

**Press Release**  
Kabul – 19 February 2009

## **A NEW PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN AFGHAN LAW ENFORCEMENT**

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have joined together on a research and education effort on police reform, including its mandate, its governing law and its awareness of human rights. This project will support further progress on the Afghan National Development Strategy.

IDLO will carry out a research assignment on the Afghan Police. The survey will include: Police structure (central and regional/local police); human resources development (including recruiting, rotation, promotion and salary); budgetary systems; division of roles and responsibilities; potential training activities; and current donor efforts.

"This work will elicit important information that will help the government of Afghanistan, JICA and other donors understand in greater detail the current state of the Afghan Police," said Taj Mitha, IDLO Representative for Afghanistan. "With this in hand, these groups will then be able to develop and implement an effective reform strategy."

This work is part of JICA's and IDLO's ongoing commitment to strengthen the rule of law and good governance in the country. A national police force able to uphold the rule of law is crucial to state-building and would help tackle the root causes of alienation that drive the insurgency.

The long-term objective for the Afghan National Police is to build a professional police force that operates within internationally accepted legal standards with respect for human rights. The goal is to develop a professional, adequately trained and paid staff that is able to manage, employ and sustain a national, merit-based police force.

**(ENDS)**

**For further information, please contact:**

Mr. Taj Mitha, IDLO Country Representative, Kabul, Afghanistan  
Tel. +93 795 11 11 00 - Email [taj.mitha@idlo.int](mailto:taj.mitha@idlo.int)

**NOTES**

*IDLO (International Development Law Organization) is an international, inter-governmental organization with a mandate to promote the Rule of Law and good governance in developing countries, countries in economic transition and countries emerging from post-conflict situations. Since its establishment in 1983, IDLO has worked with more than 20,000 lawyers, magistrates and officials from approximately 175 countries.*

*IDLO is headquartered in Rome, Italy, with regional offices in Cairo, Egypt, covering Arabic-speaking countries, and in Sydney, Australia, covering the Asia Pacific area. IDLO currently operates project offices in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan.*

*IDLO is funded by contributions from its 18 Member States and other donors.*

*For detailed information on IDLO and its activities, please refer to the website [www.idlo.int](http://www.idlo.int).*

*Since 2001, the Japanese government has been supporting the Afghanistan Government with number of programs and projects for improving security, governance and socio-economic development. Together with the Japanese government, JICA has been actively involved in international assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan providing a wide range of services and placing its focus on governance, infrastructure, health, education, agriculture and rural development.*

*Regarding governance assistance, JICA has currently been conducting a police enforcement program with the Ministry of Interior since 2008, and will continue till 2010.*