



Kabul, 6 December 2005

Professor Marika Vileziany
Director
Monash Asia Institute

Dear Professor Vileziany,

Dr Sarmast presented to us a draft project proposal on revival and promotion of Afghan music. As we are one of the first organizations in Afghanistan supporting music here, I willingly consulted the project.

Generally, I must say that such a project is extremely important. It addresses a very urgent need to revive music in Afghanistan and proposes a coordinated program to achieve this goal. The idea of such a programme, if well managed, is, in my opinion, very good and this project should be implemented.

It proposes establishment of the Centre for the Revival and Promotion of Music in Afghanistan (CRPMA), consisted of Afghan and National Musicians that will act as a coordination body linking donor countries and Afghan government. The idea of such a body seems very good, especially that it will be located at the Monash University, but will also have an office in Kabul.

What I would suggest, is to focus on strengthening and transforming the existing music school, with emphasize on updated and feasible curriculum, instead of building a new music school, especially in the initial stage of the project. There is an urgent need for music teachers training; foreign musicians should be involved in music education so that in a few years Afghanistan could have professional musicians, able to pass their knowledge and skills to the new generation. Supplying musical instruments is also needed. Moreover, the music education should promote not western and Afghan traditional music.

I also strongly support the idea of including talented orphaned children in primary music education. Including girls should be among priorities. However, to achieve this objective, there must be a coordinated program established, providing these vulnerable children with accommodation and food, as well as possibility to continue the music education on higher levels.

From our side, I would like to assure you that our organization is ready to cooperate in planning and implementation of the programme.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Boniewicz
Program Officer
Polish Humanitarian Organisation
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