

H.E. OMAR SAMAD
AMBASSADOR OF AFGHANISTAN TO CANADA
BIO

H.E. Omar SAMAD took up his posting as Afghan Ambassador to Canada in September 2004. Prior to that, he was the Spokesperson for the Ministry Foreign Affairs and Director General of the Information Division between 2002 and 2004.

Born in Kabul in 1961, he attended primary and secondary schooling in Paris, at the French Lycee in London, and at the French-Afghan Lycee in Kabul. He left Afghanistan in 1979 following the Communist coup d'Etat and settled in the United States.

Mr. Samad initially studied Computer Science and later pursued a degree in Communications and International Relations at the American University in Washington D.C, where he earned a degree in 1991. He later pursued a Master's degree in International Transactions at George Mason University. He is currently completing a Global Master's program at Tufts University's Fletcher School as part of a fellowship.

Mr. Samad worked in the field of Information Technology from 1981 to 2001 and also worked in the media with ABC News and later as a freelance television and radio producer. In 2001, he became an international media commentator and analyst on Afghanistan and covered the Bonn Conference on Afghanistan in 2001 for CNN prior to his return to his homeland.

Amb. Samad represented Afghanistan at the 11th. UN Conference on Climate Change in Montreal in December 2005. He has been an official member of Afghan delegations to numerous major international conferences, including the Afghanistan Reconstruction conferences in Tokyo (2002) and Berlin (2004), UN General Assembly sessions (2002, 2003), Non-aligned Movement and Organization of Islamic Countries summit meetings, and to special G-8, Atlantic Council, European Union, European Parliament, UNESCO and UN Human Rights Commission meetings among others. He represented the Foreign Ministry in the Tripartite Commission on security between the United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan (2003-2004).

Mr. Samad is married and is fluent in French and English.