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District Mayors Supported by RAMP-UP Receive Excellence Award at Mayors' Conference

Aqcha Mayor presented the most salient achievements of the Aqcha Municipality in revenue enhancement, service delivery, budgeting, and management – all of which are supported by RAMP-UP North.



Aqcha District Mayor receives award and personal congratulations from H.E. Mr Popal, Director General of IDLG/GDMA at the National District Mayor's Conference held in Kabul on October 22-23, 2013.

All three district municipal mayors (from Khulm, Agcha, and Andkhoy) supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/the Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations (RAMP-UP) North have been awarded for their achievements in revenue enhancement, service delivery, budgeting, and good management at the National District Mayors' Conference held in Kabul on October 22-23, 2013.

This important annual gathering was organized by the General Directorate of Municipal Affairs (GDMA) with the support of the Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG). The focus of this year's conference was good governance, capacity-building, and service delivery. The two-day event was attended by more than 150 people and offered a valuable exchange and networking opportunity between IDLG/GDMA and municipal officials.

Only ten out of the 120 district mayors invited to take part at the conference were awarded such prestigious acknowledgement for their efforts and achievements in their towns and cities.

A selected number of district mayors were invited to deliver presentations. Amongst these, H.E. Aqcha District Municipality Mayor, Baz Mohammad Amini stood out as an energetic and motivated city manager. Mr. Abdul Baqi Popal, General Director of GDMA personally praised Mr. Amini for his comprehensive presentation of Aqcha's activities and services' achievements – all of which are supported by RAMP-UP North.

In his heartfelt presentation, Mr. Amini emphasized how, *“for the first time in Aqcha, about 8,289 properties have been surveyed and completed. More than 1,756 businesses have been registered. The Citizens Service Centre (CSC) which has been developed will soon be used by the public and enhance transparency in municipal processes.”* He publicly praised USAID/RU-N's technical assistance *“two tractors provided by RAMP-UP North are also being used and during one and half months, Aqcha municipality transported a massive amount of trash which had accumulated from the past ten years. We have people's support; that's why we are able to prioritize essential projects with RAMP-UP North's technical and financial support.”*

Mr. Amini has been the mayor of Aqcha in the northern province of Sheberghan since 2005 and is setting an example for other mayors for embracing innovative initiatives in favor of citizens.

In support to Aqcha, RAMP-UP has hired five embedded advisors to carry out capacity-building activities and technical assistance.