

February 2005

NEWSLETTER

„Building AIESEC in Afghanistan“



First Impressions of the first two Afghan AIESEC-Trainees in Germany

There are a lot of things which I have found very interesting. I think the most important difference that I have felt between Afghan and German societies is that: here authority is being considered as responsibility and in Afghanistan responsibility is being considered as authority which has caused all these misuses of available resources on all levels. In Afghanistan decisions have been always effected by emotions and I think here decisions are being effected by logic, not by emotions.

Friendliness of the people is extraordinary. I was not expecting such friendliness before I come here, but I was wrong, the friendliness of Germans has really amazed me.

I would like to thank you AIESEC for providing Afghan students the opportunity to get in touch with the world in a more practical way and work and live in a much more developed society and strengthen themselves professionally to reconstruct their country in a much more better way.

Wafi Gran

As there are too many things to express about Germany but I would like to mention those which I am amazed and affected the most. As far as I know that Germany is one of the G7 countries in the world but the point which I believe is that it is only the talent and hard working of its people which have brought their country to this stage. I also want to mention that as I discovered Germany one of the historical countries in which each point of it are full of history. So I do not want to say much more about it since every thing

is obvious for all people of the world. Now the experience that I want to take with my self back to my country is patience and tolerance in the process of rebuilding of our country and the hard working.

In last I want to thank the people of Germany especially, AIESEC Germany for providing the assistance to Afghan youths for developing their potential and knowledge out side of their country and I believe that this is a great chance for our youths to learn and utilize their experience for reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Ahmad Waheed

Third Afghan student is arriving

This week we are looking forward to welcome warmly the third Afghan student in Germany. Asadullah Ghulam Yahya is going to take part into the intern AIESEC Exchange Program (CEED). During his stay he will have the opportunity to gain a closer insight into the AIESEC work in different Local Committees like Frankfurt/ Main, Berlin and Magdeburg.

Asadullah is mainly helping the NIFA-team with some technical work like construction of the homepage, research as well as preparing a reception booklet for the coming trainees in Germany.



From left to right:
Ahmad Waheed,
Hamidullah Nasser-Zia,
Wafi Gran and Marcus Wittig

Visit at the Afghan Embassy

Since the conference NIFA 2002 we are very pleased to work together that closed with the Afghan Embassy. In the last week the NIFA-team and the Afghan trainees were welcomed by the Afghan Ambassador Hamidullah Nasser-Zia in Berlin. With a long and fruitful discussion we reconfirmed our partnership.

The cooperation between the Afghan Embassy and NIFA is a very friendly and generous one. Hence we would like to thank the Embassy for all its efforts and looking forward to the upcoming events.

AIESEC - About an unknown Acronym

Some AIESEC-members might share with me my unawareness: I really don't know what this acronym exactly stands for. But I became acquainted with quite a number of AIESEC people over the last years. Based on this experience AIESEC could also mean:

Always Innovative Entrepreneurial Social-sensitive Economic Co-operative.

Almost every larger international organisation after a distinct period of time shows sign of bureaucracy, slow decision-processes and change-resistance. They are normal signs of ageing. I am unaware if AIESEC has already such experiences. For an outsider like me it was really encouraging to observe how colleagues, one third of my age, occupied with their own studies, think about, develop, plane and implement a programme like NIFA: New Ideas For Afghanistan.

It's not difficult to organise a workshop on this topic. They did that. It is not difficult to put the results on paper. They did that as well. To put ideas into reality is a different game, specifically if you have "a main stream agenda": getting ready with your own studies.

The AIESEC- group Frankfurt seems to be of a special breed. They can obviously combine their own studies at the university with an enthusiastic engagement for colleagues far away.

Today, already the third student-generation in Frankfurt is engaged in the project and the enthusiasm of the early days seems to be unchanged.

AIESEC Kabul is in the process to be created. Young Germans will soon gain their first Afghanistan-experiences due to NIFA's initiative.

There is a lot of talking about our so-called luxury-student-generation, where leisure and fun occupy most of the time leading to endless numbers of semesters. There might be too many cases of that sort until today. However, to generalise is unfair also. Too often good news are no news in our country. NIFA is a very good news. It demonstrates that searching for excellence as a student can be combined with social responsibility, global thinking, partnership, and the preparedness to act, to help, to learn, to become part of a working society, shaping a new future.

They can be congratulated.

Dr. Klaus Lampe