

دانشگاه آنلاین افغانستان روشن - د روشن افغانستان آنلاین پوهنتون

Roshan Afghanistan online University - Office of the University Chancellor

آمریت دفتر - د دفتر آمریت

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شماره: 72

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to provide a comprehensive explanation of RAO University's situation, our commitment to educational excellence, and the critical need for your support in our application for Associate membership with INQAAHE.

RAO University, established in 2022, is an online educational institution based in Afghanistan, specifically created to counter the Taliban's decision to close universities to women and deny them access to higher education. Our mission is to offer free, high-quality education to Afghan women, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to their communities despite the severe restrictions imposed by the current political regime.

Since its founding, RAO University has been dedicated to providing educational opportunities that align with global standards, even though our operations are constrained by significant political and social challenges. The Taliban's extremist policies have led to systematic discrimination against women's education, presenting severe obstacles to our efforts. Despite these adversities, we remain resolute in our mission, driven by a commitment to human rights and gender equality.

Our attempts to register and gain formal recognition within Afghanistan have been met with resistance from the Taliban. On January 9, 2024, one of our senior members, who was actively working on our registration process, was detained by Taliban intelligence. This individual endured severe torture and is now permanently disabled as a result of the brutal treatment. This unfortunate incident highlights the grave risks faced by our staff and the extreme challenges we encounter.

The Taliban's sanctions and hostile environment have severely hindered our ability to obtain necessary licenses or formal registration. Despite these setbacks, RAO University continues to operate as a non-governmental, non-profit institution, providing education to thousands of Afghan women through a robust online platform. However, to enhance the quality and credibility of our programs and to ensure that our students receive internationally recognized qualifications, we need to achieve formal accreditation and recognition.

We firmly believe that Associate membership with INQAAHE would significantly benefit RAO University in several ways:

- 1. International Accreditation and Recognition:** Gaining Associate membership would support our efforts to obtain global accreditation for our programs. This recognition is crucial for ensuring that our students' qualifications are valued internationally, allowing them to pursue further education or career opportunities with confidence.
- 2. Quality Assurance Framework:** Membership with INQAAHE would provide us with access to a network of quality assurance experts and resources. This support would be invaluable in helping us develop and implement a rigorous quality assurance framework that aligns with international standards and best practices.

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3. **Networking and Collaboration:** Joining INQAAHE would facilitate connections with other institutions and quality assurance agencies globally. These partnerships would enable us to share best practices, collaborate on educational initiatives, and gain insights into improving our academic offerings and institutional processes.
4. **Technical and Financial Support:** As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on donations and voluntary contributions. Membership with INQAAHE could help us attract additional support from international donors and partners who are committed to promoting education and human rights.
5. **Enhanced Credibility:** Being associated with a prestigious organization like INQAAHE would enhance our credibility and legitimacy as an educational institution. This recognition would be a testament to our commitment to high-quality education and our resilience in the face of adversity.

In light of the challenges, we face and the urgent need for formal accreditation, we respectfully request your understanding and support. By granting us Associate membership, you would be playing a crucial role in helping us overcome the barriers imposed by the Taliban and advancing our mission to provide equitable education to Afghan women. We are committed to collaborating with INQAAHE and leveraging this partnership to improve our institutional capacity and ensure the highest standards of educational quality.

Enclosed, you will find documentation, including a letter of support from Front Line Defenders, detailing the human rights violations and challenges we encounter. We hope this information provides further insight into our situation and underscores the importance of your support.

Thank you for considering our application. We look forward to the opportunity to work with INQAAHE and to contribute to the shared goals of educational excellence and human rights.

Sincerely,

Farhad Arianfar
Chancellor
RAO University

