

KARAKORUM TRUST

GARNET Activities:

1) Training

Component 1: The initial training component was carried out thanks to collaboration of the Italian Gemological Institute (IGI). Ten KIU graduates were selected to take part in a 300 hour training program in Italy which focused on analysis of colored gemstones. Training was conducted on identification of minerals and gemstones, optics, crystallography, chemical properties of colored gemstones and the use of the basic equipment for gemological analysis. All ten participants received an IGI Diploma in Gemological Analysis. The participants were then introduced to the cutting of colored gemstones in a 90 hour training course.

Component 2: New professional skills will be created in Pakistan, as the 10 individuals trained in Italy will in turn begin training programs to the benefit of new KIU graduates.

>> **RESULT:** Added value to the Northern Areas' mineral resources through creation of a team of internationally trained local staff competent in cutting raw material and in analyzing raw and processed gemstones.

2) Laboratory Establishment

Thanks to the generous contribution of workrooms, furnishings and energy provided by the KIU, two laboratories for (1) gemological analysis and (2) colored gemstone cutting have been established in Gilgit on the KIU campus, under the supervision of a skilled technician designated by the Ev-K2-CNR Committee.

>> **RESULT:** Development of potential for local livelihoods in the Northern Areas' through establishment of new professional facilities for cutting and analysis of gemstones.

3) Product Distribution and Gemstone Commercialization
Pakistan is the world's fifth biggest producer of raw gemstones, most of which are commercialized nationally. Only a small percentage of Pakistani gemstone resources directly reach the international market. **GARNET** aims at improving the quality of locally produced gem products to ensure their competitiveness on the international market.

A start-up phase for product distribution on local and foreign markets will be implemented once the laboratories are fully operational. Experts in international commerce involved by Ev-K2-CNR will help oversee the process.

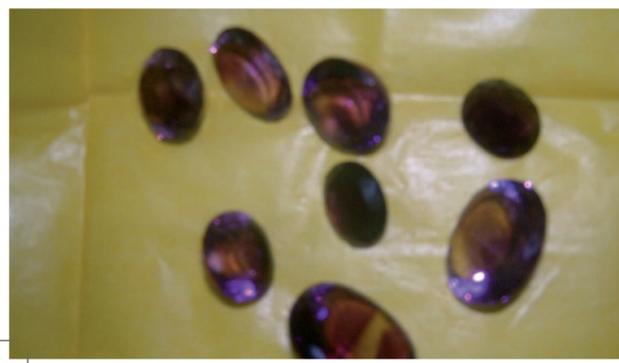
>> **RESULT:** Gemstones produced at the GARNET labs by internationally trained professionals meet global jewelry wholesale and retail standards and are able to significantly penetrate the global market.

4) Sustainability

All profits deriving from **GARNET** and possible related future business ventures will be reinvested locally in improving the technical and professional base, the laboratory facilities and KIU's scientific and academic resources in pertinent fields.

>> **RESULT:** A stable, self-sustaining mechanism is established ensuring development of professional capacity and new livelihoods in Pakistan's Northern Areas.

The gemstones pictured were cut at the GARNET laboratory, KIU.



GARNET

Gemstone Analysis & Research NETWORK

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Training Program in Cutting and Gemological Analysis of Colored Gemstones.

Creation of a Training Centre and a Cutting Laboratory in the Northern Areas of Pakistan

The **GARNET** program is part of the **Karakorum Trust** development cooperation project which aims at improving the quality of life; conserving environmental, architectural and cultural heritage; and promoting sustainable economic development in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, in respect of the local populations and in compliance with international work regulations.

Karakorum Trust is unique for its multidisciplinary approach to development cooperation. A primary example is represented by the participation of the **Karakorum International University (KIU)**, Gilgit: the source of the Northern Area's entrepreneurial, cultural and political future. Tomorrow's generations will be better equipped to sustainably administer their complex mountainous region, thanks to the heritage they will inherit from today's cooperation investments.

In particular, scientific research and development initiatives will help promote technology-based business ventures. The **GARNET** Training Program in Cutting and Gemological Analysis of Colored Gemstones and the Creation of a Training Centre and a Cutting Laboratory in the Northern Areas of Pakistan has precisely this objective. In detail, through **GARNET**:

- skilled gemologists will be locally trained;
- colored gemstones will be locally cut and analyzed;
- a network for national and international market distribution of quality cut gemstones will be developed;

This commercial venture is founded on Pakistan's enormous potentials regarding the presumed quantity and quality of its raw mineral materials, as well as on the possibilities offered by the current market. The gemological

training program being set up within the KIU is the first of its kind in an area where Pakistan's greatest gemstone deposits are found. The choice to build the capacity of the local human resources is an innovative element of the program which will ensure that profits from sales benefit the local populations. Not only will returns be reinvested in the training and gemstone cutting laboratory, but pertinent academic departments will be developed within the University to stimulate scientific research and local entrepreneurship more in general. Furthermore, development of the gemological market in Pakistan's Northern Areas will potentially contribute a much needed regulation of exploration and extraction of mineral resources, thus increasing safety and reducing negative environmental impacts.

