REPORT On the Celebration of 8th Sep 2015
“WORLD PHYSICAL THERAPY DAY” in AFGHANISTAN

Conference Hall of Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan

On 8th September 2015, the compound and conference hall of Ministry of Public Health was ornamented with banners having messages on Physical Therapy profession its role and importance next to other medical services, the students of Physical Therapy Institute (PTI) were wearing unique color of shirts exposing the unity and commitment to bring positive change to the Physiotherapy profession and giving the audience a fresh and meaningful understanding. The students were also distributing broachers on the introduction of the profession and they were answering the inquiries of audience.

Afghanistan Association of Physical Therapy (AAPT) celebrated the World Physical Therapy day with different themes and agendas in 2015. This year the event was participated by more than 300 participant including high ranking officials from Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Ministry of Labour Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled (MoLSAMD), representatives from International and National organizations such as International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), Handicap International (HI), Kabul Orthopaedic Organization (KOO), Rehabilitation professionals and students from Physical Therapy Institute (PTI).

The event was commenced with recitation of verses from Holly Qura’an.

For the first time in the history of AAPT celebration from 8th September “the World PT day”; this year was celebrated with a dedicated message from the Afghanistan president H.E Dr. Ashraf Ghani, a message from H.E Dr. Ferozudin Feroz the Minister of Public Health (MoPH) and a speech from H.E Ms. Jamila Afghani the deputy minister to Ministry of Labour Social Affairs Martyrs & Disabled (MoLSAMD).
Dedicated message of H.E Dr. Ashraf Ghani the President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the occasion of World PT day:

The message from H.E Dr. Ashraf Ghani the president of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the occasion of World PT day (the 8th of September) was recited by Mr. Razi Khan Hamdard (Technical consultant to Disability and Rehabilitation department DRD MoPH).

Through his message Dr. Ashraf Ghani conveyed his greetings to Physical Therapists and the people of Afghanistan.

The message from Afghan president also included, that physical therapy is an important profession in the medical field and physiotherapists try their best to recover the mobility and fulfilling potentials of those people whom faced problems due to accidents, aging, environmental barriers and so on.

He also appreciates the efforts of AAPT and Afghan physiotherapists for their hard work, which resulted the recognition of AAPT to the World Confederation of Physical Therapy.

He added that, continues decades of war have left many people with physical disabilities and it unfortunately continues, where the intervention of physiotherapists in the rehabilitation of these people with disabilities is essential. The government of Afghanistan is committed to develop this profession. The president also called on the organisations working in the sector to pay special attention to train and build capacities of physiotherapists and provide the needed equipment and tools to facilitate their work. He also assigned the MoPH to remove the existing barriers preventing the further development to the physiotherapists and the profession.

Message of H.E Dr. Ferozudin Feroz the minister of Public Health by his Administrative and Financial affairs Deputy Dr. Abdul Basir Sarwar:

The Deputy Minister recited the message of MoPH minister Dr. Ferozudin Feroz, by congratulating the World Physical Therapy day to all Physiotherapists and the nation of Afghanistan, and appreciated the efforts of AAPT on organizing the event of the World PT day for the first time in the premises of MoPH, which gives more value to the Physiotherapy profession. The message from minister added information on the figures of disability globally and the situation of people with disabilities in Afghanistan, mentioning that physiotherapy professionals play key role in rehabilitating the living condition of people with disabilities. He also expressed that, many challenges and barriers still exist to physiotherapy profession and professionals at ministry and field level, and the ministry of public health is committed to take actions towards removing these barriers and challenges but the MoPH requires support and collaboration from physiotherapists, AAPT and other national and international organisation working in the sector.
Words by Ms. Jamila Afghani the deputy to Ministry of Labour Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled on the occasion of World Physical Therapy day:

Ms. Jamila Afghani delivered a speech on the occasion of the world physical Therapy day; saying that she got amputated of one leg during civil war of 1990s and since then she was under treatment of rehabilitation professionals, she considers her mobility and current achievements as gift of physiotherapists and other rehabilitation professionals. She appreciated the efforts made to organise such a great celebration and sharing the congratulation message on behalf of the MoLSAMD to all physical therapists and people of Afghanistan. She also shared her commitment on enhancing the coordination between MoLSAMD, MoPH other government entities engaged and all organisations working in the field of disability in order to better serve people with disabilities. She also shared her commitment to organise the next year 8th September celebration event in the compound of MoLSAMD.

Speech of Mohammad Shaker Ahmadi the president of Afghanistan Association for Physical Therapy on the occasion of World Physical Therapy day, and a glance of the challenges existing to PT profession in the country:

The president of AAPT Mr. Shaker Ahmadi appreciated the support and collaboration of Ministry of Public Health in organising the world physical therapy event, Mr. Shaker also shared his greetings on the occasion of world Physical therapy day to all physiotherapists in Afghanistan, to audience in the hall and nation of Afghanistan.

He briefly shared the history of the profession in the country, saying that the physical therapy institute was first established in 1984 by International Assistance Mission (IAM) in the compound of Wazir Akbar khan hospital (where actually the PTI is located), the AAPT was established in 1998 and was endorsed by world Confederation of Physical therapy (WCPT) in 2007.

He mentioned that, during the years since establishment PT profession have made great achievement, which was of course possible with support of government authorities, dedicated efforts from AAPT members and great support from national and international organisations working in the field of physical rehabilitation, the president of AAPT also appreciated the efforts made by Disability and Rehabilitation Department (DRD) of MoPH on the concept of the project which aims to train further 200 physical therapists at outreach level in the country, which will of course benefit the vulnerable population of Afghanistan and will strengthen the profession. According to Mr. Shaker, still challenges exist in improving the situation of profession in the country which requires special attention from government authorities, these challenges and recommendations are highlighted as followed:

1- Facilitating the process in order that physical therapists are recognised by the ministry of higher education of Afghanistan as bachelor graduates.

2- Preventing misuse from the name of physical therapists by unprofessional individuals in the public and private level clinics.

3- Realistic revision of tax policy by MoPH based on private practicing of physical therapists
4- Encourage recruitment of professional physical therapists in the public and private sector
5- Establishing physiotherapist posts in the public hospitals as per MoPH policies.

Distribution of appreciation Certificates to whom making greater efforts in the sector:

Dr. Najia Tariq, the technical deputy of MoPH, distributed appreciation Certificates signed by the minister of public health to those making greater efforts in the field, it is also aimed at encouraging others in stepping to make efforts and bring positive changes to the profession; following were distributed with the mentioned certificates:

1- Dr. Roya Hussainzada – head of preventive medicine- MoPH for her great support on better coordination and giving special attention to physical rehabilitation field
2- Mr. Musa Zia- technical coordinator- Disability and Rehabilitation Department – MoPH, for his continues efforts and commitment to the field of rehabilitation.
3- Mr. Atiqullah Fahim- Technical Advisor to AAPT- for his innovative ideas and his dedication to AAPT
4- To the representative of ICRC (Mr. Najmuddin halal)- for their technical and financial support
5- To the representative of SCA(Mr. Mohd Amin Qanet)- for their technical and financial support
6- To the representative of HI(Mr. Hamid Ibrahimi)- for their technical and financial support.
7- Dr. Sayed Rahmon Hakimi

At the end; the cake on the occasion was cut by chief guests of the event.

Note: The celebration was made possible with financial support of SCA, HI and AAPT own funds. The technical aspects were carried through dedicated efforts of volunteer members of AAPT and DRD MoPH.
The world Physiotherapy day celebrated by the regional AAPT offices in health directorates such as Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Ghazni and Nangarhar with participation of AAPT members and government high authorities.

AAPT East Region (Nangarhar)

AAPT North Region (Balkh)

AAPT South Region (Kandahar)

AAPT Central-South Region (Ghazni)

AAPT Central Region (Kabul)

AAPT West Region (Herat)