



## Updates from NEI

*Eradicating malnutrition in Afghanistan.*

Dear Friends,

Even with the calendar year coming to a close, there is still much activity in Kabul. Here are a few updates on what NEI has recently been involved with.

In the past month, NEI has greatly strengthened relations with the Afghan government. Moving forward in 2012, NEI has signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). The first one is a cooperative agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) with an ultimate goal of reinforcing sustainability in the soy industry. For the next 10 years, MAIL and NEI will team together in twenty provinces to increase soybean production and develop a soy market. It is hoped that a culture of soy consumption will take root, which will aid the effort to defeat malnutrition in the country.

The second signed MOU is between NEI and the Ministry of Public Health (MPH). It is a significant landmark as it serves not only to give permission to NEI to expand the effort in awareness and soymilk feeding programs, but also to legitimize the work being done in the country. Together with MPH, NEI will promote greater soy nutrition, especially among pregnant and lactating mothers in poor rural areas. A school-feeding program in northern Kabul will also begin where approximately 1,400 students will be served. Children's health will be monitored in order to better assess the benefits of soy consumption.

At the end of November, the United Nation's World Food Program (WFP) invited NEI to Rome, Italy, to recognize the past seven years of sustainable soy development in Afghanistan. NEI received a warm reception from 21 countries that currently receive WFP assistance. Moving forward, the WFP is committed to adopting NEI's sustainable approach in food production and security. In fact, the WFP and NEI are close to signing an agreement that will aid farmers in twenty provinces.

In a show of support, former US Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr. Eikenberry together with his wife, visited the Pasadena office and spent an afternoon hearing about NEI's current activities. Separately, in a recent trip to New York City, the former Japanese Ambassador and his wife welcomed and encouraged Dr. Kwon. NEI is extremely grateful for these two former ambassadors, their friendships, and their work in Afghanistan.

Lastly, we here at NEI would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Without a doubt, we are extremely thankful for everyone's faithful decision to partner with us. As always, there is much work to be done and we invite you join us once more: whether in time, financial resources, or talent, please consider continuing your support. With one mind and heart, let us stand behind the simple idea that we can help give life back to the people of Afghanistan.

Thank you so much. Let us work together for a brighter Afghan future.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Steven Kwon, Ph.D  
President of NEI



Successful Parwan Province  
Farmers of 2011



NEI Kabul Team Celebrating 2011



WFP Presentation, Rome, Italy



Eikenberry visit to NEI Pasadena