

Annual US - Afghanistan

11TH

BUSINESS MATCH MAKING CONFERENCE

ANNIVERSARY

December 8 - 10, 2015 | Washington D.C

Largest and Longest Running Business Conference on Afghanistan

"The National Unity Government's commitments and the efforts of His Excellency President Ghani and his government has made during last 10 months, despite the ongoing insecurity and political challenges, keep the private sector hopeful regarding the prospect of the business environment reforms." Atiqullah Nusrat CEO of ACCI while addressing SOM.





Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce presents...

11TH BUSINESS MATCHMAKING CONFERENCE

Largest and Longest Running Business Conference on Afghanistan

ANNUAL

DECEMBER 8, 9, AND 10, 2015 - WASHINGTON, DC

Agriculture | ICT | Women & Economy | Mining & Natural Resources | Access to Capital

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DATE • LOCATION • CONTACT

Welcoming & Networking Reception

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

JW Marriott Washington, D.C. Hotel

First Day:

Industry Sector Panel Discussions and Keynote Speakers; Trade Fair; and "One-on-One" Private Networking Sessions
Wednesday, December 9, 2015

8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center

Mix & Mingle/AACC Award Reception

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

6:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.

JW Marriott Washington, D.C. Hotel

Second Day:

Industry Sector Panel Discussions and Keynote Speakers; Trade Fair; and "One-on-One" Private Networking Sessions
Thursday, December 10, 2015

8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center

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Province: Balkh



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Company: Ahmad Rashed Rahmani Ltd
Province: Parwan



Head of Oil & Gas Committee

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Company: Afghan Petrol Group
Province: Faryab



Member

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Province: Ghazni



Member

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Province: Badghis



Member

Name: Khairudin Mayel
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Member

Name: Dr Faraidon Noorzad
Company: Maiwand Bank
Province: Kabul



Member

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Province: Kunduz



Member

Name: Mohammad Ibrahim Zarif
Company: Aref Zarif Ltd.
Province: Pakhtia



Member

Name: Nezamuddin Tajzada
Company: Etihad Aftab Co.
Province: Nangarhar



Member

Name: Dr. Jamaluddin Ishaq
Company: Iraa Ishaq Construction Co.
Province: Kunarha



Member

Name: Mohammad Latif Qanavizian
Company: Super Cola Beverage Co.
Province: Herat



Member

Name: Latif Khan Zhwandai
Company: Zamindar Group Co.
Province: Khost

Board of Directors is responsible for the following activities

- Oversee the management and operations of the Chamber in accordance with the policies and by-laws of the Chamber and government regulations.
- Representing the interests of the wider membership towards government through participation in committees like the Economic Council of the Cabinet and the Houses of Parliament.



Message from ACCI

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), would like to welcome all of you to the 11th Annual U.S – AFGHANISTAN BUSINESS MATCHMAKING CONFERENCE.

This occasion is a collaborative endeavor of both the Afghan American Chamber of Commerce and the ACCI. We thank AACC for its efforts, which has expended to put on this meaningful gathering.

We would like to congratulate the 11th anniversary of BMCs, especially to those who have tirelessly attempted in organizing business networks between Afghan and American businesspeople over the past decade. Hopefully, both chambers will be facilitating further investment and business opportunities for the business communities of both nations.

We view the United States as a key partner to realize our economic aspirations. An event such as this one, bringing private sector representatives of both countries together will provide the opportunity to expand bilateral business relations, affirm our commitment to a free market economy driven by private sector dynamism and entrepreneurship.

We do believe the BMCs can act as an important platform for the exchange of information and ideas and lead to positive, mutually beneficial outcomes.

Ultimately, economic gains for Afghanistan must translate to social progress for our people, for our people to be afforded the opportunity to earn a legal wage, and to fully reclaim our dignity and self-respect, a fundamental human entitlement. That we have arrived at this moment, today, is because of our belief in this ideal, and ideal that is deeply embedded in the value of the American people.

In closing, once again thank all of you for taking the time to attend this conference; again, let us express our gratitude to ACCI colleagues and our valued and esteemed partner, AACC.

Looking forward to a successful three days and thereafter.

Sincerely

*Board of Directors
Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries*

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Atiqullah Nusrat
CEO, ACCI

About ACCI

Background

Afghanistan is a country with untapped business opportunities and great potential. It has a number of comparative advantages that can be turned into competitiveness, given the right support and strategic direction. The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) fully embraces this ideal and is in the process to make it a reality. In order to live up to its vision, the chamber represents the interests of the private sector and provides services to its 250000 members including direct ACCI's members (3500 companies) and also members of 164 business association, union and cooperative organizations, as indirect members. Therefore ACCI represents more than 90 percent of the workforce in Afghanistan. These activities are conducted countrywide through ACCI's Headquarter in Kabul and 23 branches in the provinces.

In serving the private sector, the chamber looks back on a long history, which started 83 years ago. For the first time in 1931, Afghan traders established Commercial Arbitration Association to integrate their business activities and also defend their rights. Later on this organization was transformed into the chamber of commerce and industries to promote domestic production and trade in all provinces. In the beginning of the millennium the former state controlled chamber made a dynamic leap forward. The chamber law of 2009 ensured that the ACCI is an independent and democratic organization. This approach allows for close co-operation between the public and private sectors and enables the creation of a self-regulated business sector throughout the country.

The ACCI is on the firm belief that the improvement of the enabling environment for doing business is a shared concern of all stakeholders. ACCI provides the following services:

Advocacy and Interest Representation:

The chamber law mandates the ACCI as the leading voice of the private sector to represent domestic and foreign companies in all matters pertaining a conducive environment. Therefore, the chamber implements a wide range of activities through the Department of Government Relations and Policy, which is in direct contact with the relevant government and non-government agencies. Every year, the chamber organizes special meetings with the President of Afghanistan and participates in economic committees to draft new business related laws and revise old ones.

International Affairs:

During the past decade, Afghan business community has been encouraged to expand their economic activities outside the country. For these companies the ACCI provides a gateway to foreign markets by organising matchmaking conferences, exhibitions and fairs. The International Department thereby is aware that businesses need favourable conditions and closely collaborates with international, foreign and national organisations to reach this objective. The chamber is represented in the developed and emerging markets through its twelve business councils, which connect the Afghan business community with the outside world. Among the target markets are the neighbouring countries, Middle and Near East, Europe and the USA.

Industry and Export Promotion:

Compared with volumes in trade and imports the Afghan export sector remains small. In the field of export development the ACCI provides a range of services to Afghan traders through the Industry and Export Promotion Department. Among them are the following: preparation and issuing the Certificate of Origin, registering business invoices, offering necessary advice and cooperating in removing trade obstacles inside and outside the country. Since the past five years, ACCI has issued 123,500 invoices and 26,220 certificate of origin for Afghan exporters. Furthermore, the chamber supports entrepreneurs to introduce international standards for quality assurance and packaging.

Business Development Services:

The ACCI provides information and guidance to build the foundation for business success. In close cooperation with public and private agencies ACCI supports enterprises and associations to introduce modern management tools. The trainings in areas like business planning, accounting and procurement enable companies to benefit from the growing business opportunities in Afghanistan and worldwide. BDS Department provides opportunity for businesses to access local tenders through www.kabul-tenders.org. Additionally, the department provides reliable and accurate business information from national and international organizations across an array of sectors and provinces, and also provides webinar business conferences with traders overseas through Business Communication Hub in ACCI.

Legal Services and Arbitration Department:

Private entrepreneurs often face disagreements and conflict in enforcing and interpreting the provisions of contracts. The resolution of such conflicts through legal and judiciary channels is complex and time consuming. According to 8th provision of Law on ACCI, the Chamber provides arbitration services to private sector by “Arbitration and Legal Services Department”. This department has received more than 100 cases of commercial dispute during 2012 and 2013 and even resolved in some cases. In addition, the chamber provides advice in other juridical issues ranging from business registration to tax declaration.

It's worth noting that ACCI in financial support from HAKARAT (Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility Organization) has recently established the Afghanistan Commercial Dispute Resolution Centre (ACDR) aims to institutionalize commercial dispute resolution and mediation for the private sector that commercial disputes to be resolved faster and at lower costs.

ACCI Sector Committees:

- 1- Export Committee
- 2- Import Committee
- 3- Industries Committee
- 4- Mines Committee
- 5- Businesswomen Committee
- 6- Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Products Committee
- 7- Transport and Transit Committee
- 8- Construction Committee
- 9- Medicine and Medical Equipment Committee
- 10- Oil and Gas Committee
- 11- Media Committee
- 12- Marble and Granite Committee
- 13- Tourism and Hajj Committee
- 14- Health Committee
- 15- Education Committee
- 16- Carpet Production Committee
- 17- International Affairs Committee
- 18- Business Development Services Committee
- 19- Craftsmen Committee
- 20- Banking Services Committee
- 21- Currency Exchange Committee
- 22- Airlines and Cargo Committee
- 23- Higher Education Committee
- 24- Protecting of Consumers' Rights Committee
- 25- Norm and Standard Committee

Provincial Chambers



■ ACCI's Active Provincial Chambers

Joint Chambers & Business Councils



Afghan Business Council in Dubai



Netherlands-Afghanistan Business Council (NAfBC)



Afghan Business Centre in Moscow



Afghan-Turk Business Council



CANADA-AFGHANISTAN BUSINESS COUNCIL



Herat-Mashad Joint Chambers of Commerce



Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chambers of Commerce



Afghan - Australia Business Council



International Partners

International Organization



Foreign Chambers



ACCI is member of



Domestic Partners



Major ACCI's Accomplishments, 2015

ACCI Announces the Summer Business Tendency Survey Results

Wednesday 4 November 2015

The business condition has declined for the third consecutive seasons this year. The steeply down-slide of the business climate indicator since the beginning of this year shows that the business people are increasingly concerned for their business climates.

For the first time in our surveys none of the provinces has a positive business climate indicator. And all sectors, including the manufacturing have extremely suffered during last three months.

According to this survey majority of the surveyed companies said that they hired fewer people than three months ago.

Security condition has also deteriorated across the regions & the call for administrative reforms has gradually increased in recent surveys.

This survey covers sample sizes from trade, manufacturing, construction and service sectors in Kabul, Balkh, Kandahar, Nangarhar and Herat regions.



1st Afghan – Turk Business Matchmaking Conference Held in Istanbul

Thursday, 22 October 2015

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) and Afghan Business Association in Turkey (AIAD) in collaboration with other business organizations of both countries organized the First Afghan-Turk Business Matchmaking Conference on 21 - 22 October 2015 in Gorrion Hotel, Istanbul Turkey.

The purpose of this Conference was to encourage the business and investment opportunities in Afghanistan and to give ample information to Turkish entrepreneurs on greater potentials in various sectors of the Afghan economy. The Conference specifically looked to promote Afghanistan as a viable and realistic destination for Turkish businesses and explore the tremendous business opportunities exist in Agriculture, Mines, Construction, Health, Education, Energy, Infrastructure and different other sectors.

The Cooperation Agreement between Karwan University of Afghanistan and Kastamonu University of Turkey was signed as part of the event.



Foundation Stone laid for the Biggest Iron Melting Factory in Afghanistan

Wednesday, 21 October 2015

Foundation stone was laid for Khan Steel Iron Melting Factory in Industrial Park of Kabul during a grand opening ceremony with participation of high ranking officials from government and ACCI's leadership.

This factory is being established with an investment of 25 million dollars in 15 acres of land. The factory will start its operation by upcoming six months with an annual production capacity of 120000 tons, and according to estimations it will create 600 job opportunities directly and indirectly.



ACCI Condemns Imposing Restriction on Issuance of Road Pass Permits for Afghan Trucks

Sunday, 18 October 2015

The beginning of autumn season is coincide with harvests of fresh fruits and their export to foreign countries. Traders, specially, exporters of fresh fruits have always been complaining about the hurdles being created by Pakistani government at this season of the year. Once again, it has been over a week since more than 300 Afghan export trucks, carrying a verity of goods including fresh fruits, have been stopped in Torkham port due to non-issuance of Road Passes by Pakistani embassy in Kabul.

Officials of transporting vehicles' owners association says, those vehicle which's road pass validation date is expired and want to renew their vehicles permits or those who wants to obtain new permits, Pakistan embassy do not issue any Road Pass license to them.

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), in order to broadly advocate and publicize the issue to relevant governmental authorities, organized a press conference which was attended by First Mr. Khanjan Alkozay First Vice Chairman, Mr. Baz Mohammad Baz Vice-Chairman for Industry and Mr. Abdul Qadir Bahman Deputy CEO for Policy Affairs, members of transportation company's unions and associations on 18 October 2015.



Preliminary Session of 11th Annual (BMC)

Tuesday, 06 October 2015

The Afghan - American Chamber of Commerce (AACC), supported by its sister organizations, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), the Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA), AmCham, AISA (Afghanistan Investment Support Agency), and other Afghan business-related entities organized a preliminary session for the 11th Anniversary BMC (U.S. - Afghanistan Business Matchmaking Conference) on 6 October at Safi Landmark Hotel, Kabul. The 11th Annual 'BMC' is to be held on 8 - 10 December, 2015 in Washington D.C, U.S.A.

AACC have been organizing BMCs annually in Washington D.C since 2005. The BMC aims to facilitate promotion of business-to-business relationships, which serve as the cornerstone of investment and trade between the U.S. and Afghanistan. It is has made key contributions to achieving stability in Afghanistan. The 10th Annual BMC took place on 9 - 11 December 2014 and around 150 Afghan businesses from Afghanistan or Afghan residents in UAE, Russia, Canada and EU attended the event.



ACCI Extends its Full Support in Organizing SAEC, 2015 in New Delhi

Wednesday, 30 September 2015

South Asia Economic Conclave (SAEC) as a joint initiative by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), World Bank Group, national chambers of commerce of member countries and similar association was held on 28 – 30 September 2015 in New Delhi, India.

The objective of this forum was to stimulate informed dialogue between the private sector and governments to promote regional trade and investment, which would in turn help catalyze higher growth and new job opportunities for all countries in South Asia.

ACCI extended its fully support to CCI in organizing SAEC and introduced representatives from Afghan government and private sector to attend the panel discussions and share out their commitments, experiences and proposals toward the deeper regional economic integration in South Asia.



ACCI Presents Private Sector Priorities for Reform in SOM

Saturday, 05 September 2015

The Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Afghanistan held in Kabul on Saturday 5 September 2015, where the Afghan officials briefed representatives of the international community attending the meeting on a number of areas it has worked on such as good governance, fighting corruption, protection of human rights, women empowerment and economic development.

Mr. Atiqullah Nusrat, CEO of ACCI, while representing Afghan private sector, extended the best wishes of the Afghan private sector to the participants of this important conference and termed this event the international communities' commitment for facilitating the utilization of economic opportunities of Afghanistan.

On behalf of the Afghan private sector, ACCI and Harakat presented a list of short term reforms that will not need much time and resources, but will send a positive signal to investors and the business community as concrete steps to improve the business environment.



1st International Construction & Food Exhibition in Kabul

Tuesday, 25 August 2015

Kabul Green Exhibition Management Company in cooperation with Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) organized the 1st International Construction Materials and Food Products Expo from 25 – 28 August 2015 at Mumtaz Mahal Hall, Kabul. In this exhibition various companies from different countries such as Turkey, Iran, Germany and Afghanistan

showcased their constructional material and food products by 55 booths.



Roundtable and Workshop on - Facilitation of International Transport and Transit in Afghanistan

Wednesday, 26 August 2015

ACCI, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation and International Transport Road Union (IRU) jointly organized the Roundtable on “Facilitation of International Transport and Transit in Afghanistan” and the Workshops on the CMR Convention and the ADR Agreement in coordination with (ECO) Economic Cooperation Organization on 23 – 25 August 2015 in Kabul. On August 23 ACCI and IRU organized the roundtable, which was focused on major internal and external challenges faced on the way of implementing TIR in Afghanistan. The roundtable was attended by Afghan custom department officials, Afghan police border officials, EU and ADB representatives, Turkish Custom representatives, representatives from Tajikistan Transport Association (ABBAT) and Ministry of Transport and transport companies.

Since 1983, Afghanistan has been member of IRU. But, due to local unrests in the past decade, Afghanistan has not utilized the international transit system efficiently.



ACCI Announces the result of 7th Business Tendency Survey

Tuesday, 04 August 2015

7th ACCI Business Tendency Survey reveals that the business condition has extremely deteriorated during last three months & the comparison of the last three surveys shows that the enthusiasm created after the establishment of the National Unity Government is fading. Balkh and Nangarhar enjoys comparatively better business condition compared to Herat, Kabul and Kandahar.

Manufacturing remains confident while construction, trade and services have extremely suffered during last three months.

The survey shows that Majority of the surveyed companies say that they hire fewer people than three months ago & Security condition has deteriorated across the regions. The call for administrative reforms has gradually increased in last four surveys and for the first time it is ranked more urgent than infrastructural developments. This survey covers sample sizes from trade, manufacturing, construction and service sectors in Kabul, Balkh, Kandahar, Nangarhar and Herat regions.

ACCI released the 7th Business Tendency Survey on 4 August 2015 with presentation of Mr. Humayoon Rasaw, Minister of Commerce and Industries, Mr. Abdul Sattar Murad, Minister of Economy, Mr. Khalil Sediq, Governor of the Central Bank and Mr. Gul Maqsood Sabet, Deputy Minister of Finance and 150 representatives of private sector from different sectors specially who have taken part in the survey.

Representatives of private sector had opportunity to openly dialogue and to share out the challenges facing their businesses over the past ten months. In sector-wise, each after another spoke about access to land, access to finance, high price of power, swayed power in industrial parks, Pakistan has already increased custom tariff on Afghan fresh fruits, extortion by local powers in high ways, transport obstacles in Pakistan, non-transparent taxation system, banking bureaucratic system and lack of control on imported medicines.



Afghanistan Center for Dispute Resolution is Now Open for Businesses

Tuesday, 30 June 2015

The Afghanistan Center for Commercial Dispute Resolution (ACDR) welcomed more than 120 participants at its Inauguration and ribbon-cutting ceremony held on Tuesday, June 30, 2015. ACDR, based in Kabul, is the first center of its profile in Afghanistan, which has started to provide domestic, and international mediation services, calculation services (and will provide arbitration services in the near future) for commercial disputes in Afghanistan.

ACDR is a new center for dispute resolution initiated by Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), and funded by Harakat – Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility Organization (AICFO) with the technical assistance of ADR Center. ACDR, which is based in Kabul will provide a rapid, professional and transparent alternative method of dispute resolution. The aim of the ACDR is to attract and maintain business and commercial enterprises to the country by providing dispute resolution that is fast, fair, cost-effective and reliable.



Formation of Afghanistan - India Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Wednesday, 29 April 2015

The business community of Afghanistan and India feels the need for creation of a joint private sector body in the form of a joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry to strengthen bilateral economic relations in all its aspects.

In accordance with this objective, The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries (ACCI) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) have agreed to set up an Afghanistan-India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IACCI) to provide a common officially recognized platform at the apex level for promotion of economic activities between businessmen and industrialists of the two countries.

The objective of this Chamber are to further the development of bilateral economic relations by providing a regular forum for businessmen of both countries to meet, discuss and explore business opportunities in trade, investment, transfer of technology and furtherance of all other economic activities. It will also be the platform for business/Government interaction in the respective countries.

Mr. Khan Jan Alkozai, Senior Vice-Chairman of ACCI and Mrs. Jyotsna Suri, President of FICCI signed the MoU in parallel of visiting of H. E. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani to India and his meeting with business community of two countries on 29 April 2015 at Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi.

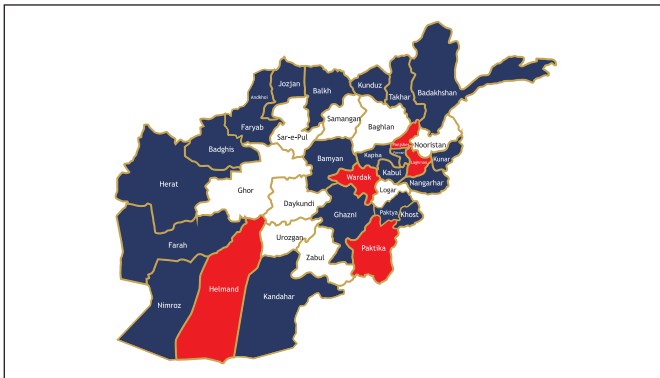


ACCI Establishes Four New Provincial Chambers

Thursday, 21 May 2015

Based on Article No. 6 of ACCI's law and according to decision of ACCI's board of directors, ACCI has recently established four provincial chambers, in Panjshir province on 21 May in Maidan Wardak province on 14 March, in Helmand province on 21 February and in Laghman province on 1 February 2015

The provincial chambers started their operations, with a number of members from various sectors, during glorious opening ceremonies which were mostly attended by High ranking governmental officials, governors, parliamentarians, and ACCI's leadership.



Meeting of ACCI with President

Saturday, 25 April 2015

ACCI met H.E. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on 25 April 2015 again following the previous meetings with His Excellency on 18 April 2015 and the Hearing with Senior Economic Advisor to President and other sectorial officials on 20 April 2015 where major challenges facing businesses were addressed and ACCI presented new proposals to government.

Mr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal, Senior Economic Advisor to President explained results of the Hearing and said that current situation of labs in customs are not satisfactory and government needs to take serious decision either manage them well or privatize all. He mentioned interest of private sector to create private labs in three segments.

1) Oil and its derivatives 2) electronic equipment and

construction materials and 3) agribusiness, food and sanitary products.

H.E. President underlined that he is not also satisfied neither current situation of labs nor capacity of ANSA to manage them. "ANSA is only authority to manage all labs in county, but unfortunately the office needs comprehensive capacity building itself." He said:

Therefore, he ordered ANSA to make the proposal of privatization of labs comprehensively and then present to the Cabinet to get final approval. He pointed out that private companies can apply for private labs in term of condition that must be certified by ISO first.



5th Afghan – Turk International Expo in Kabul

Tuesday, 21 April 2015

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) and Afghan – Turkish Industrialists & Traders Association (ATSIAD) jointly organized the 5th Afghan – Turk International Expo on 21 – 24 April 2015 in Kabul in following four previous exhibitions.

The Exhibition aimed to boost business relationship between two countries, find market for Afghan and Turkish quality products, raise awareness of Turkish investors on current market and investment circumstance in Afghanistan and also persuade Afghan policymakers to pave investment attraction needs.

26 Afghan and 34 Turkish companies showcased their products in 84 booths by Four days, which included electronic equipment, construction materials, furniture, foods, cloths, internal decoration and cosmetics.



ACCI's Leadership Meets with Chief Minister of Khaibar Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan

Wednesday, 15 April 2015

The leadership of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries met with a high ranking delegation of Pakistani officials, led by H.E. Parwiz Khatak, Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa State of Pakistan, and discussed on bilateral issues and way to solve the existing challenges facing trade and transit of two countries. Where both sides purposed their practical solutions to resolve the ongoing disputes.

This meeting was organized in Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 15 April 2015, and was attended by Mr. Khanjan Alkozay, Senior Vice-Chairman, Mr. Mohammad Yonus Momand Commercial Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ismael Ghazafar Board Member, Mr. Sadullah Haqyar, Head of Secretariat, Mr. Nezamudding Taj Zada Board Member and Mr. Abdul Qadir Bahman, Deputy CEO of ACCI.



Meeting of ACCI with Pakistani Commerce Minister

Tuesday, 14 April 2015

ACCI organized a Dinner Reception in honor of H. E. Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Pakistani Minister of Commerce of Industry and his deputies, President of Rawalpindi Chamber and also Pakistani Commercial Attaché to Afghanistan on 14 April 2015 in Kabul Star Hotel.

ACCI aimed to address what Afghan traders are facing the existing barriers at APTTA and urge Pakistani Government to simplify the transit agreement. Afghan traders pointed out their comments and complains in a free dialogue to the delegation.

In additional ACCI's leadership, Mr. Muzamel Shiwanri, Acting-Minister of Commerce and Industries also attended the dinner reception.



3rd Made in Pakistan Exhibition in Kabul

Wednesday, 15 April 2015

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industries with support from Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), Pak – Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PAJCCI) and Kabul Chamber of Commerce and Industries organized “3rd Made in Pakistan Exhibition” from 15 – 17 April 2015 at Intercontinental Hotel of Kabul.

40 Pakistani companies showcased their products in 60 booths by three days, which includes Electronic equipment, paints and chemicals, energy, printing industry, furniture, carpets, foods, handy crafts, leather industry, safety devices, semi-precious stones, machinery, plastic,

services, communication, vehicle spare parts, cloths, internal decor, hygienic and cosmetics, cloths, Drugs, meat and eggs.



Deputy CEO of ACCI Attends the 62nd Executive Committee Meeting and 20th General Assembly of SAARC CCI

Tuesday, 10 March 2015

The 62nd Executive Committee Meeting and 20th General Assembly of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SAARC CCI) held in joint session on 10th March 2015 at New Delhi, India under the Chairmanship of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, Senior Vice President of SAARC CCI.

Senior Vice President SAARC CCI appreciated the management of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry for hosting the meeting.

The General Assembly also endorsed other several decisions of the Executive Committee as a constitutional requirement, including decision of emergent meeting, approval of action plan for 2015 and formation of committees and Patron/Life member’s applications.



Graduation of Afghan Business Women from the American Training Program

Wednesday, 18 March 2015

24 business women are poised on their next step of freedom and empowerment as they get ready to make their impact on the world. These 24 Afghan entrepreneurs took part in a graduation ceremony at the ACCI on March 18, 2015 to celebrate their completion of an intensive, unique ten-week business course that culminates in the development of a business plan. The ten-week course took place in Kabul in partnership with ACCI and IEEW is grateful for this collaboration. Speakers of the graduation ceremony, Mr. Khan Jan Alokozai, Vice-Chairman of ACCI, Representative of Afghanistan’s First Lady and Mrs. Manizha Wafeq, Afghanistan Contact of IEEW, on March 18 at ACCI’s headquarter.

This course is part of the PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS® program, sponsored by the nonprofit Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women (IEEW). The 9-year-old IEEW was founded by one of the United States' leading public policy and small business advocates, Dr. Terry Neese.



(Women In Business) Conference in Kabul

Monday, 23 February 2015

Afghanistan Women Business Federation (AWBF) in close collaboration with ACCI and financial support from European Union Embassy to Afghanistan, American Chamber of Commerce in Afghanistan and New Market Development Project organized “Women In Business” Conference and also a Two-Day Handicraft Exhibition in composition of 50 companies, from 23 – 24 February 2015 at Kabul Serena Hotel.



2nd Afghan – Iran Joint Exhibition

Tuesday, 17 February 2015

2nd Afghan – Iran Joint Exhibition held in Kabul and opened to public from 17 – 20 February at Oranoos Hall of Kabul. An Iranian event managing company named “Exhibition Projects Management” organized the exhibition in support from ACCI and Iranian Commercial Attaché to Afghanistan.

115 exhibitors from both countries showcased Raw Materials, Food Products, Home Appliances, Cosmetic, Personal Care & Detergent Products, Medical Equipment, Medicines, Mining, Energy and Auto to public and business communities.



Taxation Awareness Conference for Entrepreneurs

Tuesday, 03 February 2015

Revenue Department of Ministry of Finance (MoF) and ACCI jointly organized the Taxation Awareness Conference for Entrepreneurs on 3 February 2015 with participation of 150 entrepreneurs mainly from small and medium sectors.

The primary aim of this conference was to familiarize and encourage private entrepreneurs to implement the “Self-Assessment Taxation Model” which is one of the most modern models of revenue collection in the world. With implementation of this system the MOF would be able to successfully implement the taxation system and to drastically increase government’s revenues.

The taxpayer individuals’ compliances are the bases of this system. Conducting awareness and educative programs on time for taxpayers on how to prepare their business document, could play key role in enhancing their obedience. Efficient executing of this system, would eliminate all misunderstandings between taxpayers and taxation entities.



ACCI Publishes Annual Business Monitor Report

Saturday, 31 January 2015

ACCI published its Third Business Bottleneck Report and the Autumn Business Tendency Survey Report for the current year, during a press conference.

According to these reports, businesses still continue to suffer from a poor business condition, but meanwhile they are very optimistic about the coming six months. Compared to the earlier season when businesses experienced an unprecedented decline amid the electoral confusion and subsequent political uncertainties, the business climate slightly improved in autumn (September, October and November 2014).

This Business Monitor was conducted in November 2014 in Kabul, Balkh, Kandahar, Nangarhar and Herat. The ACCI Research Unit, established in 2012, conducted all of the interviews with company representatives by telephone. The unit receives technical assistance from the German Government’s program for promoting sustainable

economic development in Afghanistan. This year also saw the launch of a pilot survey for the northeastern provinces (Kunduz, Badakhshan, Takhar, Samangan and Baghlan). In total 1,209 companies were surveyed across the country.



Eleven Private Sector Priorities for Reform Presented to the London Conference & SOM

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) and Harakat – (Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility Organization) Harakat presented the Private Sector Priorities for Reform to Afghan government and the international partners at the London Conference associated event on the Private Sector. The event took place on December 3, 2014.

The event was attended President Ghani, Mr. Zakhilwal, Senior Economic Adviser to President, Justine Greening, UK Secretary of State for International Development who leads DFID, senior officials from the government of Afghanistan and UK, international donors and by private sector representatives (both Afghan and international investors).

The private sector reform priorities that were presented are as follows:

- (1) Improve traditional irrigation systems and promote sustainable modern systems.
- (2) Advance the development of a national railway system for Afghanistan (review and address the key decisions and recommendations of the Afghanistan National Railway Plan and seek international support for its implementation).
- (3) Develop ancillary infrastructure (road and electricity) around resource corridors to facilitate development and reliable transport of extracted minerals.
- (4) Establish 'one stop shops' for public services with integrated electronic systems providing streamlined business administration services (registration, licensing, licensing renewal, tax, custom duty payments and other essential business administration requirements in Kabul and 7 commercial hubs).
- (5) Lower the cost and increase the availability of financing by expanding existing credit guaranty and microfinance schemes and by making the contract enforcement and debt collection environment more attractive to lenders.
- (6) Develop a strategy for industrial park which reflects comments and ideas from the private sector (including establishment of an independent office for industrial park with special authority).
- (7) Urgently approve an electricity law, relevant sub-laws and guidelines that facilitate the immediate establishment of an independent electricity regulatory authority to implement policies that support private sector investment in the electricity sector.

- (8) Establish a program to upgrade the infrastructure and equipment of TVET institutions for 200,000 students based on market needs.
- (9) Protect investors and promote investment (improve contract enforcement, dispute resolution, solving insolvency).
- (10) Develop a national policy and a legal and regulatory framework for public private partnerships.
- (11) Establish an alternative transit route through Central Asia that would be implemented along with the proposed Central Asian Gas Pipeline project.

The discussions were positive. President Ghani concluded the event and underlined that: "We are getting government out of the business sector." In addition, he talked about building markets, functioning modern companies, skill strengthening, training for future needs of the country, price of housing, construction and transportation sectors.

The paper released at the end of the London Conference acknowledged the role of private sector and economic development:

"The Participants acknowledged the critical role that the private sector will play in Afghanistan's path to sustainability, and noted the Afghan Government's commitment to improving the Doing Business Indicators, and its commitment to prioritize a stronger, more consistent regulatory framework enabling a stronger and more competitive business environment, as well as investment in infrastructure, agriculture and the extractive industries to help encourage private sector investment and more sustainable economic growth. This commitment includes putting in place the strongest possible available measures, based on international best practice, to counter the threat of conflict and corruption around the extractive industries. The Government of Afghanistan also committed to take specific action to increase levels of domestic and foreign private sector investment in Afghanistan to help create and sustain decent jobs, including for women and youth, and improve access to services and markets. Making progress on an inclusive peace and reconciliation process is critical to pave the way for a conducive environment for future investments in Afghanistan."

Source:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/383205/The-London-Conference-on-Afghanistan-Communique.pdf

The Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Afghanistan held in Kabul on Saturday 5 September 2015, where the Afghan officials briefed representatives of the international community attending the meeting on a number of areas it has worked on such as good governance, fighting corruption, protection of human rights, women empowerment and economic development.

Mr. Atiqullah Nusrat, CEO of ACCI, while representing Afghan private sector, extended the best wishes of the Afghan private sector to the participants of this important conference and termed this event the international communities' commitment for facilitating the utilization of economic opportunities of Afghanistan.

“The National Unity Government’s commitments and the efforts of His Excellency President Ghani and his government has made during last 10 months, despite the ongoing insecurity and political challenges, keep the private sector hopeful regarding the prospect of the business environment reforms.” he added.

CEO of ACCI pointed out the Private Sector Priorities for Reform conference which was organized by Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Harakat, where more than 250 business people got together in order to stimulate the sustainable economic growth and identified and recommended its priorities for reform. And the findings of this conference (11 reform priorities) were presented in London Conference, where it was agreed that the government will implement those reforms and will establish a task force to coordinate and monitor the implementation process. But unfortunately, and in some extent due to justifiable security and political reasons, the task force is yet to be established and the proposed reforms have not been implemented as expected.

On behalf of the private sector, ACCI and Harakat present the following list of short term reforms that will not need much time and resources, but will send a positive signal to investors and the business community as concrete steps to improve the business environment:

1. On investment promotion:

- (a) To establish One stop shop (for trade and investment);

- (b) To develop the National Investment Promotion Strategy;
- (c) To approve the National Trade Policy;
- (d) To introduce the Investment Incentive Policy;
- (e) To take specific actions for protecting investors.

2. On legal and regulatory reforms

- (a) Revise and amend Investment Law;
- (b) Revise and amend Income Tax Law;
- (c) Revise and Amend Custom Law;
- (d) Revise and amend Mediation and Arbitration Laws;
- (e) Revise and amend Transport Law;
- (f) Develop and Endorse PPP law;
- (g) Develop and Endorse Electricity Law;

For the longer term of 3-5 years, ACCI and Harakat recommend the following steps:

1. Include the Private Sector Reform Priorities (also known as the Afghanistan Investment Climate Roadmap) in the SOM agenda as the main private sector reform roadmap;
2. Implement Afghanistan Investment Climate Roadmap through creation of a public-private steering committee or a joint task force;
3. Recognize the investment climate reform steering committee as a private and public dialog mechanism with representatives from the government and private sector, to coordinate between the government, the international partners and the private sector to implement the reforms – ACCI and Harakat to serve as the secretariat;
4. Officially recognize a monitoring role for ACCI and Harakat to monitor progress on commitments and report publicly.





Sulaiman Lutfi
Chairman of the Board of Directors



Hon. Don Ritter, Sc. D.
President & CEO

Message from AACC

The Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) takes significant pride in helping to launch the precursor Chamber organization in the winter of 2003-2004 which eventually morphed into ACCI and values deeply its robust relationship with ACCI officers and members since their creation.

AACC understands the enormous challenges faced by its Afghan brothers and sisters in ACCI as they struggle to gain peace and prosperity for their country. AACC will not falter in its efforts to help build that peace and prosperity along with its hard-working and creative ACCI colleagues.

AACC, since its inception in 2002, has been the leading organization in the U.S. facilitating U.S.-Afghanistan business, investment, and trade ties through its Business Matchmaking Conferences and related activities. AACC helps members accomplish their business goals in Afghanistan, serves the interests of its members through various programs, advocates for a market economy in Afghanistan, and endeavors to strengthen U.S.-Afghan economic relations. AACC works to ensure that Afghanistan's economic development remains a priority for U.S. and Afghan policymakers and serves as a link between business and government to encourage progressive economic policies that will result in increased business and investment between the U.S. and Afghanistan.

AACC promotes the exchange of information and provides resources to members through investment conferences, seminars, networking events, publications, and other avenues to stimulate U.S.-Afghanistan business and investment. AACC brings together companies, organizations, and individuals with a stake in helping Afghanistan succeed and developing opportunities in an emerging economy.

AACC actively identifies current opportunities for business and investment in key economic sectors and the financing of businesses in Afghanistan. AACC's Conferences attract a large contingent of individuals representing U.S. and Afghan companies, U.S. Government agencies, Afghan Government institutions, financial institutions, multilateral organizations and relevant non-profits. AACC engages leaders from the private sector, Afghan Ministers and their representatives, and officials from the State Department, Department of Defense, Department of Commerce, USAID, ADB, the World Bank, OPIC and other organizations to facilitate promotion of business-to-business relationships and investment and trade between the U.S. and Afghanistan.

The AACC Annual Business Matchmaking Conference (BMC) hosts the world's largest contingent of representatives of the private sector from the United States, Canada, the EU, UAE and Afghanistan who come together at AACC's annual Conferences to discuss their business and investment ideas. The goals of such gatherings are to foster business relationships, joint ventures, partnerships, etc. engaging both U.S., Western nations and Afghan businessmen and women.

AACC is working closely with its sister organizations in Afghanistan such as the Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA), the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), the Afghan Business Council - Dubai (ABC-Dubai) and the American Chamber of Commerce in Afghanistan (AmCham Afghanistan) to contribute in Afghanistan's economic expansion and growth.

We thank you for your kind consideration of our AACC efforts and look forward to your participation in our future events.

On behalf of the Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC), we look forward to hosting our upcoming 11th Annual U.S.-Afghanistan Business Matchmaking Conference 2015 on December 8, 9 and 10, 2015 in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Sulaiman Lutfi
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Ehsan Turabaz
President

About NAFBC

NETHERLANDS AFGHANISTAN BUSINESS COUNCIL- NAFBC □

The Netherlands Afghanistan Business Council, focusing on Development, has as its main focus on the promotion of Dutch-Afghan trade relations in the broadest sense: the creation of trade opportunities for Afghan businesses wanting to export to Europe through the Netherlands, the creation of market for Dutch enterprises in Afghanistan, and where possible collaboration in starting up of production for both local market and exports.

The NAFBC have its focus on:

1. improvement of cooperation between the Dutch and Afghan private sector;
2. identification of suitable Afghan business partners for Dutch companies;
3. increase of Dutch private sector investment in Afghanistan;
4. advise and assist on using the financial facilities and instruments provided by the Dutch government to stimulate further development of the private sector in Afghanistan;
5. facilitating the Dutch private sector with market information from Afghanistan and promoting the investment opportunities in Afghanistan;
6. organising trade missions to and from the Netherlands

Memorandum of Understanding

The Netherlands- Afghanistan Business Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Afghanistan Business Council – Dubai – U.A.E, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), Canada Afghanistan Business Council (CABC), Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA), Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) and Netherlands Business Council (Dubai & Northern Emirates).

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a general framework of co-operation and consultation between the Signatories, in order to facilitate the fulfilling of their mission and intentions as focused on business promotion in Afghanistan.

NETHERLANDS COUNCIL FOR TRADE PROMOTION – NCH

The Netherlands Council for trade Promotion (NCH) is one of the leading Dutch trade promotion organisations. The NCH was founded in 1946 by private industry people.

Companies can become a member of NCH by entering one or more of the country business councils (like NAFBC) which work together with NCH in a federation. Ultimo 2009 NCH has in total 1050 corporate members, divided over about 30 business councils.

The main activities of NCH and its business councils are:

- Organising information seminars and networking sessions about specific themes or countries.
- Organising outgoing Dutch trade missions.
- Organising programmes for incoming trade missions from other countries.
- Organising Dutch participation at EU-sponsored trade programmes.
- Organising Dutch participation at major international trade fairs.
- Providing consultancy to companies with regard to partner search.

In the Board of NCH a number of the big Dutch companies like ABN AMRO, Rabobank, Shell, Atradius and ING are represented.

NCH is the only organisation in the Netherlands that offers a unique network of 30 bilateral business councils, creating and connecting a network of leading Dutch business representatives. This worldwide network of business councils under the umbrella of NCH makes NCH different from other trade promotion organisations. Almost in every regional business council the Dutch government is represented by an observer in order to stimulate public-private cooperation in these councils.

A lot of the activities of NCH are executed in close cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. Other organisations where NCH often cooperates with are local Chambers of Commerce, industry associations, banks and law firms.

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Saber Fermand
President

About CABC

Canada Afghanistan Business Council is a non-profit organization that has been established to facilitate bilateral trade and businesses opportunities between Canada and Afghanistan. Afghanistan's great need for infrastructure developments, untapped mines, central location in Asia, potential of drastically improving its exports of natural gas, dried fruits, hand crafts and other agricultural products are among a few points to note from the vast opportunities available. Afghanistan is well positioned to facilitate great business expansions for its unique location in the region.

CABC is proudly an Afghan Canadian Organization whose aim is to assist you with first hand information, facilitation and expertise on investments and joint ventures of unlimited possibilities, both in Canada and in Afghanistan.

CABC's objects could be briefed as follows:

1. To encourage and promote all Canada based businesses to invest in Afghanistan.
2. To establish close business relations with entrepreneurs based in Afghanistan.
3. To promote joint ventures/investments between Canada and Afghanistan companies.
4. To promote and support the visits of Afghan commercial delegations to Canada.
5. To have close relation with Business organizations in Canada.
6. To promote and support visits of commercial delegations from Canada to Afghanistan.
7. To provide a forum in which Afghan business executives in Canada and business executives with Afghan

We at CABC further forge partnerships with other Business Councils and Chambers as well as through national print media and local papers to promote Afghanistan's vast business and investment opportunities. We have also been participants in Afghanistan Summit Conferences.

Memorandum of Understanding:

Canada Afghanistan Business Council is a Signatory member of an MOU between Afghan American Chamber of Commerce (AACC), Afghanistan Business Council-UAE (ABC) Afghani-

stan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), Afghanistan Business Support Agency, (AISA) Netherland Afghanistan Business Council (NAFBC), and UK-Afghan Business Organization, for the purpose of establishing general framework of collaboration, co-operation and consultation among the MOU members, in order to facilitate the mission and intention of business promotion for Afghanistan.

We at CABC strive to create better business climate to further support, promote and enhance business, investment and partnership opportunities between Canada and Afghanistan.

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Haji Obaidullah Sader Khail
Chairman

About ABC, Dubai

The Afghan Business Council Dubai (ABC) was established in April 2005 to promote commerce and investment in Afghanistan.

The ABC is located in the United Arab Emirates, the gateway to Afghanistan and a central hub through which ideas, people, and business flow led by a committee of elected members from the Afghan community in the U.A.E. The ABC seeks to:

- Provide a forum for members to exchange ideas and information about the Afghanistan.
- Foster open dialogue between the private sector and the Afghan Government.
- Facilitate meetings between Afghan executives in the U.A.E and other executives interested in doing business in Afghanistan.
- Promote trade relations between Afghanistan and U.A.E and represent Afghan business communities in official and private sector events.
- Organize events and seminars with senior executives, entrepreneurs and government officials.

Currently there are ten flights operating by various airlines daily between Dubai and Kabul. The flights are often fully booked, which reflects the growth of trade relations between the two countries and the UAE's private businesses and government organizations are starting to invest in Afghanistan. Afghan Investors and businesses have been coming to the UAE for more than 20 years attracted by its business and friendly environment. The drive to establish the organization stemmed from the need to incorporate ideas, interest and influence into one uniform body for the Afghan business community in the U.A.E. Based in Dubai, the ABC is a private non-profit organization representing Afghan businessmen. The strength of the Afghan business community in the UAE has grown commensurately with the U.A.E realizing its position as a key regional player. The Afghan Business Council in Dubai consists of more than 167 members and represents a diverse and broad group of businessmen across a range of sectors. Since being granted the license to operate by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry in June, 2005, the ABC organized a number of seminars in the U.A.E and

attracted immense interest. The inaugural Event, "Defining Trade and Investment Opportunities in Afghanistan" marked the formal opening of the Afghan Business Council in Dubai-UAE.

Haji Obaidullah Sader Khail

Chairman

Afghan Business Council, Dubai-UAE.

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B.S: Business Federation.



Nader Shah
President

About ABC, Moscow

Afghan Business Center in Moscow (ABC) was established in September 2010.

One of the main goals of ABC is promoting job creation in Afghanistan and the development of bilateral economic relations between Afghanistan and Russia.

President of ABC is also the representative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Afghanistan in Russia.

ABC solves a wide range of tasks. Most relevant of these is the economic cooperation with the different Russian institutions, in particular, the maintenance of a high level of relations with the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Energy of Russian Federation.

ABC is widely known in Russia. Today, membership in the ABC has more than 100 Afghan companies operating in Russia, and their number is constantly growing. ABC is open to those who want to run their business in Russia and seeks to assist small, medium and large Afghan business. ABC provides assistance in finding a prospective business partners, advises on the laws of the Russian Federation, contributes to the maintenance of a positive image of the Afghan businessman. ABC also provides forums in which Afghan businessmen discuss and change opinions about their activities in Moscow.

In 2011, after the visit of the President of the IRA in Moscow ABC was charged with carrying out all the organizational work for the implementation of the joint Afghan-Russian projects in industry and construction.

For the implementation of the agreements reached by the presidents of the IRA and the Russian Federation, was established Afghan-Russian intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation. President of ABC is actively involved in her work as a representative of the Afghan side.

Since its inception, the ABC is actively engaged in providing humanitarian assistance to the different categories of Afghans. Thus, together with the Embassy of Afghanistan in Moscow on a

permanent basis ABC helps Afghan students studying in Moscow. In order to promote their excellence ABC established a number of scholarships.

Together with the Afghan Chamber ABC also helps needy families living in Russia as well as in Afghanistan.

Currently, the business activity of ABC is focused on the following:

- to encourage and promote Russian investments to the Afghan economy: industry, agriculture, education and culture. So ABC participates in the joint projects, such as modernization and reconstruction of the Kabul Housing Factory and building some medical facilities;
- support for Afghan business in Russia;
- help to choice Russian and Afghan business partners for joint economic projects;
- to promote and support visits of business delegations of both countries.

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Mr. Mir Akbari
Chairman

About UABO

UK Afghanistan Business Organisation (UABO) is the premier business-led organisation promoting bilateral trade and investment between the two countries. Our mission is to facilitate an increase in trade between the UK and Afghanistan through business-to-business dialogue.

UABO plays an influential role in creating and sustaining an environment in which free-trade and investment flourishes. Through the facilitation of partnerships, UABO provides the resource, knowledge and infrastructure support vital for UK companies to make the most of emerging opportunities in Afghanistan.

UABO's objects could be briefed as follows:

1. To encourage and promote all the UK based businesses to invest in Afghanistan.
2. To establish close business relations with entrepreneurs based in Afghanistan.
3. To promote joint ventures/investments between the UK and Afghanistan companies.
4. To promote and support the visits of Afghan commercial delegations to the UK.
5. To have close relation with Business organisations in the UK.
6. To promote and support visits of commercial delegations from the UK to Afghanistan.

To provide a forum in which Afghan business executives in the UK and business executives with Afghan interest may identify, discuss and pursue common interest regarding their activities.

Memorandum of Understanding

UK- Afghanistan Business Organisation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Netherlands - Afghanistan Business Council- NAFBC, Afghanistan Business Council – Dubai – U.A.E, Afghanistan International Chamber of Commerce ACCI, CABC (Canada Afghanistan Business Council), Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) and AACC: Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a general framework of co-operation and consultation between the Signatories, in order to facilitate the fulfilling of

their mission and intentions as focused on business promotion in Afghanistan.

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Australian-Afghan Business Council



Bashir Keshtiar
President

About AABC

In April 2013, The Australian-Afghan Business Council Limited was created as a Not-For-Profit Organization. The Australian-Afghan Business Council (AABC) aims to unite business communities and social networks in both countries.

Most Recently, His Excellency Hamed Karzai the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, invited and encouraged investors and businessmen abroad to explore, unfold untold social and commercial opportunities within Afghanistan. The AABC in Australia can help foster, support and drive both social and commercial opportunities for all stakeholders as the Presidents desire's.

The AABC fosters and promotes business networks, social contacts and new trade and investment between Australia and Afghanistan

The Council's objective is to be the preferred source of information on and introduction to doing business in Australia or Afghanistan. Our Executive is highly skilled and experienced in all levels of government, trade, investment and ancillary services to support all stakeholders to help facilitate successful and positive outcomes. We encourage constant dialogue and debate on how best to strengthen and foster such international business relationships.

About the President of AABC

Mr. Bashir Keshtiar has migrated to Australia in 1988 and since then has been an active and prominent member of the Afghan community. He has worked with some major Australian banks and has held various managerial and team leadership positions. He is the founding member of two community organizations in Australia and previously has been a Board member of the South Eastern Migrants Centre in Victoria.

Mr. Keshtiar is also a Broadcaster/Reporter with SBS Radio, Dari Program. He has a strong business and community network that has enabled him as co-founding member to form the Australian Afghan Business Council Ltd.

Mr. Keshtiar has a Bachelor of Arts from Monash University majoring in Politics and Sociology and a Diploma of Management.

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Khanjan Alkozay
President

About PAJCCI

Pakistan – Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PAJCCI)

The formation of Pakistan – Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) is a breath of fresh air for both the countries. Despite existing political upheavals and sensitive socio-cultural issues, the push for economic collaboration from the business community along the border has always been explicit. The countries' economic advisors are eagerly rethinking their bilateral relationship and discussions are underway on reviving economic ties, curtailing smuggling, and preventing the flow of prohibited goods. Business leaders from both countries, driven by the same concerns of improving economic ties, mutually agreed to establish, through a private initiative, a cooperative body to strengthen ties within the cross border business community.

PAJCCI is a joint collaboration between the Karachi Chamber of Commerce (KCCI), Chaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KPCCI) and the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI). The entity is duly recognized and licensed by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as well as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The core objective of the trans-border arrangement is not only to transform the economic landscape of the South and Central Asian region, but to facilitate prospects for and to curb extremism and terrorism. The chamber was established with members of business and industrial community with a goal of creating a level playing field, promoting bilateral trade and investment, ensuring the transfer of technology, exploring new trade opportunities and areas of mutual interest, reducing illegal trade, and promoting a positive image of both countries around the world. In addition, the chamber will convene an arbitration tribunal/committee to which members may refer disputes of commercial transactions for settlement.

The establishment of the chamber would also be a forum for easing pressures from political or legal issues between the countries. The parties from each country agreed that the chamber

would ease trade and help resolve barriers and challenges. They also agree to submit issues to the chamber board to be decided and forwarded to the respective governments. The parties agreed that, in addition to resolving trade disputes, the chamber would produce strategic analysis of the macro-level relationship to revive bilateral political relationships in the interest of both countries. From its visionary leadership, the Chamber will work to gain access for Pakistan companies to the Central Asian States via Afghanistan to enhance trade opportunities. The Chamber will ensure a win-win situation for all stakeholders and will serve as a body to enhance trade relations between the two brotherly nations without succumbing to any unrelated political or cultural influence.

PAJCCI has 11 board members from each country. According to the bylaws, the chamber has a president and two co-presidents from two countries. By 2014, Mr. Khan Jan Alokzay, Senior Vice-Chairman of ACCI is act as President of PAJCCI.

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Ghulam Mohammad Paimda
Chairman

About AFBC

Afghan-Finnish Business Council (AFBC) was established by groups of Afghan and Finnish companies who are interested in building and enhancing businesses relationship between two countries. AFBC launched on May 10, 2014 in North Balkh Province, the event attended by Afghan government officials, Finnish Ambassador to Kabul, representatives of ACCI and about 100 guests from business communities from both countries. Today AFBC has 25 company and individual members from both countries. Offices of AFBC are in Helsinki, Finland and Balkh, Afghanistan. AFBC is an independent and non-political entity.

The main purposes of the AFBC include:

- Improving and strengthening business relationships and trade among Afghan and Finnish owned businesses;
- Conducting seminars, conferences, training programs, trade missions, and engaging in relevant business and trade-related projects at the local, national, and international level to facilitate cooperation among Afghan- Finnish businesses when appropriate to the goals of the organization;

Members

The corporation shall be a membership organization, in which there shall consist of regular members, honorary members and trustees.

- Regular member, is defined as a representative of an Afghan or Finnish businesses who has requested membership and has been approved by the Board of Directors.

-Honorary members, is defined as a representative of a business or organization that supports and promote AFBC's objectives, in willing to make contributions for AFBC, and has been approved by the Board of Directors. Honorary members neither can candidate for any position, nor can vote.

- Trustees, a former Board of Directors member who, based on his or her outstanding contribution to AFBC. Trustees are not provided with Board of Directors voting privileges.

Membership is voluntary and will be open to entities with an interest in business and investment in Afghanistan or Finland and who pay the required membership dues.

Every eligible member of the organization shall have the right to vote on matters to be decided upon by the annual meeting pursuant to these bylaws. Membership levels determine the number of votes as follows:

- (a) Basic Membership - entitled to have one vote. Basic Membership is defined by the payment of basic annual dues, \$50 for Individual membership and \$200 for Business who has less than 50 employees and \$500 for Business who has 50 employees plus).
- (b) Preferred Membership – entitled to have two votes. Founding (active) members of AFBC.

Ghulam Mohammad Paimda

Chairman

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تحدیه شرکت های ساختمانی افغانستان
Afghanistan Builders Association



Naeem Yassin
President

About ABA

Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA) was established with the support of USAID and its Member Construction Companies in 2004 to enable the construction industry in utilizing the best practices. It focuses and efforts to facilitate the advocacy, communication and participation of Afghan Companies in industry. ABA aims to be pro-active voice of the construction industry, insuring fair legislation for the industry and consumers by public outreach and awareness about the role-played by the business and profession of construction in Afghanistan. ABA is the largest growing construction association in Afghanistan with the delegation offices in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat and Gardez. ABA concentrates its all efforts to professionalize and strengthen construction sector in Afghanistan by providing various capacity development and construction trainings. Reference to all ABA services and promotional activities for Afghanistan construction sector, we are proud having over 500 members from engineering construction companies.

ABA provides continuing education and information to the highest quality and value in the member product services through construction capacity development trainings and encourages young people taking up careers in the construction industry for meeting current and future needs. Furthermore, ABA is committed to provide a well-rounded selection of continuing education activities that meet the needs for professional development of construction companies throughout Afghanistan and recognized by the US-Army Corps of Engineers, USACE as a provider of continuing trainings in different construction fields.

ABA Membership provides direct contact with a vast network of construction professionals and the opportunity for discussions and interaction with colleagues, donors, Government officers and NGO's. Members gain the advantage of networking on the national, regional and international levels. However, ABA assists members in getting information on solicitation by donors, NGO's, USACE and Government.

ABA's mission is to enable the domestic construction industry in Afghanistan to be a catalyst for national economic recovery and

sustainable growth while ensuring the success of Afghan construction companies and supports International Community and donor agencies by introducing Afghan qualified construction companies in different construction fields and we also offer supporting International Companies in mining sector.

ABA is affiliated with many International development organizations and associations to provide business matchmaking opportunities and gatherings in order to facilitate and generate business in Afghanistan construction sector. However, recently we have signed a memorandum of Understanding with Turkish Contractors Association ensuring better business exchange opportunities between both countries contractors.

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Mohammad Ourban Haqjo
President & CEO

About AISA

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) was established in September 2003 in accordance with a directive issued by the Government of Afghanistan as a “One Stop Shop for Investors”. AISA has been charged with the responsibilities of registration, licensing and promotion of all new investments in Afghanistan. The mission of AISA is to facilitate and promote investment and rapid development of competitive private enterprise and thereby robust sustainable economic growth in Afghanistan. AISA began as an agency that provided licenses to companies wishing to invest in Afghanistan. AISA has now evolved into a pro-active institution in promoting and attracting investment to Afghanistan. To meet the objective of investment promotion and support we have restructured AISA as follows:

AISA's SERVICES

Licensing Department

This department processes investment licenses and facilitates the necessary permits on behalf of investors and Vis a Vis other relevant Afghan government agencies. It continuously strives to improve processes and procedures and also supports the set up and development of license preparation services at AISA's Regional Offices to ensure the proper communication, meanwhile to affirm that AISA's licensing rules and procedures are properly followed by all Regional Offices.

Investment Promotion Department

The foremost responsibility of IPD (Investment Promotion Department) is to play its due role in attracting domestic & foreign investments to Afghanistan. At IPD, we develop effective marketing strategies and programs in order to promote “Afghanistan” as a home to viable investment & business opportunities. IPD organizes events; conferences, exhibitions and networking sessions to create and support a conducive business arena where investment activities are facilitated. A number of audience specific awareness programs are initiated effectively to explain prospective projects in different business sectors inside the country.

This department strives to strengthen mutual relations with key and important IPAs (Investment Promotion Agencies), foreign missions, government departments, partner organizations,

business and industrial unions through different projects and exchange programs.

IPD also creates and broadcasts multiple promotional programs and media campaigns to inform target audience about certain investment guidelines and statistical data along with developing print, TV & social media campaigns to evoke a sense of local consumption.

Research and Development

R&D department is of paramount significance as it plays an integral role as a strategic pillar of AISA in its organizational structure; the department serves as AISA's driving force towards fulfilling its mission and planning for envisioning the future. The department formulates strategic plans and monitors the progress and implementation of AISA's long-term plans and internal policies and ensures operational coordination through provision of working plans and mechanisms. R&D provides quality sector specific research conducted by highly qualified sector designated experts to pinpoint investment opportunities, identify challenges and constraints and plan pragmatic solutions to ensure sustainable private sector growth and attract the confidence of international investors. R&D serves to formulate and implement private sector development and investment strategies, engage in policy advocacy through formulation and lobbying of business friendly policies, conduct business and sector specific investment studies to facilitate and support informed decision making and promote & attract specific and prioritized investment. To efficiently implement investment policies, create a working investment mechanism and present the best opportunities Afghanistan has to offer, the department is determined to provide specialist data and accurate information to the investors, governmental departments and other interested parties.

Investors' Support Department

Investment Support Department sees itself in the future as a complete investment support provider in order to support AISA's mission and support the investors without any discrimination. The services include, Counseling services in pre investment stage and provision of initial information and advice for foreign

and domestic investors, market situation, legal framework, customs duties, taxation, insurance, support programs, investment incentives and opportunities.

- Pre and post investment counseling services by the relevant sector officers.
- Continuous contact to key investors (each investment support manager has “his”/“her” assigned clients to be assisted during the whole process: “one phase to the customer”)
- Facilitating support to investor from other government or private bodies (e.g. private Business Development Services, chambers of commerce, donor projects)
- Individual troubleshooting for investors
- Close contacts/good relations to key government and other key agencies
- Training of license holders on important topics (e.g. marketing, bidding procedures especially for domestic SMEs)
- Post investment support for key investors (e.g. on double taxation, legal advice, provision of contacts and information, troubleshooting, visa problems/services).
- Enlisting all those raw materials which are frequently used in the manufacturing sector and decrease the tariff to zero percent.
- Find out all those sectors in Afghanistan that has greater capacity of production than the market - giving industrial protection, increasing tariff on imported goods in order to support the infant industries.

Industrial Parks Development Department

The Industrial Parks Development Department of AISA endeavors to develop and offer modern, strategically located, well-managed, regulated and attractive Industrial Parks. The completed industrial parks include the Hesar-e-Shahi Industrial Park a 200ha in Ningarhar located 22km east of Jalalabad city on Torkham-Jalabad main road, Bagrami Industrial Park, a 9 hectares park located 7 km east of central Kabul; Mazar Industrial Park, a 26 hectares park located 20 km north of Mazar-e-Sharif; Kandahar Industrial Park, a 15 hectares park located 10 km east of Kandahar, Herat, Ningarhar and few other partially completed industrial parks.

AISA is committed to establish industrial parks in other provinces of Afghanistan in response to growing demand. Our future plan includes extension of Herat IP (Phase IV 180 ha) , Completion of Helmand Bost IP (32ha), Khost (80ha), Kunduz Phase I (100ha), Bagrami Kabul(200ha), , Parwan and Logar each (100ha) and Ghazni IP Phase I (100ha). AISA also plans to develop Carpet processing IP's in Herat, Ningarhar, Faryab and Jozjan.

Our industrial park projects represent a unique opportunity for investors to establish and expand their businesses in

Afghanistan’s increasingly important market and profitable business environment, while enjoying the benefits of attractive tax incentives and versatile and low cost workforce.

Regional Offices

Our Regional Offices, in close cooperation with AISA’s Licensing Department in Kabul, prepare licensing documents for AISA headquarters to process. They contribute proactively to mainly domestic support and promotion activities and cooperate closely with the Investment Promotion and Investor Support Departments. They also establish very close cooperation and support to local government institutions so as to facilitate investments regionally and also are responsible for informing the public on AISA’s activities and objectives. Our Regional Offices are open from Saturday to Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00 pm
Our regional offices exist in key industrial provinces including Nangarhar, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Paktia, Helmand, Khust & Kunduz.

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nabi.rahmanzai@aisa.org.af

Northeast Zone Directorate (Kunduz):
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peroz.afandi@aisa.org.af

West Zone Directorate (Herat):
Shafiq Ahmadi
Zonal Director, Herat
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Regional Office Helmand:
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Regional Office Paktia:
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Regional Manager, Paktia
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North Zone Directorate (Mazar-Sharif): □
Siddiqullah Muradi
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10th Annual BMC

Organized in Washington D.C

11 December 2014

The Afghan – American Chamber of Commerce (AACC), supported from its sister organizations, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) and the Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA), organized the 10th Annual U.S – Afghanistan Business Matchmaking Conference (BMC) on 9 – 11 December 2014 in Washington D.C

BMCs is the main event in the world for doing business in Afghanistan, and this year it celebrated its 10th Anniversary! BMCs have been the longest running venue for Afghan and U.S. Businesses to meet and forge strong business relationships across continents. Each year, a large contingent of businesses from Afghanistan and senior Afghan and U.S. officials and key U.S and western businesses active in Afghanistan attend. BMC 2014 was attended by Mr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal, Senior Economic Advisor to Afghan President and Acting-Minister of Finance and Honorable Ed Royce, U.S. Representative in the BMC, 2014 and Chairman of House Foreign Affairs Committee.

About 120 Afghan businesses whether from Afghanistan and Afghan residents in UAE, Russian, Canada, EU attended the BMC 2014. from U.S. and International side: top leaders from USAID; DoD – including Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO), OSD, USACE; U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Department of Commerce (DoC), State Department, JICA (Japan), GIZ (Germany), Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank/IFC, OPIC and other organizations who are involved in facilitation and promotion of business-to-business relationships, investment and trade between the U.S. and Afghanistan and also top-level officers from a wide range of American companies attended the event.

BMC 2014 coincided with a year of change when whole new, ground-floor-entry, regional business opportunities will open up in Afghanistan and when governance and security will see major improvement.

4 reasons why AACC and ACCI firmly believe that Afghanistan's economy is about to take off:

1. It has the potential of becoming the regional HUB as the most modern, market-oriented and developed-nation-engaged economy in the region;
2. The Afghan government will enjoy strong support of the Afghan people;
3. The security forces are steadily improving as U.S. and NATO assistance continues and surly it will continue well beyond 2016!
4. An economic and business shift is happening now from doing business in one country to investing in the markets of the entire region.

BMC, 2014 started on evening of, December 9 at JW Marriott Hotel by welcoming remarks from Honorable, Don Ritter, President and Mr. Sulaiman Lutfi, Chairman of AACC and then followed

by remarks by Mr. Atiqullah Nusrat, CEO of ACCI, Haji Obaidullha Sader Khail, Chairman of ABC, Dubai (Afghan Business Council), Mr. Saber Ferman, President of CABC (Canada Afghanistan Business Council), Mr. Naeem Yasin, President of ABA (Afghanistan Builders Association) and by Mr. Sayed Mobin Sha, Afghan Commercial Attaché to U.S.A.

Mr. Nusrat highlighted importance of the BMCs and said that no doubt, matchmaking conferences have played significant role in planting those seeds and helped us to create joint ventures, attract foreign investments, find business partners, buy machineries and acquire expertise and modern technologies. Several reform initiatives such as the One-Stop-Shop and Afghan First programs were either initiated or supported through these conferences.

He also emphasized on importance of the London Conference and private sectors' priorities and recommendations presented in the conference that have been supported by international community and the National Unity Government for enforcement of the recommendations.

Each day of the conference comprised of two parts, panel discussions in the mornings and one by one networking sessions in afternoons.

First day, Panel 1) was on Opportunities in Agriculture and Food Processing and panelists were Mr. Abdul Ghafoor, Chairman of RANA Seeds & Agribusiness Company, Mr. David E. Bailey, Senior Private Sector Engagement Advisor, OAPA, USAID, Mr. Charles Mehl, Vice President, CNC Global Resources, Mr. John Mellor, President of John Mellor Associates Inc., and Mr. Christopher W. Sfedu, Director, Executive Distributors International Inc.

Panel 2) was on Financing Afghanistan Development and panelists were Ms. Kathleen 'kath' Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the Administrator of the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs (OAPA), USAID, Ms. Rapti Goonesekere, Principal Economist, International Finance Corp.(IFC), Mr. John R. Aldonas, Deputy Vice President, Small & Medium Enterprise Finance, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), Mr. Hajime Takeuchi, Chief Representative of U.S.A Office, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Mr. Craig Steffensen, Representative, North American Representative Office (NARO).

Panel 3) was on Women in the Economy and panelists were Ms. Leslie Schweitzer, Chairman, Friends of the American University Afghanistan, and Sr. Vice President of Business Development Capitalize LLC, Ms. Kristen A. Cordell, Gender Advisor, Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, USAID, Ms. Lida Nadery Hedayat, Deputy Chief of Party-Technical for PROMOTE (USAID), Ms. Nilofar Sakhi, CEO, International Center for Afghan Women's Economic Development, (AUA), Ms. Mina Sherzoy, Senior Gender Advisor, Chemonics International, and Ms. Maryam Atmar, President, MAIH Group.

The first day followed by Dinner Reception and Award Presentation from AACC. Chairman and President of AACC presented its 3rd Annual Award for Mr. Naeem Yassin, President of ABA (Afghanistan Builders Association) for his performance excellence and supporting AACC in organizing of BMCs.s.

continued





Second day continued the next panel discussions. Panel 4) was on Construction & Infrastructure and panelists were Mr. Sayed Aziz Azimi, Founder & President, Technologists Inc., Mr. Naeem Yassin, President and CEO, Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA), Mr. Rafaat M. B. Ludin, President & CEO, International Home Finance & Development, LLC., and Mr. Greg Taylor, TAD, Chief Engineering and technical Services, US Army Corps of Engineers.

Panel 5) was on Opportunities in Information Technology and Communications and panelists were Mr. Robert A. Kinn, Afghanistan & Interagency Issues, FCI Senior Information Analyst, Mr. Farhad Ghafoor, Vice President – Operation, RANA Technologies, Mr. Montgomery “Monty” Simus, Vice President Business Development, Afghan Wireless Communication Co. (AWCC), Mr. Larry Wentz, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, National Defense University, and Mr. Farid Abass, Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Specialist.

Panel 6) was on Extractive Industries (Mining and Energy) and panelists were Ms. Clare Lockhart, Co-founder and Director of the Institute for State Effectiveness, Mr. Ioannis “Gianni” Koskinas, CEO, Hoplite Group LLC., Ms. Anna Sophia Swire, Founder & CEO, Future Brilliance and Ayenda LTD., and Mr. Said H. Mirzad, Ph. D., Afghanistan Program Co-Coordinator, International Programs, U.S. Geological (USGS).

Along with the panel discussions at the first day, participants gained an opportunity and learnt about what business facilitations are provided by Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center illustrated by Mr. Andrew Gelfuso, Vice President for Trade Promotion of the Building. They also increase their knowledge about rail development of Afghanistan and role of private sector in the sector presented by Mr. Miguel Valero, President of CANARAIL.

Honorable Ed Royce, U.S Representative and Chairman, House of Foreign Affairs Committee pointed out future engagements and commitments of United States on development of Afghanistan

.
By the dinner reception, attendees received an informative presentation titled “Turquoise Mountain and the Transformative Arts of Afghanistan” from Dr. Thomas Wide, PhD in Afghanistan History, Oxford University.

At second day, Lt. Col. Michael G. Waltz, President of METIS Solutions LLC and Advisor in the George W. Bush, White House and Author of the book “Warrior Diplomat” introduced the book which illustrates about 12-years U.S. mission in Afghanistan.

It’s worthy mentionable that BMC, 2014 had several sponsors such as Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Ukrainian Helicopters, Rahmat Siddiqi Group and Trivision were Platinum Sponsors. Washington Mortgage, SOS International LLC, Appleton and American University of Afghanistan were Gold Sponsors. Aria Target Group of Companies, METIS Solutions, Chemonics and Afghan Wireless were Silver Sponsors and BNN, TMH Medical Services, SPA Group, TETRA Tech, Future Brilliance, Afghan American Women Associate, Celements Worldwide, PULAN Corporation and Technologists Inc. were the Bronze Sponsors.

Why Invest in Afghanistan?

AFGHANISTAN TODAY



Afghanistan, with its improving infrastructure, mechanisms and rebuilding processes is now turning into one of the key emerging markets in the region. The trade & Investment volume together are backing the national economy to grow and sustain. As in ancient times, the trade route is enabling Afghanistan to become not only a regional but global business hub. Situated at the crossroads of Eurasia, Afghanistan can now access some of the world's fastest growing markets, as well as serve as a transit hub for expanding trade between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Besides raising living standards and spreading ideas and culture, increased economic connectivity through Afghanistan builds confidence and trust across the region, defending against the spread of extremism, narcotics, poverty, and hopelessness. Market economy is helping the private sector to develop and hence creating countless business and job opportunities.

The National Unity Government is committed to make Afghanistan as a vibrant and self-reliant economic country. The newly established government is firmly pursuing the Investment Incentive Policy with consideration of special privileges for investors who either will invest or extend their businesses during the transition (2012 – 2015) and transformation (2015 – 2024) periods.

The policy has particularly been designed to develop five strategic sectors such as industry, construction, export promotion, agriculture and mining. The new government is committed to endorse the policy and create a favorable business environment in Afghanistan.

Economy:

Afghanistan has sustained a high but volatile gross domestic product (GDP) growth over the past 14 years. Thanks to favorable weather conditions and an exceptional harvest. Typically, agriculture accounts for one-fourth to one-third of GDP, depending on annual output. The mining sector, on the other hand, is slowly emerging as a source growth. The share of mining in GDP has historically been small, as it was only 0.6% in 2010/11. In 2012, the first large-scale mining project – Amu Darya oil fields – started its operations, and it is expected that the share of mining in aggregate output increases in the upcoming years.

Participants of the 6th Regional Economic Cooperation Conference for Afghanistan (RECCA) which was hosted by Kabul, once again renewed their commitment of further assistance to Afghanistan and underlined greater regional cooperation for stability and sustainable economic development and self-reliant Afghanistan. Titled The Silk Road through Afghanistan, the summit insisted that Afghanistan still needed regional cooperation for its development and security, in order to become a regional hub.

In recent years, Afghanistan has witnessed unprecedented and phenomenal growth in ICT. Apart from the fast growth in Internet and mobile technology services provided by six active telecom companies, there is also a significant increase in the use of ICT in government activities. The Government of Afghanistan uses ICT for better impartment of latest data and updated information about Afghan economy, business and investment related issues. And mean while ICT is being used to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency as well as increase capacity to deliver quality services to Afghan citizens, and increase their participation in governance.

Thanks to favorable weather conditions and an exceptional harvest. Typically, agriculture accounts for one-fourth to one-third of GDP, depending on annual output. The mining sector, on the other hand, is slowly emerging as an huge source of growth.

Government policy reform, better execution of the development budget, and stronger performance in manufacturing are expected to drive growth in Afghanistan.

Education:

In 2001, after the fall of the Taliban, net enrollment was estimated at 43% for boys and a dismal 3% for girls. Moreover, there were only about 21,000 teachers (largely under-educated) for a school-age population estimated at more than 5 million — or about 240 students for every marginally trained teacher. The Ministry of Education, with support from USAID and other donors, has built more than 13,000 schools, recruited and trained more than 186,000 teachers. Since 2002, school enrollment has increased from 1 million to 8 million school aged children including 2.8 million girls. All of the teacher force, 180,000, have received teacher training either through Teacher Training Centers or In-service Teacher Training. Efforts are ongoing to continuously upgrade teacher qualifications and overall access to equitable quality education in Afghanistan.(USAID)

Moreover Global Partnership for Education (GPE) approved indicative grant allocation of USD 100 million to support Afghanistan's education sector in the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Board of Directors meeting held in December,2014.

Of the 100 million indicative allocation for Afghanistan, 70 percent is a fixed allocation that will be made available based on fulfilment of criteria relating to education sector planning, financing and data. The remaining 30 percent of the Maximum Country Allocation, is the variable part, will depend on progress made in the implementation of the sector plan in the areas of equity, efficiency and learning outcomes.



Health:

According to the statistics from World Health Organization (WHO), life expectancy at birth m/f is at 58/61 years. Only 39.4 percent of rural and 70.9 percent of urban households have access to safe drinking water. Nevertheless, there has been considerable progress over the last thirteen years. About 85% of the population lives in districts which now have health care providers to deliver basic health services. Neonatal mortality rate has increased from 97 in 2010 to 121 (0-4 weeks) per 1000 live births in 2012/13. In all over Afghanistan 20% infant are low birth weight. The pregnancy-related mortality ratio has decreased to 300 per 100,000 births, which means that every 1.9 hours, a woman dies in Afghanistan from pregnancy- related issues. and 8% of pregnant women have access to antenatal care. Total expenditure on health per capita in 2012 was 47\$ in Afghanistan.

Main priorities of Afghanistan's Health sector according to (WHO):

The country's main priorities in the health sector include:

- Restored and upgraded health care facilities, including expanded provision of services to rural areas still unreachable;
- Ensured availability of essential drugs;
- Funding for services expansion, addressing inefficiencies in out-sourcing;
- Strengthened MoH capacity managing and monitoring contracts;
- Strengthened health information system (including surveillance);
- Trained health workers for sectors where shortage is acute (e.g. midwives, female nurses);
- Strengthened capacity of national authorities in emergency preparedness and response, mainly for the recurrent natural disasters.





Access to Electricity:

The percentage of the population with access to electricity in Afghanistan is among the lowest in the world. In 2002, the USAID estimated that only six percent of Afghans had access to reliable power. Today, more than 28% people have access to safe and reliable power electricity. The power generation capacity in country has doubled, giving 80,000 households in Kandahar and Helmand their first-ever access to reliable electricity. With USAID support, the Afghan government is installing a third turbine at Kajaki Dam, and USAID is supporting a project to connect Afghanistan's northern and southern electricity grids. The agency also is working directly with the national electric utility, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), to improve management and revenue collection. This assistance has helped DABS double revenue collections and increase overall power deliveries by 18 percent.

The situation has improved significantly in the major urban population centers along the critical North East corridor between Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul, following the import of power from Uzbekistan and the rehabilitation of three hydro plants (Mahipar and Sarobi completed, and Naghlu ongoing). Increasing parts of some urban centers, for example Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Pul-e-Khumri, now have a 24-hour power supply for the first time in decades.

CASA-1000

CASA-1000, scheduled to be completed by 2019, is the acronym for Central Asia South Asia Regional Electricity Market (CASREM), which will transmit 1,300 MW to Pakistan and Afghanistan through a High Voltage Direct Current transmission system. CASA-1000 is administered by the World Bank with funding from the Islamic Development Bank, USAID, DFID and AusAid; Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan would be the suppliers; Pakistan and Afghanistan would receive the hydropower-generated energy at their end. Afghanistan would provide the path for the transmission line and would be allocated 300 MW for the Kabul network.

Agriculture:

Agriculture is critical to Afghanistan's food security and a key driver of economic growth. 75% of Afghans rely on agriculture for their livelihoods and their family's sustenance. According UNFPA, the sector accounts for 25% of Afghanistan's gross domestic product. Prior to decades of conflict, Afghanistan's agricultural products earned a global reputation for excellence, particularly almonds, pomegranates, pistachios, raisins, and apricots. Decades of war and neglect devastated Afghanistan's farmland, displaced millions of people, and largely destroyed the country's existing infrastructure.

One industry related to the agriculture sector is packaging, which provides great opportunities for investors. Although demand for Afghan agriculture goods is high, current packaging procedures are outdated and prevent trade and commerce. Processing is another great investment opportunity. Due to the growing markets for fruits and vegetables, the potential for processed agriculture products is enormous, including snack foods, fruits concentrates as well as fresh fruit jams.

However, it has received only around 05 percent of the total domestic and foreign investments till date, but the sector has greatest capacity and profitable investment opportunities for foreign and local investors.

Due to its fertile soils, abundant water resources, and favorable climate conditions, Afghanistan produces high quality organic products which have excellent market value. The International Taste & Quality Institute in the Brussels capital of Belgium has once again named Afghanistan's saffron the best in the world, after sampling some 300 samples. This is the third year that the institute has awarded Afghanistan the prestigious status, which came in the form of a three star certificate. Yields on crops such as saffron are estimated to be worth 4,000 US-Dollars per kilogram in international markets. The sector's potential is further boosted by the availability of vast tracts of uncultivated arable land for increased production, favorable conditions to cultivate more high value organic crops as well as introduction of farming and storage efficiencies to yield higher revenue per acre of cultivated land. Due to the growing demand on the world food market, the potential investment returns in this sector are significant.



Construction:

The reconstruction drive of the country triggered a growing demand for construction materials and services, making the market more attractive for investors. Currently, the sector is one of the fastest growing in the country. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates investments of in excess of four billion US-Dollars until 2014 to respond to infrastructure needs. A similar trend can be observed in the housing market. Due to the explosion in urban demographics, more than 1.5 million residential units need to be built in the next few years.

Creating a competitive national construction industry is a prerequisite for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Currently, the sector is one of the fastest growing in the country. That's why, the demand for construction materials is rising rapidly in Afghanistan, making the market more attractive for foreign investors, for example, urban planners and government officials develop a new urban area in the north of Kabul which will be home to estimated 1.5 million people.



Telecommunication:

Core telecommunication service providers supply the afghan market already in a sufficient manner with increased competition and price pressures. While, there are still opportunities for mobile service providers. The other supply and service areas of the telecommunication sector represent a far more virgin market. Examples are: data processing, Basic business-processing operation, information and communication technologies, data transfer, process control and call center.

In just two years, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MoCIT) has modernized over 100 websites in the public sector and made information more accessible, consistent, and reliable.

The E-Government Department works under MoCIT's vision, 'Transforming Afghanistan into an Information Society', and brings together technical experts with advanced Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills, who play a vital part in providing advice and guidance to develop and deploy E-Government in government agencies and departments.

Telecom Statistics - 2014	
GSM Subscribers	21,588,228
CDMA Subscribers	181,077
3G Broadband Subscribers	699,759
Landlines	98,957
Penetration	83%
Investments in US\$	2,398,763,897
Telecom Base Stations	5,835
Population Coverage	Over 89%

Mobile phone Services

- Due to successful plans and strategy of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) since 2003 through the end of 2014, 90% of residential areas have been taken under telecommunication and information coverage.
- To date, there are 23.21 million mobile phone users in the country.
- Approximately 2,413,610,672.34 US dollars have been invested in the sector.
- Annual revenue from telecom sector to the state over 200 million dollars.
- In ICT sector 204,000 individuals, including professionals, non-professional, businessmen, and telecommunication equipment vendors are provided job opportunities.

AFGHAN TELECOM

- Afghan Telecom is the first public company, which was established in 2005.
- Afghan Telecom provides fixed line, mobile telephone and internet services.
- The revenue of the company was 6.74 billion AFN and total expenditures were 4.06 billion AFN in 2014.

INTERNET SERVICES

- 51 Internet companies have been issued licenses to provide internet services.
- High speed internet services of DSL have been activated in six major provinces.
- About 3 million people or 10% of the population in the country have access to the internet services.
- 3G services are active in more than 25 provinces, thus 3G users has been rapidly increased to 697.000.
- MCIT announced the cost of 1MB internet service for 300 USD in 2012, and has recently announced the cost of 1MB internet for 67 USD, current price of 1MB internet services is 35 USD.

3G SERVICE (THIRD GENERATION)

- The aim is to provide the broadband services via new 3G technology to all around the country.
- The process of issuance license for operators which offer 3G services has started. Five licenses have been issued to operators such as Etisalat, MTN, Roshan, AWCC and Salaam. The cost of each license is 25 million USD, which have credited to the Ministry of Finance.
- We plan to increase the users of 3G from 10% to 50% at the end of 2015.

POSTAL SERVICES

- There are 464 Post Offices through the country.
- Beside National postal services, seven private companies have been licensed to provide postal services.

The total income 153932458 AFN or 2.700 Million USD has been generated by the postal services during the last fiscal year.

MEDIA

- ATRA has been issuing licenses to companies which provide radio and television services.
- Currently there are 68 television channels in the country, 35 in the capital and 33 in the provinces.
- 174 radio stations are operating in the county, 47 in the capital and 127 in provinces.
- By the installation of Satellite (Afghan Sat 1) the issue lack of frequency has been solved.

SATELITE

Afghanistan deployed its first satellite into orbit (Afghan Sat1) on January 29, 2014 which is now available worldwide. (Ministry of Communication and Information)

SATELITE

- Afghanistan has been launched the satellite by the name of (Afghan Sat 1) allocated a specific slot in the orbit which can used to place a satellite.
- Attempting for nationwide coverage MCIT plans to lease that slot where companies can place a satellite in that location.
- MCIT signed the contract with the awarded Eutelsat Company was awarded the contract.
- The Afghan Satellite named Afghan sat 1. It has been installed and it is already in use.



Transport and Logistics:

Afghanistan shares borders with six neighbors – Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China and Pakistan – and is considered as a land bridge connecting emerging markets in Middle East, Central and Southern Asia . The country’s large and growing market for transportation and logistics service presents a ground floor opportunity for new providers. Early investors report modest start-up costs and low overhead and even smaller operators are moving large volumes of freight. Investments in the transportation and logistics sector are vital to the overall economic development of products throughout the country rod to overseas destinations.

The government has identified improvement in cross border trading as one of the pillars of its economic growth strategy. Afghanistan is a nation rich in resources, strategically located, and its people are steeped in the business of trading. To facilitate the country’s entry into the global trading platform, a multi pronged approach is being implemented. It is designed to create the conditions necessary to attract foreign direct investment to increase export and reduce dependence on imports.

Afghanistan has Four International (Kabul, Herat, Mazare Sharif, Kandahar) Airports from where national and international flights takes place. And also Airports of Khost, Farah, Daikondi, Nimroz, Ghazni provinces and Darwaz Distric of Badakhshan Province are under construction.

The confluence of the events described below: signing trade and transit treaties, undertaking economic and institutional reforms, improving infrastructure, and implementing trade facilitation projects, is an unprecedented development. That it is occurring simultaneously underscore the commitment of the government and international community to prepare the foundation for sustainable economic growth for Afghanistan.

TIR system has recently re-launched in Afghanistan on 4 September 2013 and now Afghanistan is as the 58th Country Member to enjoy facilitated and secure trade by international road transport, the TIR System. Since 1983 Afghanistan has been member of IRU and ACCI is permanent delegate in the organization. But, due to existence of local unrest in the three past decades, Afghanistan has not utilized the international transit system efficiently.

In conducting TIR system in Afghanistan, three entities are involved. ACCI issues Carnet TIR, Customs Department conducts custom protocol and accelerates execution TIR in Afghan customs and MoTCV facilities essentials transport and transit needs.

By execution of TIR system in Afghanistan, the country will be released the complicated and difficult transit procedures in transit deal with foreign countries specially its neighboring countries and Afghan quality goods will be exported on time to market overseas, 57 courtiers who are member of IRU.



Mining:

Finally, the mining sector provides vast investment opportunities. Afghanistan has enormous untapped mineral deposits that include copper, iron, ore, coal, hydrocarbons, gold, and semi-precious gemstones.

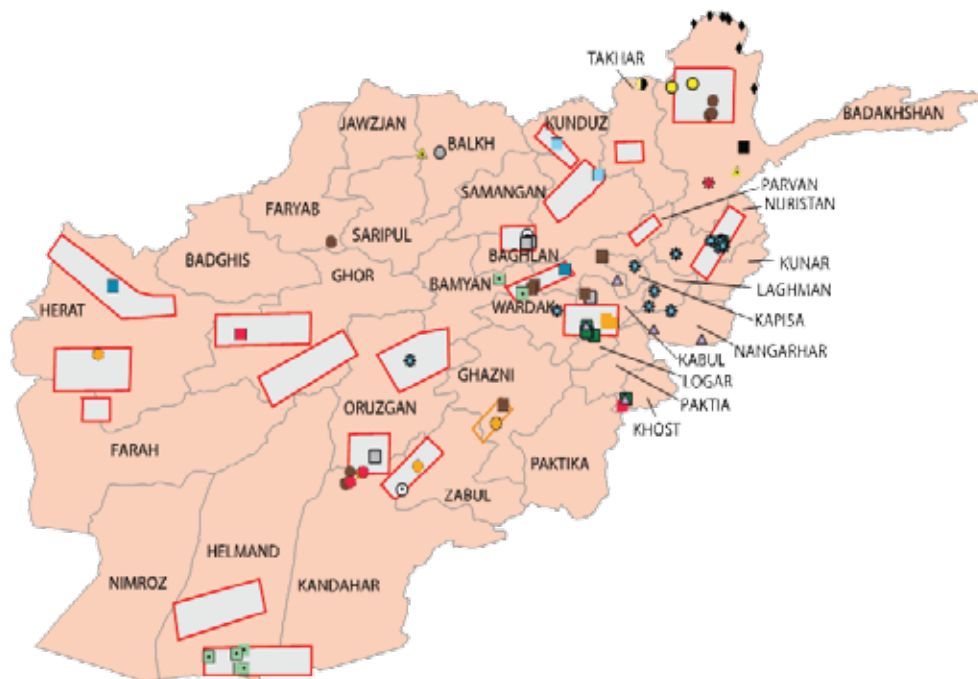
Estimates, based on surveys by a team from the U.S. Geological Survey, have pegged the value of reserves at upwards of three trillion US-Dollars. Presently, the government has begun the process of granting exploration and extraction rights to foreign and domestic companies. Following a competitive bidding process rights for one of the biggest potential copper mines in the world, the Ainak Copper Mine, were awarded to a company from the Republic of China. Additional untapped tracts are scheduled to be tendered and awarded for extraction and production in the next 6-12 months. The government is also forming a Mines Protection Unit to provide security for companies involved in exploration or mining.



Fiscal Incentives for Mining Companies

- Low corporate tax rate of 20% in the Region/ 30% stable tax optional
- Unlimited tax losses carried forward
- Capital allowances on a straight-line basis over the lesser of the effective life of the asset and 5 years
- Pre-production expenses are capitalised and can be recovered over 15 years or the life of the mining licence on a straight line basis
- Fiscal stability

Resources Potential of Afghanistan



Mineral Potentials:

Iron Ore

- Occurs along the line from Afghan-Tajik border to Afghan-Iranian border. Extends several hundred kilometres
- Notable examples include:
 - Hajigak
 - Syadara
 - Khysh

Copper

- All kinds of copper deposits are present in various parts of the country
- Sedimentary, porphyry, skarn and VMS
- Notable examples include:
- Aynak (Southern and Northern)
- Zarkashan
- Balkhab
- Shaida

Gold

- Many styles of gold mineralisation occur, in particular skarn, vein hosted, porphyry related and alluvial
- Provinces of Badakhshan and Takhar, are prospective for shear-zone gold mineralisation
- Notable examples include:
- Qara Zaghan
- Badakhshan
- Zarkashan and Kundalan

Lead and Zinc

- Following deposit types can be found:
- Carbonate Replacement Deposits and Skarn
- Mississippi Valley Type (MVT)
- Sedimentary Exhalative Deposits (SEDEX)
- Notable examples include:
- Darra-i-Nur
- Nalbandon

Molybdenum

- Approximately 2.3 mt porphyry Mo-Cu deposit near Bamyan

Lithium

- Afghanistan has the potential to become the Saudi Arabia for lithium (USGS 2010)
- Lake Namaksar (Herat), Lake Ab-i-Estoda, Lake Dashte Nower, (near Ghazni), Chakansar (Nimroz) and Gowde Zereh (Helmand) have the highest potential
- Salt lakes in the country have similar characteristics to those in the Li triangle in South America

Rare Earth Elements (REE)

- Helmand province contains a major potential source of light rare earth elements, including lanthanum, cerium and neodymium
- Khanneshin prospect is a primary area of interest

Coal

- Based on limited exploration, there are substantial coal resources that extend from Takhar Province in the North-East to Herat in the West
- Commercial production of coal began in the 1930s in Baghlan province

Large Scale Mining & Petroleum Projects

AYNAK COPPER MINE	HAJIGAK IRON DEPOSIT	OTHER PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Supervision of world class Aynak Copper Mining Contract▪ Capex – US\$ 4.4 billion▪ 35 km south-east of Kabul▪ Development rights awarded in December 2007 to a consortium of China Metallurgical Group (75% stake) and Jiangxi Copper (25% stake) (“MCC”)▪ First production: 2014E▪ Annual revenue stream for Afghanistan Treasury	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World class Hajigak Iron project with high quality magnetite of approx. 1.8 bt▪ Creation of thousands of jobs▪ 21 companies submitted Expressions of Interest. Deadline for submission of bids closed in September 2011, with 6 Bids received (2 consortiums and 4 companies)▪ Transparent and fair bid review process▪ Focus on social development, environmental protection and economic growth▪ Consortium led by SAIL announced as the successful bidder for three blocks and Kilo Goldmines Ltd announced as the successful bidder for one block	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Two gold projects (Noraba-Samti, Qara Zaghan)▪ Cement in Jabal-Seraj, Herat and Samangan▪ Gemstones in the North-East <ol style="list-style-type: none">1- Amu-Darya Basin / CNPCW2- Afghan Tajik Basin3- Jarqudaq – Turkish Petroleum

Opportunities:

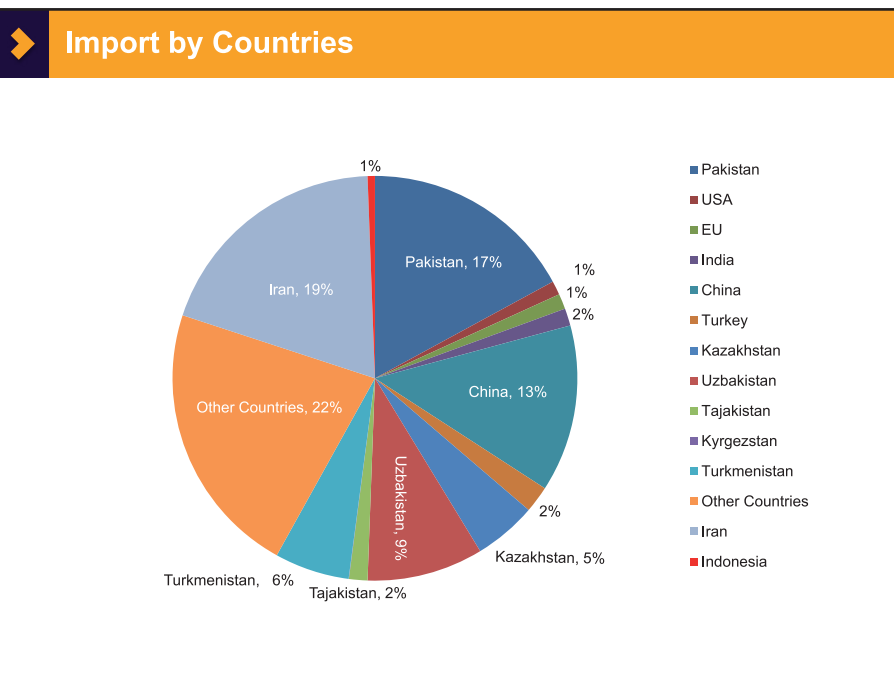
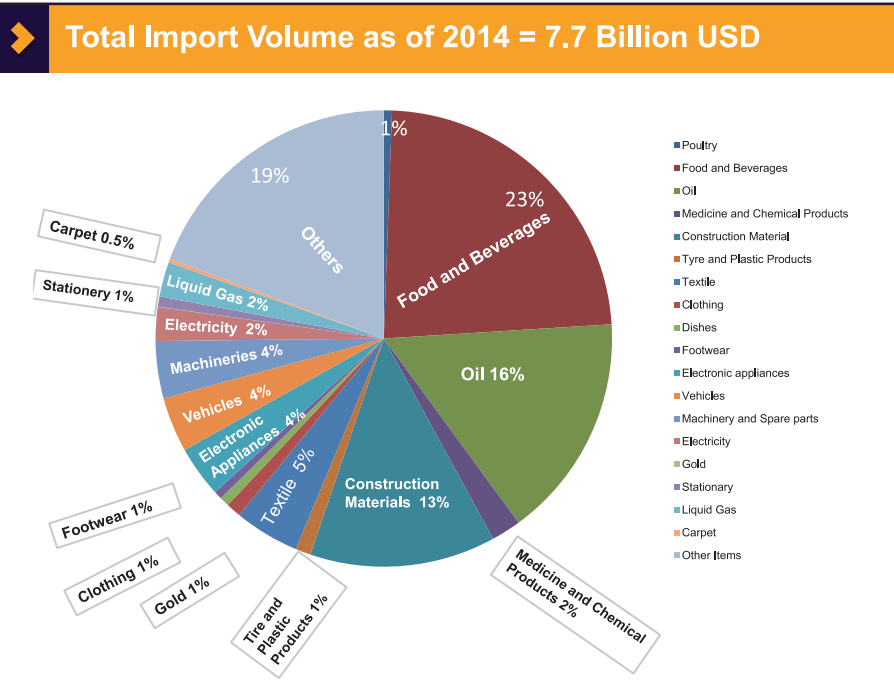
- * Liberal legal framework allowing 100% foreign ownership. Foreign investors are not required to secure an Afghan partner;
- * Foreign investors have the right to transfer their capital and profits out of Afghanistan, including for debt service for off-shore loans.
- * Foreigners can lease real estate, for periods up to 50 years for arable land or longer for non-arable land.
- * Duty free machinery import;
- * Only 1% duty on raw and intermediate materials.

Investment Facilities

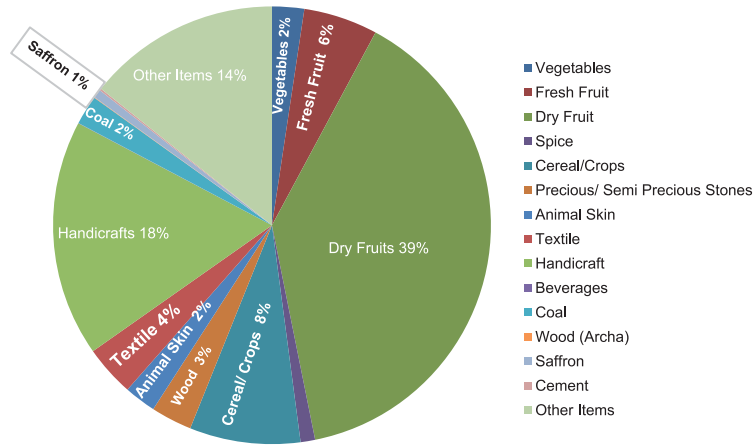
- * Easy, streamlined business registration process
- * No paid-in capital requirement
- * All pre & post-investment support facilities are provided by AISA:
- * Providing information on existing market opportunities
- * Facilitating visa, work permit, customs clearance, trademark registration, and other issues for investors

Total Investments in Afghanistan

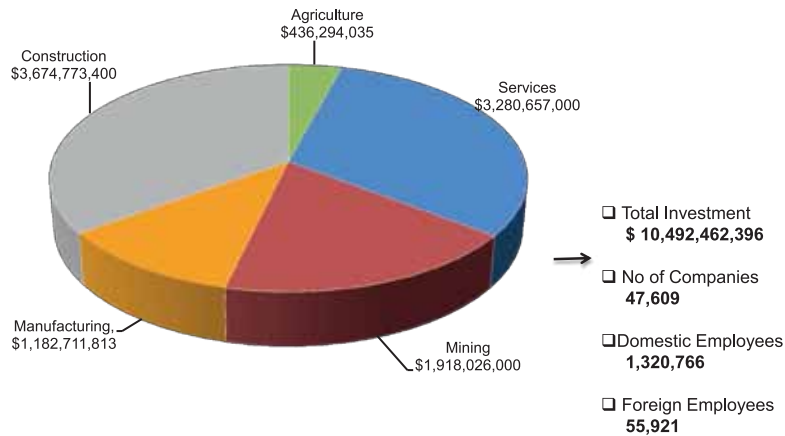
01 Jan 2003 – 11 Oct 2014



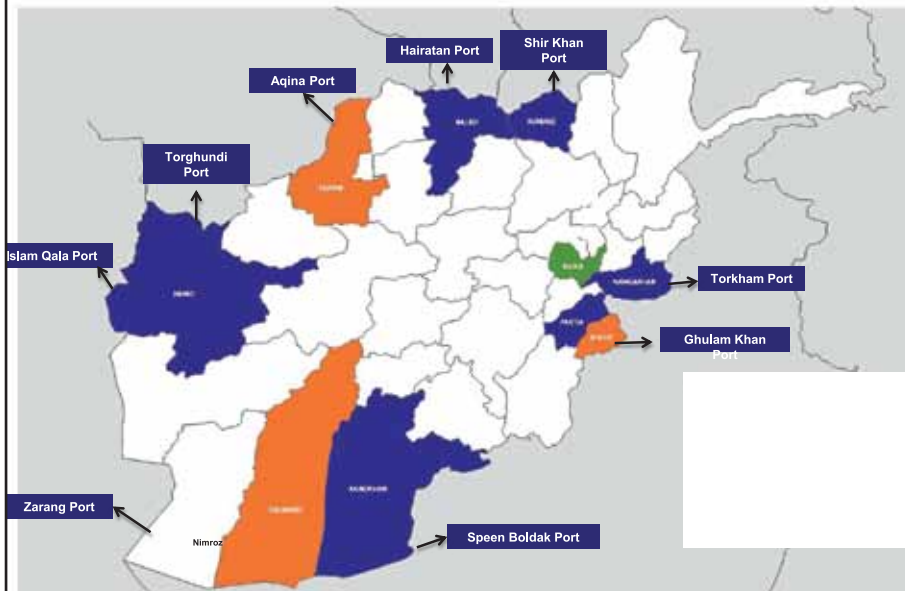
▶ Total Export Volume as of 2014 = 570 million USD



▶ Total Initial Investment in Afghanistan (2001- 2015)



Afghanistan's Ports



Industrial Parks in Afghanistan



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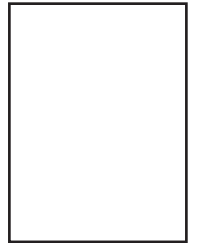
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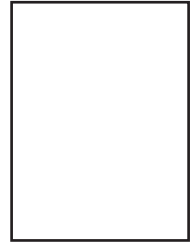


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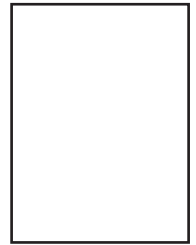


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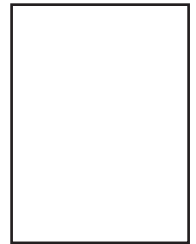
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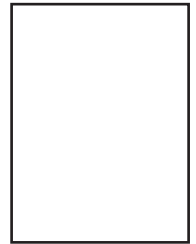
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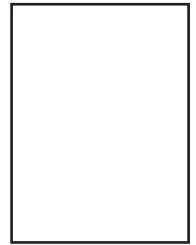


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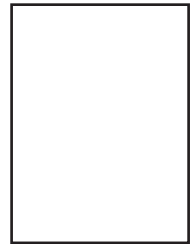
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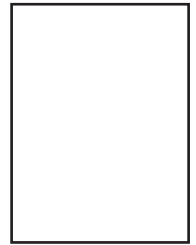


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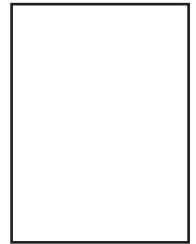
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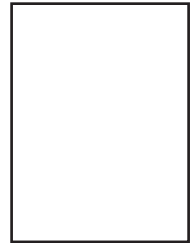
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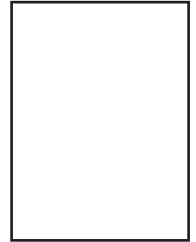
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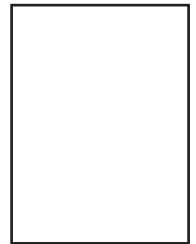
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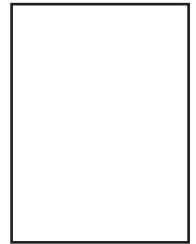
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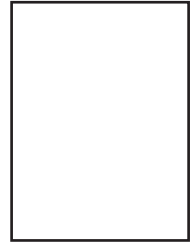


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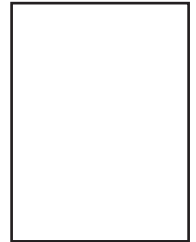
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