



## Bibi Khadija Award Ceremony by AWCCI and PTBN held

Third Annual Bibi Khadija Award ceremony was held on 28 December 2017 in Kabul Serena Hotel to honor women entrepreneurs and men who are supporters of women's economic development. In this occasion, H.E. The First Lady of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ms. Rula Ghani, the President

In addition, one of the founders of AWCCI, and the

founder of Bibi Khadija Award, Ms. Manizha Wafeq, the Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Ms. Nargis Nehan, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Ms. Kamila Sidiqi, a very successful Afghan woman entrepreneur, Ms. Ghazaal Saadat, AWCCI members, Advocates and Media participated. The award ceremony has two important sections; the first section is honorary and the second is

Competitive. In Honorary section, men and women who support women are identified and honored. In competitive section, number of women, nominate themselves in five

Categories and through a committee, candidates are evaluated and five successful women receive this award.



## Taxation week campaign

AWCCI's Chair of the Board of Directors Ms. Afsana Rahimi participated and spoke at the opening of Taxation week on 6 January 2018. She emphasized on simplification of the tax procedures for everyone specially women.

## AWCCI started the Law Review Committee

AWCCI started the Law review committee meetings of 2018 at 12 January, and new members were invited to join the committee and so happened. The Law Review Committee of AWCCI pursues two-folded purpose.

1. To review the laws and find out sections that can hinder women businesses from using opportunities equally.
2. To prepare summaries of important section of the law and provide awareness to all members of AWCCI. The sections identified that can be a barrier for women businesses will be taken on for long-term advocacy work to change and amend those section in a way that women businesses could benefit.



## Two co-founders of LEAD/AWCCI are awarded



On 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 LEAD's two co-founders Ms. Kamila Sadiqi who serves as the Deputy Minister of Commerce of Afghanistan and Ms. Manizha Wafeq who serves as the President of the Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry won awards of recognition for their work in the Economic sector by the first Afghanistan Successful Women's Festival. Fakhria Ibrahim successful Businesswomen who was awarded Bibi Khadija Award in 2016 was also awarded for her cultural contribution making the first Yoga Center.

## Minister of Economy Meeting with AWCCI Board



On January 15, 2018, AWCCI Board and some senior members had meetings with the Minister of Economy H. E. Dr. Mustafa Mastoor and his Deputy H. E. Ismail Rahimi. It was decided to follow up on the mini-women industrial park and buying from women-owned businesses. Our members discussed their challenges and practical solutions in details.

## Board of Directors meeting held at AWCCI

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January, AWCCI had a two half and one full day of reviewing of 5 years Organizational Strategic Plan, Advocacy Policy and 2018 plan and targets. Committed Board of Directors attended the workshop and enriched the plans with their inputs. Many things to be done but most importantly the advocacy policy sets that AWCCI should select three priorities every year in consultation with the members.



## AWCCI joined SAARC women to inaugurate women trade hub in India



On 18 January 2018, AWCCI team participated in Vishakaptnam Indra Pradesh, India exhibition. Participation in international women entrepreneur conference was very effective for AWCCI and its member Binzeer Yakta. Ms Manizha Wafeq and Binazeer Yakta presented the positive figure of Afghanistan. Media cover the whole exhibition and published about Afghan women success. Ms. Wafeq presented Afghan women entrepreneur's needs to be part of the hub with dried fruits, saffron, carpets and precious stone.



## First exhibition “Bazar-e-Roz” of 2018 officially held

The three days Bazar Roz of the Ministry of Commerce and AWCCI with the support of Almighty Allah end successfully. 45 companies and associations of women from Kabul, Parwan, Balkh and Jalalabad participated in the exhibition and all of them made good sales and gained good experience of what the Kabul residents demand is and what prices they are ready to pay. More than AFN 220,000 of sales estimated to have happened in this exhibition.

## AWCCI official Launch and General Assembly in Balkh Province

AWCCI held its Launch and general assembly in the north - Balkh province on January 28, 2018. Around 50 women business owners and government dignitaries attended the Launch. In the general, the by-law was presented and the women from Balkh, Jawzjan and Samangan had the opportunity to Nominate themselves.

For the Board members. Based on the by law 5 Board members were supposed to be elected for which 10 women nominated themselves. The election took place under the monitoring of the Director of Women's Affairs of Balkh. The Launch and general assembly was facilitated by Ms. Afsana Rahimi Chair of the Board of AWCCI, Ms. Manizha Wafeq President of AWCCI and Ms. Farahnaz Hakimi the Businesses Development and Membership Assistant. The event ended with a Video message from H.E. First Lady of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

