



H.E. ISHAQ SHAHRYAR
Afghan Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of Afghanistan
Washington. D.C.



BIOGRAPHY

To represent the Afghan nation before the United States government after 23 years of war, destruction and terrorism, Afghan President Hamid Karzai turned to a renown high-tech inventor and seasoned entrepreneur to take a leadership role in guiding the massive reconstruction efforts that lie ahead.

His Excellency Ishaq Shahryar presented his credentials as Afghanistan's Ambassador to the United States to President George W. Bush at a White House ceremony on June 19 2002. Ambassador Shahryar is the first recognized Afghan Ambassador to the United States since 1978.

Throughout his accomplished career as a solar energy scientist, Ambassador Shahryar remained personally involved in his country's political and diplomatic evolution. An advisor to former Afghan King Zahir Shah for five years, Ishaq Shahryar was a key participant in the Bonn Accord negotiations last year that formed the Interim Administration. In 1994, he was named to the U.S. Presidential Mission on Sustainable Energy and Trade to India and has acted as an advisor to numerous trade and environmental groups in the United States and abroad.

Called the "Sun King" by a British science magazine, Ambassador Shahryar was one of the three scientists who invented low-cost solar (photovoltaic) cells in 1972 and developed the process for modern day screen-printing (or mass-producing) of cells used in solar energy panels. He was instrumental in the development of ultraviolet sensitive solar cells for the Jupiter Project for NASA. In 1993, he was awarded U.S. patent rights for a 20% efficient silicon solar cell. His latest patent is pending for a new solar cell that will reduce the cost of solar cells by 50 percent.

He founded Solec International, one of the world's leading manufacturers of solar electric technology, and Solar Utility Company, a solar cell engineering, design, marketing and installation company.

"My role is to help Afghanistan enter the 21st Century," Ambassador Shahryar says. "It's my mission to take my business skills and help revolutionize the Afghan economy."

Ambassador Shahryar was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1936, emigrating to the United States in 1956. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Chemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1961 and a Masters of Arts degree in International Relations from University of California at Santa Barbara in 1967. Until he was named to his diplomatic post, Ambassador Shahryar resided in Southern California with his wife Hafizah and their two children.