



Media Coordinator's Office
Jamia Millia Islamia

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Press Release

**Afghanistan not averse to talking to anybody within Afghan Constitution, says
Ambassador to India H.E. Shaida Mohammad Abdali**

Afghanistan is not averse to talking to anybody who is willing to participate in the reconciliation process within the framework of the country's constitution, Afghan Ambassador to India H.E. Shaida Mohammad Abdali said today at an international seminar on "Indo-Afghan Relations: Evaluating the Development and Strategic Partnership" at Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI).

Without mentioning the initiative taken by Russian, China and Pakistan to find a solution to Afghan problem, H.E. Abdali said that any solution to the problem should be Afghan centric.

The two-day international seminar has been organized by Academy of International Studies (AIS), JMI in association with Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD), Kolkata, Institute of Foreign Policy Studies (IFPS), University of Calcutta, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata.

Speaking at the seminar, former Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Jayant Prasad who is currently the Director General of Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), said that the short-term strategic involvement was to make Afghanistan stable again and the long-term strategic aim was to make stability sustainable over a long period of time in the war-torn country.

He further added that if anybody thought of involving Taliban and ISIS in finding a solution to the Afghan's crisis, it is not acceptable. India has no problem in joining hands in finding a solution to the Afghan issue if organizations like Taliban and ISIS were not involved.

He said that about 16,000 Afghan students are studying in India, a large number of whom are in JMI. He also informed the gathering that India is providing training to 3,000 Afghan Army Officers and this number is going to be increased in the coming years.

H.E. Abdali referred to India's help to Afghanistan in its infrastructure building like hospitals, schools, colleges, parliament building, roads, water and electricity supply lines and said that no other countries has made such a contribution in the re-building of his country factoring in their priority.

Prof. Rashmi Doraiswamy, Offg. Director of AIS, JMI thanked all the participants for their cooperation in organizing the seminar.

Among others who spoke were CSIRD's Senior Fellow, Dr. Arpita Basu Roy and its Director, Dr. Binoda K. Mishra.

Prof. Saima Saeed
Hony. Deputy Media Coordinator

