



Nai Graduate Club (NGC) Monthly Newsletter

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It is a club where all members share their work, exchange ideas, experiences, reporting advice and discuss the critical issues journalists in Afghanistan face every day.

Introduction

Nai Graduate Club (NGC) is a family network of successful working journalists from all over Afghanistan, who have taken Nai media courses in Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kandahar and surrounding rural provinces since Nai Supporting Open Media was established in 2005.

It is a club where all members share their work, exchange ideas, experiences, reporting advice and discuss the critical issues journalists in Afghanistan face every day.

The key idea is for journalists to build strong, working relationships with each other in their respective cities and provinces, and countrywide.

The Nai Graduate Club links up Nai's Media Watch campaign, which raises awareness about the rights of journalists, to strengthen regional media's presence and their access to information. It will also enable them to establish and grow relationships with Nai's network of media lawyers, as well as Nai partners, like the annual Afghan Youth Voices Festival, human rights advocates and civil society organizations.

Finally, Nai graduates play a valuable role in mentoring current Nai students – providing them with long-term guidance – and opening the door to student opportunities with internships at regional media houses.

Nai Graduate Club on Facebook

Nai Graduate Club Facebook site is a valuable tool for members to post upcoming events, media opportunities, special projects and multi-media stories, facilitate discussion and trade reporting tips nationwide. It enables reporters throughout Afghanistan to establish relationships with each other, and trade experiences based on their shared media profession, as well as supply sources for ongoing stories outside their region. Right now the members are around 150 and the number is increasing day by day. The page could be found at:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/nai.graduate.club/>

Opening of Nai Graduate Club



Nai Graduate Club Opening in Kabul



Nai Graduate Club Opening in



Nai Graduate Club Opening in Mazar e



Nai Graduate Club Opening in Herat



Nai Graduate Club Opening in

Before the opening of Nai Graduate Club (NGC) three initial meetings were held with NGC members in each province (Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Herat and Kandahar). The purpose of these meetings was to collect suggestions, recommendations and expectations of members about what kind of club they want to have in the future.

In November of 2011 Nai Graduate Club was opened first in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kandahar and then in December it was opened in Herat.

Its structure is such that each club has a facilitator and co-facilitator who are elected by the members and are responsible for conducting meetings, inviting guests and facilitating training in a specific field like internet, photography, Facebook, etc, for members who are interested.

Members of the club are those who have participated in Nai classes and are now working in media organizations around Afghanistan.

Nai Graduate Club Activities

After NGC's establishment in Kabul, Mazar, Jalalabad, Herat and Kandahar facilitators have accomplished a number of activities like demonstrating the reports and collecting comments of NGC members on it, conducting Internet training (creating an email address, Skype ID, Facebook ID, Download, Upload and Internet search); they also conducting meetings in which they invited the Director of the Human Rights Independent Commission in Balkh, Deputy Director of Public Health Directorate of Kandahar, Director of Information and Culture, and a reputed journalist of Nengarhar; Director of Media Affairs of the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs for the Ministry of Information and Culture of Kabul. The purpose of these meetings was:

- Gathering journalists in a close circle and connecting them with other journalists at a national and international level
- Connecting them with government and non-government authorities and stakeholders
- Motivating them to work on different aspects of their reports
- Promoting access to information from original sources
- Finding answers to their questions

NGCs Plan for January 2012

In the coming month Nai Graduate Clubs plan to have a photo exhibition and a two day Facebook training in Kabul, meetings with the Director of the Provincial Council and the Director of Information and Culture of Balkh; and blogging, photo journalism and report writing training for Balkh NGC Members; meeting with the Director of Information & Culture and head of the sports department of Kandahar.

Mazar e Sharif:

Internet training conducted by NGC Facilitator Abdulwahed Azari to NGC members; This training included creating e mail ID, Skype ID, Facebook ID, uploading, downloading and



Kabul:

NGC meeting in which Mr. Musa Radmanish, Director of Media Affairs of Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs for Ministry of Information and Culture participated and as well as answering NGC members' questions he promised facilitating a movie script writing training for NGC members.



Nengarhar:

NGC meeting in which the Director of Human Rights Independent Commission, Director of Information and Culture and a reputed journalist participated; the main point of discussion was why people do not believe in national news broadcasting media?



Herat:

NGC meeting in which members elected Miss Storai Karimi as facilitator and Mr. Sayed Abdullah Sadat as co-facilitator. Due to relocation of the Nai office they could not conduct other meetings.



Mazar e Sharif:

NGC meeting in which Mr. Sayed Mohammad Samay, Director of Human Rights Independent Commission was invited. He briefed journalists on the activities of the commission in the north and answered to questions.



Kandahar:

NGC meeting in which Dr. Ahmadullah Faizi, Director of Public Health Directorate was invited. He answered journalists' questions regarding health services and common diseases in Kandahar.

