



## TOKTEN

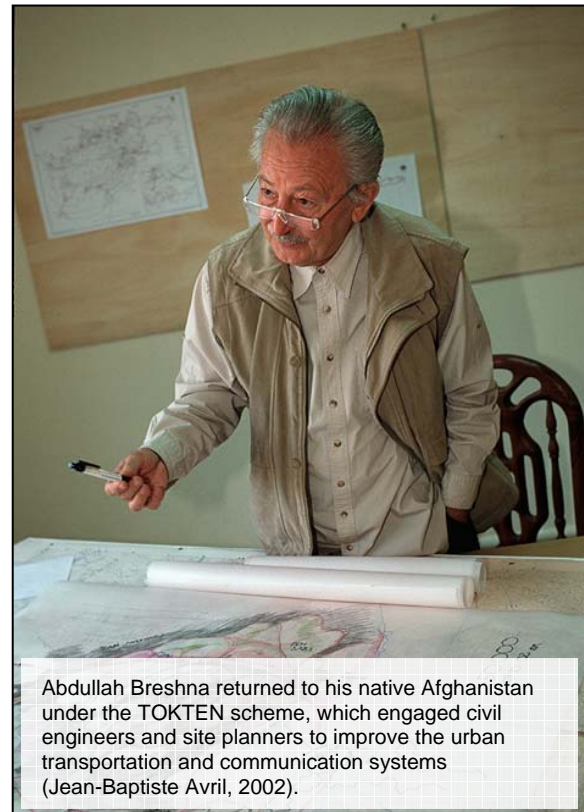
### TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE THROUGH EXPATRIATE NATIONALS

Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) was initiated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1977 as a means to counter the exodus of developing country professionals.

TOKTEN experts provide short-term advisory services in priority areas identified by the host governments. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development administered the TOKTEN programme until 1994. Since then, the programme has come under the umbrella of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme.

TOKTEN experts are professionally skilled individuals, highly motivated to serve their homelands. They are selected through a decentralized process of supply and demand. Governments, in collaboration with UNDP country offices, identify needs and design TOKTEN projects to suit their specific requirements, matching them with available TOKTEN experts from rosters kept by UNV and UNDP. Candidates are screened by national committees comprising representatives of governments, local organizations, the private sector and UNDP.

Securing the services of TOKTEN experts is often faster than for commercial consultancies. Their knowledge of the country frequently results in the identification of special needs that might otherwise have been ignored, and their cultural and linguistic skills facilitate the transfer of technology and pave the way for more permanent relationships. Many maintain their contacts with national counterparts, share literature, donate equipment and arrange for postgraduate training and study missions to



the overseas institutions with which they are affiliated. In general, assignments under TOKTEN are short-term advisory services for up to three months. In exceptional cases they can extend up to six months.

These experts cover a wide variety of highly specialized technical fields, which include accounting, agriculture, banking, civil engineering, computer science, economics, environmental protection, food processing, geology and mining, geothermal and reservoir engineering, industrial hygiene and safety, marine biology, manufacturing and marketing, medical and public health services, patents licensing, poultry breeding, telecommunications, urban planning and water resources development.



## Successful TOKTEN initiatives

The concept behind TOKTEN is strongly linked to volunteerism; skilled professionals with strong motivations make contributions to enhancing development. UNV manages volunteer assignments under the TOKTEN initiative within the framework of UN projects. It has also directly managed a TOKTEN initiative in Afghanistan.

The TOKTEN programme was launched in Afghanistan by UNDP following the Bonn Peace Agreement in December 2001. From 2002 to 2006, 38 TOKTEN volunteers supported national capacity-building efforts of the Afghan Interim Administration and the successor government.

UNV promotes the integration of volunteering into the objectives and activities of partners such as governments and development organizations, in order to facilitate national ownership of development processes.



Helping aviation soar in the Palestinian Territories, several of the nine TOKTEN consultants UNDP/PAPP provided to meet the technical assistance needs of the PA Civil Aviation Authority examine the control tower of Gaza International Airport (UNDP, 2000).

### Contacts:

United Nations Volunteers  
Postfach 260 111, D-53153 Bonn, Germany  
Telephone: (49 228) 815 2000  
Fax: (49 228) 815 2001  
Email: [hq@unvolunteers.org](mailto:hq@unvolunteers.org)

In this spirit, the management of TOKTEN has been decentralized in several countries, including China, Palestine, Lebanon, Viet Nam, Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Senegal and Bosnia & Herzegovina. Here, TOKTEN projects are implemented by UNDP/UNV, government counterparts and other UN agencies.

In the occupied Palestinian territory, more than 500 experts have contributed through the TOKTEN scheme since its establishment in 1994. The TOKTEN experts have contributed in the realms of medicine, computer and information technology, city planning, university curriculum development and academic networking, the upgrading of film and television capacities, and cultural preservation.

## About United Nations Volunteers

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

Volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges, and it can transform the pace and nature of development.

Volunteerism benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer by strengthening trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens, and by purposefully creating opportunities for participation. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for recognition of volunteers, working with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of volunteers, including experienced UNV volunteers, throughout the world. UNV embraces volunteerism as universal and inclusive, and recognizes volunteerism in its diversity as well as the values that sustain it: free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity.

For more information, please visit [www.unvolunteers.org](http://www.unvolunteers.org)