyclopedia in 40 years. Professor Kafizullah Haddad, an economist from the Afghanistan Academy of Sciences, along with some 100 Afghan researchers, worked for three years on the project. It is expected to be used in Universities and academic organizations and the UNITAR Hiroshima Office commented that “visible results have been achieved for Afghanistan”. They expect reconstruction from the academic side.

Professor Haddad participated in the Afghan Fellowship Programme in 2005, which Hiroshima Prefecture and City support with approximately 300,000 dollars per year. He participated in the workshop so as to be a leader for the county which has been devastated by conflict. In searching for reconstruction options, they planned the publication of the encyclopedia, as the one published 40 years ago had become out of date and contained no information on politics, science, and social development.

They received 50000 dollars from the Afghan Government and other organizations in addition to the support from experts to start the writing and editing process of the encyclopedia. One set contains 15 volumes with each volume comprising some 900 pages. It has published in both Pashto and Dari languages. Professor Haddad said, “I expect the education of Afghanistan will improve through the publishing of this encyclopedia.” On November 4th, participants of this year’s Afghan Fellowship will present encyclopedias to both Hiroshima Prefecture and Hiroshima City, which act as supporters.