“Development is sustainable only if the beneficiaries become, in a gradual manner, the masters of the process. This means that initiatives cannot be contemplated exclusively in terms of economics, but rather as an integrated programme that encompasses social and cultural dimensions as well. Education and skills training, health and public services, conservation of cultural heritage, infrastructure development, urban planning and rehabilitation, rural development, water and energy management, environmental control, and even policy and legislative development are among the various aspects that must be taken into account.”

HIS HIGNESS THE AGA KHAN, SPEAKING AT THE PRINCE CLAUS FUND’S CONFERENCE ON CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT, AMSTERDAM, 7 SEPTEMBER 2002.

ON 11 JULY 2007, GOLDEN JUBILEE CEREMONIES MARKED HIS HIGNESS THE AGA KHAN’S FIFTIETH YEAR AS THE 49TH HEREDITARY IMAM (SPIRITUAL LEADER) OF THE ISMAILI MUSLIM COMMUNITY. THE AKDN, CREATED UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, AND A NUMBER OF ITS PRE-EXISTING INSTITUTIONS TOGETHER SERVE PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS AND ORIGINS. AT LEFT, HIS HIGNESS REVIEWS CONSTRUCTION WORK AT AN AGA KHAN ACADEMY.
INTRODUCTION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development
  Financial Services
  Media Services
  Aviation Services
  Industrial Promotion Services
  Tourism Promotion Services

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Aga Khan Foundation
  Aga Khan Education Services
  Aga Khan Academies
  Aga Khan Health Services
  Aga Khan Planning and Building Services
  Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance
  Aga Khan University
  University of Central Asia

CULTURE

Aga Khan Trust for Culture
  Aga Khan Award for Architecture
  Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme
  Education and Culture Programme
The Aga Khan Development Network is a group of private, international, non-denominational agencies working to improve living conditions and opportunities for people in specific regions of the developing world. The Network’s organisations have individual mandates that range from the fields of health and education to architecture, rural development and the promotion of private-sector enterprise. Together they collaborate in working towards a common goal – to build institutions and programmes that can respond to the challenges of social, economic and cultural change on an ongoing basis. This brochure introduces the Network’s principal agencies and provides an overview of their activities and goals.

ORIGINS

A number of the Network’s components were originally created in the late-nineteenth century by Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, grandfather of the present Aga Khan and predecessor as Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims. The agencies were established to meet the needs of the Ismaili Community in South Asia and East Africa. Today, under the leadership of the present Imam, the Network’s institutions have grown beyond that geographical core, increasing in size...
and the scope of their work, and have been brought into a system to create the Aga Khan Development Network. The Network maintains political neutrality in all the countries in which it operates, and its services are open to people of all faiths and origins. The fulcrum of the Network’s activities, however, remains the Ismaili Community – its traditions of volunteer service, self-reliance, generosity and the leadership of the hereditary Imam.

In the Ismaili tradition, the Imam’s responsibilities involve not only the interpretation of matters of faith for the Ismaili Community, whose members now live in more than 25 countries spanning the industrialised and developing worlds, but also the relationship of that faith to conditions in the present. For the Aga Khan this has led to a deep involvement with development, as a process grounded in the ethics of Islam, in which economic, social and cultural factors converge to determine the quality of life. The institutions that the Aga Khan has founded since 1957, when he was designated by his grandfather to succeed him as Imam, reflect this sense of development as a complex process. While all the agencies work in specific fields, they also work to identify ways in which their efforts can interact so as to mutually reinforce one another.
VOLUNTEERING

The Network’s institutions share common characteristics. Many initiatives originally came to exist through the energy, dedication and skill of volunteers, and both volunteers and professional staff are essential to the functioning of Network agencies today. The agencies draw upon the talents of people of all faiths, and work to enhance the competence of their staff on an ongoing basis.

The different sectors of the Network also share common principles. Whether in health, education, architectural revitalisation or industrial development, Network organisations seek to reach people without access to services, complementing but not substituting the efforts of government and other providers.

Network agencies function through the participation of local people at all levels – in defining services needed, providing them and evaluating their effectiveness. Their mandates are both urban and rural. Network organisations are present not only in many of Africa and South Asia’s expanding cities but also in rural, often remote, areas. Enabling people in rural areas to create the services they need and to have access to the opportunities they want is a particular focus.

RIGOROUS CRITERIA

Network projects are required to meet rigorous criteria for impact, management and organisational development. Often initiated and always supported by the communities they serve, these projects aim to develop viable institutions and programmes that can become self-sustaining. By building explicit institutional objectives into its projects, the Network aims to build permanent capacities for services in developing societies. This institution-building aim is served by links established between Network organisations, both
within and across sectors. It is also furthered by partnerships with organisations outside the Network, both in the North and South.

In this linking process, the Ismaili Community’s geographical spread and cultural diversity act as a powerful stimulus. Its presence in North America and Europe, as well as in Africa and Asia, has created a unique bridge between the developed and developing worlds that is one of the Network’s greatest strengths.

CREATING ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS

The Aga Khan Development Network seeks to strengthen the role of the private sector in the developing world. In its approach to the development process, support for private-sector initiatives has intrinsic importance. The private sector can be especially effective in cooperation with governments that foster what the Aga Khan has called an “enabling environment” – favourable legislative, regulatory and fiscal structures. In all areas of social, economic and cultural development, building enabling environments is one of the Network’s foremost goals. This goal has been served in recent years through the establishment of formal agreements with countries where Network institutions operate. Such agreements have been signed with a number of governments in Asia and Africa.

FUNDING

Development models require time to demonstrate their effectiveness and to enable local communities to take full responsibility for their own future development. AKDN agencies therefore make a long-term commitment to the areas in which they work, guided by the philosophy that a humane, sustainable environment must reflect the choices made by people themselves with regard to how they live.
in harmony with their environment. Sustainability is therefore a central consideration from the outset.

In recent years, the Network has expended an annual average of US$ 300 million for non-profit activities. These funds and additional disbursements in support of Network agencies are generated in a variety of ways, including endowment funds, user fees and grants. Funding is provided by the Imamat and by the Ismaili Community as well as by international and local donor agencies. Equity investments in economic development activities are also funded by the Imamat as well as by partners from both the private and public sectors.

THE IMAMAT

The Network’s origins are in the tradition of service observed by the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims, generally known as the Ismailis. They belong to the Shia branch of Islam. The other, larger branch is comprised of Sunni Muslims. During its long history, the Ismaili Community has come to include peoples from many different cultural traditions, and cultural diversity continues to characterise the community today. The Ismailis now live mainly in Central and South Asia, East Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North America.

In common with other Shia Muslims, the Ismailis affirm that after the death of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), his cousin and son-in-law Ali was designated the first Imam, or spiritual leader. They believe that this spiritual leadership, known as the Imamat, continues through the hereditary line of Ali and his wife Fatima, the Prophet’s daughter. According to Shia doctrine and tradition, succession to the Imamat is by designation. It is the absolute prerogative of the Imam to appoint his successor from amongst any of his male descendants.
THE FATIMID PERIOD

Historians conventionally divide Ismaili history into several broad periods. The achievements of the Fatimid Empire dominate accounts of the early period, roughly from the beginnings of Islam in the seventh century through to the eleventh century. Named after the Prophet’s daughter Fatima, the Fatimid Dynasty created a state that stimulated the development of art, science and trade in the Mediterranean Near East over two centuries. Its centre was Cairo, founded by the Fatimids as their capital.

Following the Fatimid Period, the Ismaili Muslims’ geographical centre shifted from Egypt to Syria and Persia. Their centre in Persia, Alamut, fell to Mongol conquerors in the thirteenth century. After this event, the Ismailis lived for several centuries in dispersed communities, mainly in Persia and Central Asia but also in Syria, India and elsewhere.

THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES

In the 1830s, Aga Hassanaly Shah, the 46th Ismaili Imam, was granted the honorary hereditary title of Aga Khan by the Shah of Persia. In 1843 he left Persia for India, which already had a large Ismaili community. Born in Bombay, the second Aga Khan died in 1885, only four years after assuming the Imamat. He was succeeded by the present Aga Khan’s grandfather, Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, who became the 48th hereditary Imam and the third Aga Khan at the age of eight. Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah was Imam for 72 years, a critical period in the modern history of the Ismaili community. His leadership played a crucial role in enabling the Community to adapt to historical change, notably through the transformation of its institutions. During this period, centrally administered medical facilities, schools, housing societies and cooperative banks were created, mainly on the South Asian subcontinent and in East Africa.
Many of them still exist today as parts of the Aga Khan Development Network.

Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah also played an important role in the political evolution of the subcontinent and was a delegate to the Round Table conferences in London in the 1930s. From 1937 to 1939, he was the President of the League of Nations. His elder son, Prince Aly Khan, served as Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United Nations. The present Aga Khan, His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims, also has an important diplomatic role.

Other members of the Aga Khan’s family have maintained this tradition of service in international affairs. His uncle, the late Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, was United Nations’ High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations’ Coordinator for Assistance to Afghanistan and United Nations’ Executive Delegate of the Secretary General for a humanitarian programme for Iraq, Kuwait, and the Iraq-Iran and Iraq-
Turkey border areas. The Aga Khan’s brother, Prince Amyn, entered the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat following his graduation from Harvard University in 1965. Since 1968, Prince Amyn has been closely involved with the governance of the principal development institutions of the Imamat.

The Aga Khan’s eldest child and daughter, Princess Zahra, who graduated from Harvard University in 1994 with a BA Honours Degree in Third World Development Studies, has coordination responsibilities relating to specific social development institutions of the Imamat and is based at the Aga Khan’s Secretariat. His eldest son, Prince Rahim, who graduated from Brown University, USA, in 1995, has similar responsibilities in respect to the Imamat’s economic development institutions. His second son, Prince Hussain, who graduated from Williams College and Columbia University, in the USA, is also based at the Aga Khan’s Secretariat and is involved in the cultural and social activities of the Network.
AGA KHAN FUND FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (AKFED)

The only for-profit institution which is part of the Aga Khan Development Network, AKFED carries out AKDN’s activities in economic development. Its network of companies and financial institutions are grouped by sector of activity under Industrial Promotion Services, Tourism Promotion Services, Financial Services, Aviation Services and Media Services. The Fund operates more than 90 separate project companies, employs over 30,000 people and has revenues of US $1.5 billion.

AKFED’s affiliates are located in East Africa, West Africa, South Asia and Central Asia. In addition to bringing financial backing to investment projects, AKFED takes a hands-on approach to developing human resources, particularly management, technical, marketing and financial expertise.

AKFED grew out of financial institutions founded by the Aga Khan’s grandfather, Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, between 1930 and 1960. The present Aga Khan enlarged and expanded the scope of these institutions; AKFED was formed in 1984 in order to bring them together under a single umbrella, enabling each to benefit from a common heritage and development ethos.

The Fund concentrates on socially responsible, technologically appropriate, economically viable and environmentally sensitive development for the benefit of as wide a population base as possible. It is distinguished by its hands-on management of companies and its strong equity participation in, and consequent long-term commitment to, the countries in which it operates.
With AKFED’s help, many financial institutions that began as cooperative societies have evolved into some of the more important banks and insurance companies in the developing world.

AKFED provides support to a number of developing countries through shareholdings in a number of banking, insurance and property companies, in East Africa and Central and South Asia.

Many of AKFED’s financial service institutions began as cooperative societies founded in the first half of the twentieth century by the Aga Khan’s grandfather and predecessor, Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga Khan. Under the present Aga Khan’s direction, these institutions have evolved, growing into banks and general and life insurance companies.

**BANKS**

AKFED has investments in a variety of institutions in the banking sector. They include a controlling interest in Habib Bank Limited (HBL), Pakistan’s largest private bank, which was acquired through a government privatisation programme in 2004.

The Bank, which was incorporated in 1941 in Bombay, became the first commercial bank to be established in Pakistan in 1947, and is currently the leader in the corporate banking market. HBL has over five million retail customers and total assets of over US$ 8.5 billion. A pioneer in the introduction of new products such as automated teller machines and other consumer services in the Pakistani market, HBL has more than 1,400 branches and is present in 25 countries across five continents.

In India, the Development Co-operative Bank was created through an amalgamation of two small cooperative societies. In the mid-1990s, it was converted into a commercial bank operating as Development Credit Bank Limited (DCB). AKFED, which had facilitated the growth of the cooperative
In Pakistan, AKFED participated in the privatisation of Habib Bank Limited, Pakistan’s second largest bank. The bank has 1,400 branches in 25 countries.

AKFED is the founder and lead shareholder in Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank (KICB), which was opened in 2001 as the largest commercial bank in the Kyrgyz Republic. KICB focuses on the corporate sector and on medium and long-term finance that will both contribute to the growth of the banking industry and stimulate entrepreneurial activity.

In Bangladesh, AKFED is the majority owner of Industrial Promotion and Development Company, which is a leading provider of corporate finance and lending services to major businesses and projects in that country.

Diamond Trust Bank was founded in the 1930s in Kenya to help recycle local savings into loans for home building and small businesses. Today it has operations in Tanzania and Uganda and offers a range of retail banking products as well as innovative business products such as asset finance.

INSURANCE

The Jubilee Insurance Group (originally established in the 1930s and 1940s) operates on a regional basis in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The company offers general insurance as well as life and medical insurance. It is listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange. Insurance operations in Pakistan are conducted through two publicly-listed companies: New Jubilee Insurance, the country’s third largest insurance firm, offers general insurance services. New Jubilee Life offers life and pension products.

In 2004, microfinance activities operated by AKFED were transferred to the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance.
MEDIA SERVICES (MS)

The Nation Media Group, founded in 1960, has its origins in Kenya’s Taifa and Nation newspapers, which were set up to provide independent voices during the years just preceding the country’s independence. The Aga Khan’s long association with the newspapers was institutionalised in 2003, when AKFED became the largest of the Group’s shareholders.

Operations include a growing number of English and Kiswahili national newspapers, a regional weekly, and radio and television stations. In recent years, the Group has expanded its operations into Uganda and Tanzania.

The Group has six principal divisions. Nation Newspapers includes the daily and Sunday Nation and Taifa newspapers, the weekly Coast Express, and a regional weekly, The East African. The Nation Broadcasting Division operates Nation TV and Nation FM radio. The Group includes Monitor Publications Limited (Uganda), which publishes the daily and Sunday Monitor and operates Monitor FM radio.

In Tanzania, Mwananchi Communications Limited publishes Mwananchi and has invested in Radio Uhuru. The Group encompasses Nation Marketing and Publishing Limited and the Nation Carriers Division.

AVIATION SERVICES (AS)

AKFED has made investments in the aviation services sector, including a stake in Air Burkina, as part of a plan designed to ensure the long-term viability of the airline. In the coming years, AKFED will make additional investments in this sector.
IPS was set up in 1963 to encourage and expand private enterprise in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Over 70 industrial projects have been launched since the group’s inception, falling into the categories of food and agro-industries, printing and packaging, metal products and textiles. As governments look increasingly to the private sector to provide services, AKFED is building infrastructure projects in telecommunications, water and sewerage, and power generation.

Knowledge of local conditions and rigorous management standards has made IPS’s national affiliates attractive partners for foreign investors. Industrial companies operate in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mali, Pakistan, Senegal, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda. IPS currently invests in over 50 project companies in the developing world. It also has an extensive social programme, ranging from child care to sanitation.
INVESTING IN INDUSTRY

Examples of investment projects include an agriculture-based industry, Sosuco, which was acquired under the Burkina Faso privatisation programme. Sosuco farms its own sugar-cane plantations and operates the country’s largest sugar refinery.

Allpack in Kenya manufactures polypropylene bags and corrugated carton packaging for a range of exports including horticultural products as part of AKFED’s East African regional printing and packing activities. Production of plastic packaging in West Africa provides packaging for the food and cosmetics industries. AKFED companies also produce household utensils, corrugated sheets for roofing, window frames and wire products. Other companies produce fishnets and pharmaceuticals.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

AKFED’s first investment in the power sector, the Azito energy project in the Ivory Coast, has been followed by two other energy projects, Tsavo Power in Kenya, and the acquisition, under the Malian privatisation programme, of Energie du Mali, an energy water facility. The Azito power facility, a
288-megawatt project, is the largest private-sector power plant in sub-Saharan Africa. It was developed and operated by ABB, Electricité de France and IPS. The financing of the US$ 225 million private infrastructure project was provided by shareholders and loans from international and bilateral development agencies and commercial banks, including the International Development Association (IDA) and The World Bank.

**NEW VENTURES**

In an ambitious and innovative US$ 26 million investment, AKFED joined forces with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), in 2002, to develop a new electricity generation and distribution project in a remote eastern province of Tajikistan. The project will boost the region’s dangerously inadequate electricity supply, improve health conditions, reduce environmental degradation and contribute toward the region’s economic recovery.

In Uganda, AKFED is leading the US$ 500 million, 220 megawatt Bujagali Hydro Power Project, which will help address severe shortages of electric power in the region.

In telecommunications, AKFED has brought GSM mobile services to Afghanistan, a country where fixed lines were decimated by the years of conflict. The phased initiative has installed quality telecommunications throughout the country. In Tajikistan, AKFED has invested in GSM operators, spurring expanded coverage and lower prices.

An IPS venture-capital company based in Canada, which invests in medium-sized industrial projects, also provides manpower and technical links for the other IPS companies in the developing world. IPS Switzerland acts as a focal point and technical clearing house for IPS companies. It also mobilises support for enterprises that are capable of contributing to the development of national and regional economies.
A
KFED promotestourism by building and managing
hotels, resorts and lodges that contribute to
economic growth in an environmentally and
culturally sensitive manner. Operating under the brand name
Serena, TPS owns and manages hotels in East Africa and Asia.

TPS’s mandate is to realise tourism’s potential in selected
areas of the developing world. Tourism that promotes
awareness of the environments of developing countries and
improves appreciation of their cultural traditions can help
protect those environments and traditions.

TPS’s first hotel ventures were established in the 1970s in
Kenya, where Serena safari lodges and hotels have come
to be recognised as leaders for the quality of their services,
arquitecture and ecological responsibility. AKFED’s
involvement in East African tourism extends to Tanzania,
where safari lodges and luxury tented camps have been
established at picturesque sites in world-renowned national parks and a hotel has been opened in Zanzibar’s historic Stone Town. It has also invested in hotels in Afghanistan, Mozambique and Tajikistan.

Since the early 1980s, TPS has also owned and managed hotels in the mountainous north of Pakistan and has built Serena hotels in Islamabad, Faisalabad and Quetta. These hotels aim to provide a showcase and a stimulus for local architectural traditions and crafts.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

In each case, the aim has been to minimise environmental impact and maximise socio-economic benefits. In Tanzania, for example, prior to the establishment of properties, four environmental-impact studies were carried out. These evaluations prompted the Serena chain to adopt measures ensuring more efficient use of water. At the Serena Inn in Zanzibar, special equipment incinerates waste to provide energy for the hotel.

The Serena chain also strives to protect the natural territories associated with its hotels and lodges. In Mara, Kenya, after a devastating forest fire, guests helped plant 200,000 trees. In the East African game parks, income earned from entry fees is reinvested in the upkeep of the parks through the hiring of additional rangers. These measures have helped earn the Serena chain numerous environmental awards, including Green Globe certification.

In keeping with its principle to hire and source locally, TPS invests heavily in local training courses. To expand local ownership, TPS’s Kenyan holding company (TPS Limited) floated its shares on the Nairobi stock exchange.
The Aga Khan Foundation is a private, international, non-denominational, non-profit development agency established by the Aga Khan in Switzerland in 1967. It seeks sustainable solutions to long-term problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ill health, with special emphasis on the needs of rural communities in mountainous, coastal and other resource-poor areas.

Over the long term, AKF promotes self-reliance as a way of reducing the dependence on external aid. AKF assists beneficiaries in building their capabilities and gaining the confidence and competence to participate actively in the design, implementation and continuing operation of activities. AKF also works to put institutional, management and financial structures in place to ensure that programme activities can be sustained without external assistance.

AKF has offices in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Pakistan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda, and acts through local implementing partners in specific areas, including the Northern Areas of Pakistan, the Pamir region of Tajikistan and the coast of East Africa. Grants are made to these organisations, or, in some cases, projects are managed directly. There are also a small number of initiatives in Canada, Portugal and the USA. The Foundation currently supports more than 100 projects.

DEVELOPED COUNTRY OFFICES

AKF affiliates in Canada, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States play an important role in maintaining...
relationships with donors, including more than 60 national and international development agencies and thousands of individual and corporate donors. Partnerships with donors and other peer organisations allow for technical and intellectual exchange on evolving development issues.

**LONG-TERM, COMMUNITY-BASED AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACH**

AKF applies an integrated, community-based and participatory approach that reinforces civil society and respects local culture. Its activities are guided by the conviction that self-help brings dignity and self-respect, which in turn can generate creative human energy.

In order to build locally sustainable models of development and to ensure enduring benefits to populations, the Foundation commits to a long-term engagement. Programmes in northern Pakistan, for example, have been supported for over 20 years. These models, which have been tested and adapted in a variety of contexts, are designed to be practical and flexible. Through publications, research and policy dialogue, the Foundation shares its knowledge and experience with others seeking solutions to similar problems.

**EDUCATION**

AKF is working towards a basic cycle of education for all children by increasing students’ access to schools and raising retention and completion rates. It strives to improve the quality of education through attention to academic achievement and community-based early childhood development services that build on local culture and resources. As a way of maintaining quality in schools, AKF works to ensure participation by parents and communities in developing curricula and managing and financing schools. AKF also acts to strengthen local and regional institutions.
that play a role in teacher training, curriculum development and leadership programmes. An overarching concern is to promote equal access to education for girls and boys. To this end, AKF works closely with other AKDN agencies, and in particular with the Aga Khan Education Services and the Aga Khan University.

**HEALTH**

The goal of the health programme is to improve the health and well-being of remote rural communities, with special attention to women and children. Programmes provide community-based services and essential first-level referral care; improve the quality, sustainability and impact of the services offered; and support health-sector reform and organisational development through the promotion of diversity and competition, decentralised financing, management and delivery of care. AKF supports cost-effective interventions in maternal and child health, family planning, control of infectious diseases and nutrition.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

AKF has initiated and supported rural development programmes for over 20 years, beginning with the Aga Khan Rural Support Programmes in Pakistan and India in the early 1980s. The experience gained in these programmes has subsequently been adapted and applied to programmes in Afghanistan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Syria, Mozambique and Tajikistan. In addition, the Foundation provides financial support to other rural development organisations.

The rural support programmes combat poverty through rural savings and credit, enterprise development, natural resource management, productive infrastructure development and increased agricultural productivity. These are linked by a central concern for community-level participation and decision-making.
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

All AKF programmes involve citizens working together to improve the quality of their lives. Examples are village members forming development committees, parents working together in parent teacher associations, or midwives forming groups to strengthen members' skills. Other AKDN agencies also work with citizens' groups.

In 2005, realising that such groups needed help and encouragement to become effective civil society organisations (CSOs), AKDN mounted a network-wide Civil Society Programme (based in AKF).

The programme seeks to optimise the impact of current AKDN civil society efforts and to expand wherever possible. It also seeks to foster an enabling environment for the civil society sector (including encouraging indigenous philanthropy efforts such as the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy), to strengthen selected CSOs and support the creation of new CSOs where necessary.
ENVIRONMENT

The Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund for the Environment is a new centre for environmental activities within the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). The Fund strives to maintain the values, philosophy and spirit of the late Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and the Bellerive Foundation.

The Fund’s activities reflect the linkages between poverty and the penury of natural resources. Its activities include natural resource management, rural development and security in fragile natural environments. It also promotes the management and development of sustainable natural resources through education, area development and related research that addresses chronic or emerging issues in the developing world.

The intention is to assist populations that are most threatened by their natural surroundings while working to protect fragile ecosystems which are under threat due to short-sighted and poorly planned human activity.

WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT UNDERTAKEN OVER AN EIGHT-YEAR PERIOD IN INDIA IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY WHILE GENERATING SEVERAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS, INCLUDING A DECREASE IN EROSION, THE REGENERATION OF TEAK FORESTS AND THE RETURN OF BIRDS TO THE LAND.

STUDENTS FROM THE AGA KHAN ACADEMY STUDY TORTOISES AT A NATURE RESERVE NEAR MOMBASA, KENYA. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF EDUCATION IN AGA KHAN SCHOOLS.
AGA KHAN EDUCATION SERVICES (AKES)

AKES operates schools and other educational services in over 300 facilities in the developing world, ranging from day-care centres to higher secondary schools.

The foundations of the system were laid by Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah during the first half of the twentieth century, when over a hundred schools were established, mainly for the Ismaili Community, in East Africa and South Asia. In the 1950s, under the leadership of the present Aga Khan, the schools broadened their intake of pupils and extended their academic range.

INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Today, AKES programmes aim to diminish the many obstacles to educational access and achievement. To increase access, AKES has continued to start up new schools. In close collaboration with the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services and AKF, it has also supported community-based school construction. In the north of Pakistan, AKES has
increased the number and range of facilities available to girls. AKES is also in the process of constructing new schools in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar and Mozambique. In Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Pakistan and Uganda, the schools and centres are managed by national service companies. Such activities have also begun in Afghanistan, Madagascar, Mozambique and Syria.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

Programmes to improve educational quality have been built into the AKES system since the early 1980s. Field-based teacher training was launched in the Northern Areas of Pakistan in 1983. School improvement experiments began at the same time in Sind Province, where AKES introduced child-centred teaching methods, and later in India, Bangladesh, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. In Kenya, AKES has pioneered the use of computers in the classroom, while many Network initiatives in pre-school education began with AKES in India.

Some of these successful innovations have been carried out in government schools as well as AKES institutions, thereby contributing to the overall improvement of education. With both national service companies and the Aga Khan Foundation acting as links, this body of experience in teacher development and school improvement is having an impact throughout the Network.

AKU’s Institute for Educational Development provides a permanent institutional base that sustains these and other initiatives in education. AKES has also provided funds to improve pedagogical skills at selected institutions of higher learning in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.
In 2000, His Highness the Aga Khan initiated the establishment of the Aga Khan Academies, an integrated network of residential schools located in Africa, South and Central Asia, and the Middle East. The Academies aspire to develop students of great integrity, understanding and generosity of spirit who will go on to build and lead institutions of civil society. Meritorious students are selected regardless of their families’ ability to pay.

Educators are selected on the basis of their commitment to the all-round development of students and their own continued professional education. Integral to each Academy is the Professional Development Centre, which supports research and provides ongoing, collaborative training for Academy faculty and teachers from neighbouring government and private schools.

The Academies’ education is built on the framework of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) programme. Within this framework, students at the Aga Khan Academies also study pluralism, ethics, Islamic cultural studies, global economics and comparative government. The programme emphasises critical thinking, active learning and creative problem solving.

The Academies provide outstanding facilities to support athletic, artistic and extracurricular programmes. In addition, students’ and teachers’ learning is enhanced by participation in international travel and study programmes across the network of Academies. The Academies also have access to the resources and expertise of AKDN agencies and important international partners, including Phillips Academy Andover, Harvard University, Oxford University and the Schule Schloss Salem in Germany.
AGA KHAN HEALTH SERVICES (AKHS)

Building on the Ismaili Community’s healthcare efforts during the first quarter of the twentieth century, AKHS has become one of the most comprehensive non-profit health-care systems in the developing world. It operates 168 health centres, dispensaries and other community outlets; 23 first-level referral facilities including diagnostic centres, rural medical and maternity care centres, as well as five general and four women’s and children’s hospitals. It provides or supports primary health-care services to populations totalling 1.7 million and handles approximately 1.8 million patient visits annually.

BUILDING EFFECTIVE HEALTH SYSTEMS

Organised in the form of national service companies in Pakistan, India, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, these health facilities are also linked internationally through Network-wide policies and strategies in primary health care, clinical services, nursing development and human resource management.

Increasingly, the national service companies are working with government health services and other institutions to improve and build effective national health systems. For example, in Pakistan, AKHS provides technical assistance to a World Bank-supported programme to strengthen the capacity of government health services in supporting community-based health initiatives. In Tajikistan, AKHS is collaborating with government hospitals in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast to rationalise, rehabilitate and modernise clinical practice and nursing care. In Afghanistan, AKHS is establishing district health-care services on behalf of the government in three provinces. Many of these partnerships involve close collaboration with AKF and AKU institutions.
HEALTH-CARE PRIORITIES

The primary health-care programmes are designed to reach vulnerable groups, especially rural and remote communities, and lower middle-income urban families. Health promotion and disease prevention are at the core of all programmes. While reproductive health, immunisation and integrated management of childhood illnesses are the main priorities, adult health (cardiovascular disease, diabetes, selected cancers and mental health) is a sector of activity in many of the areas served. Experience with primary health care within the Aga Khan Development Network, where AKHS works closely with both AKF and AKU, has confirmed the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of primary health care in improving health status.

In the absence of other quality providers, AKHS complements its work in primary health care by offering curative services in institutions ranging from basic health centres through diagnostic centres, comprehensive health centres and hospitals. At each level of care, AKHS focuses on providing services that are needed and wanted by the community. It also aims to ensure a quality of care that significantly raises
local standards. Measures taken to improve quality include awareness training, clinical governance, organisational audit and accreditation, evidence-based practice, and continuing education of nurses, doctors and other health-care workers.

CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS

Many AKHS initiatives originally came to exist through the energy, dedication and skills of volunteers. Both volunteers and professional staff are essential to the functioning of AKHS today. The governance of national service companies and individual institutions depends on volunteers, who serve on boards and who are involved in elaborating the policy and overall direction of the respective companies and institutions. In many places, the day-to-day operation and functioning of institutions are supported by service volunteers, who fill positions that would otherwise require paid employees. Volunteers are also involved at the programme level, as in Gorno-Badakhshan, where physicians from North America and Europe have teamed up with their Tajik counterparts in hospitals for regular training over several years.
AGA KHAN PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES (AKPBS)

AKPBS works to improve the built environment, particularly housing design and construction, village planning, the management of natural hazards, environmental sanitation, water supplies and other factors that contribute to living conditions throughout India and Pakistan. It plans to establish similar programmes in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. In each of these countries it acts through national service companies. AKPBS provides material and technical expertise, training, as well as construction management services to rural and urban areas.

Projects are selected by housing review committees that consist of volunteer architects, structural engineers and other professional advisors. The underlying vision is centred on the Aga Khan’s belief in “the visual, physical and emotional impact of a decent home on the spirit of human endeavour”. While the effects of such a home cannot be quantified, “a proper home can provide the bridge across that terrible gulf between poverty and a better future”.

THE AGA KHAN PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICE IN PAKISTAN HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF AWARDS, INCLUDING THE ALCAN PRIZE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE WORLD HABITAT AWARD. ITS PROGRAMMES, LIKE THIS WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM IN THE NORTHERN AREAS OF PAKISTAN, ARE BEING REPLICATED WITH THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTS, DONORS AND PARTNERS.
RURAL WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAMMES

AKPBS’s current priorities include the design and implementation of rural water and sanitation programmes, which serve as examples of best practice for South Asia, and the protection of project structures from potential natural disasters (landslides, flooding and earthquakes). AKPBS ensures that these considerations are taken into account at the village level in mapping and planning activities. Community involvement also helps increase local capabilities in building and management. All projects are carefully evaluated for financial sustainability.

AKPBS acts through non-profit national service companies in Pakistan and India. AKPBS has been active in India since 1971. Its counterpart in Pakistan has been formally in operation since 1980, although the Ismaili community has been active in promoting cooperative housing development in Pakistan and India for much of the twentieth century.

Major activities in Pakistan include improved housing for low-income groups and displaced persons; the provision of water and sanitation facilities; project management for restoring historical sites; and recommendations on maintaining and refurbishing large-scale housing developments and associations.

Activities have also focused on developing appropriate technology to increase resistance to earthquakes, as well as solar-energy use, thermal efficiency, improved ventilation and natural lighting.

In India, AKPBS assists communities install sanitation units, improve village water supplies, construct water-harvesting systems and monitor water quality. Natural disaster risk assessment and management, on which it collaborates closely with the AKDN-affiliated humanitarian relief organisation FOCUS, is also an important working area for AKPBS.
For more than 25 years, various agencies of the AKDN have offered microfinance products and services as components of programmes or as self-standing institutions in over 15 countries of the developing world. These programmes, which were previously managed by other agencies, including AKFED, AKF and AKTC, are now overseen by the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance (AKAM), a not-for-profit international development agency established in Switzerland.

The underlying objectives of the Agency are to reduce poverty, diminish the vulnerability of poor populations and alleviate economic and social exclusion. It aims to help people become self-reliant and gain the skills needed to graduate into the mainstream financial markets.

THE MICROFINANCE LADDER

To help poor people “graduate” from poverty to the mainstream financial markets, AKAM takes a tiered approach that can be adapted to the needs and circumstances of the poor in both urban and rural environments, as well as in different socio-economic and political contexts. The three rungs of this “ladder” include:

Microfinance programmes, usually at the community level, which are designed to give people the means to start or expand economic activity and, over time, diversify beyond traditional microenterprises. Concepts such as basic business practices and the preparation of business proposals are taught as part of a package of microfinance services that aim to help borrowers become disciplined, self-reliant entrepreneurs.

Microfinance institutions with a more formal structure and a network of sub-branches provide clients with a wider...
range of products and services. In some cases, as in Mali and Burkina Faso, the institution is both a lender and a repository for savings. As in all its programmes, AKAM’s institutions work with clients to introduce good practices, ethical precepts and the highest business standards.

Microfinance banks, which are formally regulated by central banks, direct their services to the poor and their micro and small enterprises. Reaching beneficiaries through an expanding network of geographically distributed branches and mobile banks, microfinance banks currently operate in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan. They offer a range of services comparable to – and in some cases even broader than – those of commercial banks, including credit, savings, payment services, money transfers, microleasing, house improvement finance, education loans and microinsurance, among others. The banks also support small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as borrowers reach a higher level of financial stability. The aim is to operate at best practice standards, conserve the capital base and generate small surpluses to fund expansion.

MICROFINANCE SERVICES

Income Generation Loans: Credit financing ranging from US$ 10 to US$ 3,000 is available for start-ups, re-starts and the expansion of current entrepreneurial and income-generating activities. Projects financed include farming inputs and machinery, livestock rearing and breeding, shoemaking, furniture, handicraft, services and retail enterprises, cottage industries, tourism initiatives, small restaurants, mini-marts, hairdressers, internet cafés, and many other forms of entrepreneurial activity. SME loans can go up to US$ 30,000.

Other Loans: In addition to providing loans specifically directed toward income generation, AKAM provides loans to finance health care, education, habitat and housing.
improvements, land acquisition and construction, retirement of usurious multigenerational debt and alternative livelihoods in place of the cultivation of poppy.

**Savings:** A variety of savings products are offered by both banks and some microfinance institutions, including current and interest bearing savings accounts that allow multiple withdrawals and term deposits of various maturities. In all cases, deposit accounts can be opened and maintained with less than one dollar. Savings are mobilised from individuals, groups and institutions.

**Microinsurance:** Some of AKAM’s banks are also providing microinsurance facilities to borrowers. Two types of microinsurance policies are offered, often as a bundle, with small fees of less than US$2 per annum: a policy in which the insurance company would pay the outstanding balance in case of death or permanent disability; and a policy which provides a cash pay-out for funeral-related costs in the event of death. A new initiative in microinsurance will also develop products that specifically seek to safeguard the poor against loss of savings and income as a result of catastrophic events such as death, long-term hospitalisation and business or crop loss.

**Microleasing:** In some regions, AKAM is providing microleasing services, enabling clients to purchase fixed assets and business equipment for productive purposes. As they involve large capital expenditures, these loans can range from US$500 to US$10,000 and be repaid within six months to three years.

**Money Transfer Services:** AKAM’s Banks also provide money transfer services to clients. The service allows clients to transfer money inexpensively both from one city to another within a country or remit funds internationally through the Swift payment system. Specific products are designed to link remittances with economic uses in the home countries.

By the end of 2006, AKAM’s 1,500 strong workforce had distributed about 275,000 loans totaling about US$200 million.

In Syria, loans have helped farmers install drip and sprinkler irrigation systems.
Chartered as Pakistan’s first private international university in 1983, Aga Khan University’s objective is to promote human welfare by disseminating knowledge and providing instruction, training, research and services in health sciences, education and other disciplines. AKU is a non-denominational institution open to all on merit, and admissions to its academic programmes are needs-blind. The University places special emphasis on the development of women.

Through its high academic standards, programmes relevant to the needs of developing societies, its work as a dialogue partner with government on issues of health and education policy, and its delivery of critical social services, AKU has had a national impact in Pakistan. With the launch of academic programmes in East Africa, the United Kingdom, Syria and Afghanistan, AKU has now established itself as an international institution with nine sites in seven countries.

**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (FHS)**

The AKU School of Nursing (AKU-SON), which began operations in 1980, educates nurses to provide exemplary nursing care and demonstrate leadership in nursing education, practice, administration and research. The School offers programmes in the General Nursing Diploma, Post-RN BScN, BScN and MScN. In 2001, AKU-SON started its Advanced Nursing Studies programme in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania in East Africa. Developed at the request of nursing leaders and the respective governments, the programme offers continuing and higher education up to BScN level to working nurses, allowing them to remain at their workplaces as they pursue professional development. AKU-SON is also providing assistance to government institutions in Afghanistan, Egypt, Syria and Tajikistan.
The Medical College, established in 1983, enrols students in a five-year programme leading to a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree. The College’s curricular objectives include the development of clinical competence in community settings and hospitals, along with health promotion and disease prevention. Postgraduate residency programmes in a growing number of clinical disciplines are recognised by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Pakistan, and several are approved for fellowships from the Royal College in Scotland and England.

Graduate studies include Masters of Science degrees in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and in Health Policy and Management, as well as a PhD in Health Sciences, the first of its kind in Pakistan.

In 2004, AKU began offering postgraduate programmes in Kenya and Tanzania at the Aga Khan University Hospital in
Nairobi and Aga Khan Hospital, Dar-es-Salaam. Research at the FHS focuses on the health needs of the populations of the developing world, including infectious diseases, malnutrition, reproductive health, education and nursing care. Over 25 percent of health sciences related research papers of Pakistani origin published in indexed journals are from Aga Khan University.

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (AKUH)

Established in 1985 as the primary teaching site of the FHS, AKUH is committed to providing quality treatment and the best options in the region for diagnosis of disease and team management of patient care. These services are backed up by the highest doctor-to-patient and nurse-to-patient ratios and support services.

A broad range of secondary and tertiary care is available in the 500-bed University Hospital to all patients in need. Those who are unable to pay for treatment receive generous assistance through a variety of subsidies and the Hospital Patient Welfare Programme. In 2000, AKUH became the first teaching hospital in Pakistan to be completely ISO 9001:2000 certified. The AKUH quality assurance programme serves as a model for other healthcare institutions in the Aga Khan Development Network.

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, NAIROBI

In 2005, the Aga Khan Hospital, Nairobi, which had been operating under the aegis of Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS), Kenya, since 1958, formally came under the governance and management of AKU. Now known as the Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi, it is the premier teaching site of AKU in East Africa, focusing on high quality of care, research and postgraduate medical education in all major clinical specialties. Academic functions will be closely integrated with the clinical service.
STUDENTS HELP DEVELOP AFFORDABLE INTERVENTIONS SUCH AS IMMUNISATION SERVICES AND POTABLE WATER TECHNOLOGIES.

EACH NURSING AND MEDICAL STUDENT MUST DEVOTE A PORTION OF HIS OR HER TIME IN UNSERVED COMMUNITIES SUCH AS THE "KATCHI ABADIS" (SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS) OF KARACHI.

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (IED)

AKU-IED was established in 1993 to improve educational standards in primary and secondary schools through school-based training programmes. The Institute offers a four-year full time PhD programme in Education, a two-year intensive Master’s degree programme as well as the Certificate in Education Programme and Advanced Diplomas in Teaching and Educational Leadership.

Its programmes, based on a model that emphasises responsiveness, targets career teachers working in public and private schools in Pakistan and other regions of the subcontinent, Central Asia, Middle East and East Africa.

The Institute provides training in school management and leadership, especially to heads of schools. It has also initiated research, policy studies and dialogues. Beyond the Karachi campus, AKU-IED operates Professional Development Centres (PDCs) in Gilgit and Chitral in Pakistan and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Several PDCs are planned for other parts of Pakistan, as well as East Africa and Central Asia.

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, EAST AFRICA

Planning is underway for a similar institute in Eastern Africa. It will initially offer short tailor-made certificate courses as well as one-year Advanced Diploma and two-year Masters programmes to cater to the needs of teachers, teacher educators, policy makers and educational managers in Kenya, Tanzania (including Zanzibar), Uganda and Mozambique.

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF MUSLIM CIVILISATIONS (ISM C)

AKU-ISM C was launched in 2002 as an academic unit of AKU aimed at furthering the study of the civilisations of
Muslims. It seeks to strengthen research and teaching on the heritage of Muslim societies in all their historic diversity, as well as their moral and ethical thought, structures of governance and public life, and artistic and creative expressions in all forms. It also seeks to create contexts for the interaction of academics, traditionally trained scholars and other professionals. AKU-ISMC will also seek to make a distinctive contribution to the understanding of Muslim societies and the emergence of new attitudes among Muslims and non-Muslims.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

To maintain the quality of its programmes, AKU has forged ties with several internationally recognised institutions for curriculum, programme and faculty development, as well as research. Harvard, McGill and McMaster Universities, for example, were instrumental in establishing the curricula at AKU. The University also collaborates with Oxford and Toronto Universities and the Karolinska Institute. AKU works closely with the Government of Pakistan and various international agencies in community development and outreach efforts.

EXPANSION

In keeping with its mandate, AKU is now moving toward becoming a genuinely international University, with the intention of establishing a permanent presence in some regions, such as in East Africa, and focusing on intermediary capacity building in others. At the same time, the Aga Khan University is extending the range and scope of its academic, training and service operations. In 2002, the AKU Examination Board, a testing service based on the national curriculum for the secondary school certificate, was established. AKU is now planning a major Faculty of Arts and Sciences at a new campus on the outskirts of Karachi, as well as a programme in human development.
The University of Central Asia (UCA) was created on the premise that education is central to development. Founded in 2000 by the governments of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan and His Highness the Aga Khan, UCA’s mission is to foster the economic and social development of the region in general and mountain communities in particular by offering an internationally recognised standard of higher education.

Within the broader context of addressing development issues, the University’s ethical framework stresses the importance of: individual rights and security; public service and responsibility to community; and ethical and transparent operations in government and business.

UCA is private and secular. It is the world’s first internationally chartered institution of higher education. The International Treaty and Charter establishing the University was signed by the Presidents of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, later ratified by the respective parliaments, and then registered with the United Nations.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

UCA will offer three main academic programmes across its three campuses:

The Graduate School of Development is made up of six institutes addressing the needs of the region: Business and Economic Development, Public Administration, Rural Development, Tourism and Leisure, Education, and Environment and Natural Resource Management.

The School of Arts and Sciences will offer a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree in the liberal arts and sciences.
The programme will include required foundational courses emphasising critical thinking and interdisciplinary study, as well as concentrations in the humanities, natural sciences, the social sciences and management.

**The School of Professional and Continuing Education** addresses the lack of professional and vocational development opportunities in the region. Programmes led by certified instructors are offered in economically relevant areas, such as Enterprise Development and Management, Information Technology and New Media, Applied Languages, Public and Social Sector Management, Vocational Education and Training and Professional Development.

Instruction for all degree programmes will be in English. Those requiring remedial language training will receive it prior to their matriculation. Programmes in the School of Professional and Continuing Education are taught in the national languages or Russian. Teaching at UCA will be “student-centred” and will make vigorous use of information and computer technologies.

Admissions to UCA will be based strictly on merit and open to students from all parts of Central Asia. Those students who are admitted and who are in need of partial or complete financial aid will receive it in the form of loans, scholarships, or combinations of both.

**RESEARCH**

As there are few universities which function as a focal point for research and knowledge on Central Asia, UCA intends to serve this role by making research integral to all academic programmes and activities. It will place special emphasis on the integrated, interdisciplinary type of inquiry required to address the challenges Central Asia faces, including natural resource management, public administration, education,
rural development and culture. Its priorities will include policy-oriented, community-based research that fosters social, economic and cultural development.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

As UCA is expected to have an important social and economic impact on the region, an outreach programme is designed to manage these effects. The programme will also work to attract new investment by identifying economic opportunities; expanding existing regional businesses; creating opportunities by offering access to UCA’s infrastructure, knowledge and services; and fostering economic multiplier effects through business spin-offs, training and employment of the local population. It will also provide expertise and linkages to other regional and international initiatives.

**CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAMPUSES**

UCA is constructing campuses at Tekeli, Kazakhstan; Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic; and Khorog, Tajikistan. Each of the three campuses will have world-class academic, athletic and residential facilities surrounded by landscaped parks, which will create unique learning environments that are accessible to surrounding communities. When the main campus facilities are completed, the total University campus population for the residential graduate and undergraduate programmes will be almost 3,000.

The University’s endowment was started when the Aga Khan made gifts totaling US$ 15 million during the signing of the UCA treaty. Additional funding will be provided by individual donors, private foundations, international corporations, international development agencies and governments. The founding states are providing land for the campuses, a package of fiscal concessions and various other forms of support.
The Aga Khan Trust for Culture implements cultural initiatives aimed at revitalising the heritage of communities in the Islamic world and contributing to their social and economic development. Its programmes include the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, which recognises examples of architectural excellence encompassing contemporary design, social housing, community improvement and development, restoration, re-use and area conservation, as well as landscaping and environmental issues.

The Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme undertakes specific activities focused on the physical, social and economic revitalisation of historic sites in the Muslim world. It seeks to demonstrate that cultural concerns and socio-economic initiatives can be mutually supportive.

The Education and Culture Programme is comprised of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the online resource ArchNet, the Aga Khan Music Initiative in Central Asia and the Aga Khan Humanities Project in Central Asia. The newest undertaking for the Trust is the Museum Support Unit, which will establish the Aga Khan Museum of Islamic Art in Toronto and the Museum of Historic Cairo.

The Trust works to improve the training of architectural professionals, increase cross-cultural understanding of Islamic architecture and the intimate connection between architecture and culture in Islamic civilisations. It also seeks to create greater awareness and appreciation for diversity and pluralism within the Muslim world as well as in the West.
AGA KHAN AWARD
FOR ARCHITECTURE (AKAA)

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture, established in 1977 by His Highness the Aga Khan, recognises examples of architectural excellence that encompass contemporary design, social housing, community improvement and development, restoration, re-use and area conservation, as well as landscaping and environmental issues. The Award seeks to identify projects that have an impact on architectural discourse in Muslim societies and throughout the world.

It is unique among the major architectural awards in not only rewarding single architects for exemplary contemporary work but also in recognising projects that illustrate innovative and replicable solutions to development challenges.

The Award has been bestowed on municipalities, project clients and owners, technicians and master masons. Winning projects have included social housing developments, restoration of individual buildings, area conservation projects, innovative landscape designs and programmes aimed at improving the urban environment. The Award,
which is guided by a Steering Committee under the chairmanship of His Highness the Aga Khan, is also distinguished by its rigorous selection process. Each three-year cycle involves an intensive round of nominations, project documentation, screening and on-site review.

During the cycle, several hundred contemporary buildings, as well as conservation and rehabilitation projects, are identified by nominators and presented to an independent master jury. The jury members, drawn from many disciplines, including art, archaeology, the social sciences and urban planning, as well as architecture, then select the Award recipients.

Through 10 cycles of activity since 1977, documentation on over 6,000 building projects has been compiled. Over 90 of these projects have been selected to receive Awards.

A special Chairman’s Award has been conferred three times in recognition of the lifetime achievements of noted architects Hassan Fathy, Rifat Chadirji and Geoffrey Bawa.
The Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme, established in 1992, undertakes the conservation and rehabilitation of historical buildings and urban spaces in ways that serve to catalyse social, economic and cultural development. Since its inception, over 20 distinct projects have been initiated in different regions of the Islamic world.

In Kabul, AKHCP has rehabilitated Babur’s Garden, which contains the tomb of the sixteenth century Emperor Babur, as well as neighbourhood residential dwellings and public sanitation facilities. The Trust also revitalised the mausoleum of the fourteenth century emperor Timur Shah, while improving the surrounding area.

In the historic city of Cairo, AKHCP has transformed a vast barren site into a 30-hectare urban park. In Zanzibar, the Programme completed the restoration of empty landmark buildings on the waterfront and has drawn up a conservation master plan for the Old Stone Town, a major World Heritage Site. An important component of the project has been to train local artisans in skills including carving and stonework, which had largely been forgotten.

In the Northern Areas of Pakistan, projects for the rehabilitation and re-use of historic forts, palaces, landmark buildings and traditional settlements, as well as the promotion of traditional crafts and building techniques, have helped transform poor communities into relatively prosperous ones.

Construction of Al-Azhar Park was completed in 2005, but continuing activities focus on the adjacent Darb Al-Ahmar District, where work includes housing rehabilitation, conservation of landmark buildings, health care, microfinance and education programmes.
In Samarkand, AKHCP assisted in preparing a new master plan for the Timurid city, including urban design proposals for the revitalisation of both the historical and modern city centres. In Mostar, Bosnia, projects concentrated on the rehabilitation of historical neighbourhoods adjacent to the famous Old Bridge and the restoration of key monuments destroyed during the civil war. In Syria, AKHCP assisted with the conservation and management of the citadels of Aleppo, Masyaf and Saleh ed-Din. In Mali, AKHCP completed the restoration of the Great Mosque of Mopti in 2006 and has embarked on further restoration efforts. In India, it restored the gardens of Humayun’s Tomb and has since expanded its activities to the neighbouring Nizamuddin area.

AKHCP projects benefit from contributions provided by a variety of funding agencies, including the World Bank, the Getty Grant Program, the World Monuments Fund, the Ford Foundation and the Swiss, Swedish, Norwegian and German bilateral aid organisations, as well as others.
The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA) is dedicated to the study of Islamic architecture, visual arts, conservation, urban design and rehabilitation. It aims to improve the teaching of Islamic art and architecture, promote excellence in professional research and enhance the understanding of Islamic architecture and urbanism in light of contemporary developmental issues. It also represents an effort to respond to the cultural and educational needs of a diverse Muslim world while promoting the visibility of a common Islamic heritage.

Established in 1979, the Program is supported by an endowment from the Aga Khan. The endowment, which grew to US$ 58 million in 2001, supports professorships and programmes, at MIT and Harvard, which are focused on both historic and contemporary aspects of architecture and public spaces in Islamic societies.
www.ArchNet.org aims to become the most comprehensive archive of materials on architecture, urban design, urban development and related issues of concern to the Muslim world and those interested in it. Built on the combined collections of Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the website is a growing bank of online resources including photographs, publications, field trip reports, lecture symposia, journals and books.

Participants from around the world continually add to the bank of online resources. Seven partner schools at universities in Cairo, Beirut, Ankara, Amman, Karachi, Ahmedabad and Johor Bahru contribute to ArchNet through separate institutional workspaces. Several thousand individual members from 90 countries – the majority of whom are students of architecture – share their work with the community of ArchNet users. Small groups of students work together on projects addressing specific housing problems, such as post-earthquake and post-war reconstruction.
The Aga Khan Music Initiative in Central Asia was established by His Highness the Aga Khan in 2000 to help ensure the preservation of Central Asia’s musical heritage and its transmission to a new generation of artists and audiences. Music plays a vital role in the cultures of Central Eurasia and the Middle East, where it has traditionally served not only as entertainment, but as an expression of moral values and the power of community.

The Music Initiative’s long-term goals are to identify and support outstanding musical talent in its region of activity, cultivate new approaches to musical performance and pedagogy, and stimulate interest in Central Asian music worldwide. With headquarters in Geneva, the Initiative works with a network of local and regional coordinators in Central Asia and Western-based consultants to administer three primary programme areas: Supporting Tradition Bearers, Documentation and Dissemination, and International Music Touring. It also supports its own programme of publications, research and symposia on music in Central Asia, and collaborates with other AKDN agencies working in the domain of education and culture.

The Tradition Bearers Programme comprises a network of music schools and centres in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in which master musicians train disciples through the time-honoured process of apprenticeship known as ustâd shâgird. Revival of the ustâd shâgird system is intimately linked to the revitalisation of orally transmitted music itself.

In the USA, the Music Initiative has partnered with the Smithsonian Institution in a pioneering collaboration to produce “Music of Central Asia,” a ten-part CD-DVD anthology of Central Asian music traditions. The anthology
series documents the work of musicians who represent both a mastery of their own tradition and a contemporary spirit of innovation expressed through new approaches to performance style, repertory and technique.

The Music Initiative's international touring programme aims to acquaint worldwide audiences with the diversity and richness of Central Asia's musical heritage. Collaborations with a range of major festivals and arts-presenting organisations have produced concert programmes in which music is enhanced by theatrical scenography, documentary films and other multimedia components that help audiences broaden and deepen their understanding of culture in a region of great importance to the West.
MUSEUM SUPPORT UNIT

The Museum Support Unit coordinates the development of a number of museum and exhibition projects, including two ongoing museum projects in Cairo and Toronto.

The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto will be dedicated to the acquisition, preservation and display of artifacts relating to the intellectual, cultural, artistic and religious heritage of Islamic communities, past and present. It will include art collected by members of the Aga Khan family, including the world-famous collection of miniatures and manuscripts collected by the late Prince Sadruddin and his wife, Princess Catherine. The Museum will be a venue for major international exhibitions. Education and research services will have a prominent place, and the Museum will provide a forum for permanent exchanges between the Islamic and the Western worlds.

The Museum of Historic Cairo is being built adjacent to an “Urban Plaza” at the north end of Al-Azhar Park. The Park, built on a 30-hectare (74-acre) site that was once a rubble dump, is today a major attraction for tourists and Egyptians alike. The Museum, to be built close to the end of the twelfth century Ayyubid wall, will give visitors insight into the urban, cultural and architectural history of the heart of Cairo.

The Museum Support Unit also provides support services for museums in the developing world, including the National Museum of Mali, where it is helping upgrade information technology systems, improve the conservation facilities, reorganise the Museum’s reserve collections of archaeology and textiles, and assist with the construction and equipping of a new building earmarked for conservation and restoration work.
INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

AFGHANISTAN
Government of Afghanistan
Microfinance Investment Support Facility

AUSTRIA
Government of Austria

AUSTRALIA
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
Banking with the Poor Asia

CANADA
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Dundee Wealth Management
Focus Humanitarian Assistance Canada
The Globe and Mail
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
Northwater Capital Management Inc.
Scotiabank
Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta

CZECH REPUBLIC
Government of the Czech Republic
People in Need

DENMARK
Danish International Development Agency
Government of Denmark

EGYPT
Egyptian Swiss Development Fund
Government of Egypt

FINLAND
Government of Finland

FRANCE
Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
Alcatel
BNP Paribas
Bolloré Group
Bonduelle
Bouygues
Carnaud-Metalbox
Electricité de France
Société Générale
Société de Promotion et de Participation pour la Coopération Economique (PROPARCO)

GERMANY
Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG)
Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)
Government of Germany
ICOMOS, Germany
Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)

GREECE
Government of Greece

INDIA
Government of India
Governments of the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi
Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC)
Sir Ratan Tata Trust

JAPAN
Government of Japan
Japanese International Cooperation Agency
Japanese Social Development Fund (JSF)
AKDN AGENCIES MAINTAIN COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH A NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD, BOTH IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

AKDN AND ITS AGENCIES ACTIVELY SEEK TO COOPERATE WITH LIKE-MINDED INSTITUTIONS IN THE DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING OF INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. WITH THE HELP OF PROGRAMME PARTNERS, THEY SEEK TO DEMONSTRATE THAT FLEXIBLE, PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS, WITH CAREFULLY DEFINED OBJECTIVES, CAN MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELL-BEING OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE. THEY THEREFORE NEED AND WELCOME INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS PARTNERS TO ATTAIN SHARED OBJECTIVES.

KENYA
Government of Kenya
Rahimtulla Trust

KAZAKHSTAN
Government of Kazakhstan

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
Hukumat of Osh Oblast

MALAYSIA
Palm Oil Research Institute

MOZAMBIQUE
Government of Mozambique

THE NETHERLANDS
Bernard van Leer Foundation
Dutch Interchurch Aid (Stichting Oecumenische Hulp)
Government of The Netherlands
International Interchurch Organization for International Development Cooperation Nederlandse Financieringsmaatstappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden (FMO)
Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB)

NEW ZEALAND
Government of New Zealand

NORWAY
Government of Norway
Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD)
MTEC (The International Learning Cooperative Jofeisengt)

PAKISTAN
Government of Pakistan
Governments of the North West Frontier Province and of Balochistan and Sindh
Family Planning Association of Pakistan
HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry
Pakistan Microfinance Network
Pakistan Science Foundation
Pakistan Medical Research Council

PHILIPPINES
De La Salle University

PORTUGAL
Gulbenkian Foundation
International Medical Assistance Foundation - Portugal (AMI)
Portuguese Development Agency (APAD)

SPAIN
Government of Spain

SWEDEN
Asea Brown Boveri (ABB)
Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

SWITZERLAND
Canton of Geneva
Government of Swiss Confederation
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

SYRIA
Government of Syria
Department of Antiquities
Municipality of Aleppo
Municipality of Masaf