

Highlight of the Month

By AWCCI leadership effort and support of H.E First Lady of Afghanistan, Afghanistan National Procurement Authority gave 5% preference to women businesses in National Procurement Procedure. And AWCCI has prepared a BIG Thank you board, signed by AWCCI members to be presented to Mr. Hotaki Chair of National Procurement Authority .

Advisory Board second meeting held at AWCCI

Advisory Board second meeting held at AWCCI Conference room on March 4th, 2018, where Ms. Manizha Wafeq President of AWCCI started the session and gave report on 2017 performed activities and AWCCI Strategic Plan and Organizational Plan of 2018. She briefed them on each quarter's activities. Activities of 1st Quarter such as Bazar-e-Roz, Launched of Offices in 4 Zones, Made by Afghan Women Trademark, International Women's Day Celebration in a practical way, Trainings, Law Review Committee, Business Match-Making, Exhibitions, Mini Industrial Parks, Research, Training of ISO Certificates and AALLC Financial Review Training, MoU with ANSA, Roshan Telecommunication, Municipality and so on presented to Advisory Board members.



Ms. Parwarish Oryakhail Business Development Services Director of AWCCI also shared information about startup businesses. She also spoke about joint event in Bagh-e-Babor of MRRD (AREDP), MoCI, AWCCI, and the Women Center; American University of Afghanistan on March 14-16. Ms. Oryakhail also said that we have discovered Afghan Made Grant which covers 90% expenses and 10% will be given by company to settle their businesses. Which is the cost of certification only.

AWCCI Launch and General Assembly in South Zone-Kandahar



AWCCI officially launched its activities and held its General Assembly in the South Zone-Kandahar province on March 5th, 2018. The Governor H.E. Mr. Zalmai Wesa, Deputy Governor Mr. Abdul Hanan Moneeb, Director of Women Affair Kandahar Province Ms. Roqia Achakzai, Director of Commerce Allaudin Hamidi, Director of Provincial Council Mr. Saeed Jan Khakrizwal and around 50 Women Entrepreneurs joined AWCCI team from Kabul to do the inauguration. The inauguration was supported by H. E. First Lady's video message. H.E. Mr. Zalmai Wesa expressed his sincere gratitude to H.E. First Lady's support to such important institutions and he expressed his full support to the work of AWCCI in Kandahar province and when he cut the ribbon prayed that women will also soon export their products in containers to all over the world.



Second consultation meeting held on Made by Afghan Women Trademark

On March 6th, 2018, Second consultation meeting was took place on Made by Afghan Women trademark by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry. At this meeting, government dignitaries, business women and AWCCI leadership participated. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Elaha Shahin the Director of Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan of (MoCI). In her words, Ms. Manizha Wafeq, said that as in our first meeting we mentioned that we can have a collection of different trademarks made for “Made by Afghan Woman”, and then we can chose the best one by sharing them with our stakeholder. The meeting was concluded that a committee will be made from different organizations and four or five designed trademarks can be surveyed through social media where people can rate them. Afterwards, the high rated trademark will be selected.



AWCCI Board of Directors Participated PDAC 2018

On March 7th, 2018 AWCCI Chair of Board of Directors Ms. Afsana Rahimi and Trade Vice Chair of Board of Director Ms. Nahid Hamidi were part of government dignitaries of Afghanistan H.E. Ms. Nargis Nehan Minister of Mines and Petroleum leading the Afghan delegation at Canada, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Humayon Qayoumi Senior Advisor in Infrastructure Affairs to H.E. President, Mohamad Ashraf Ghani and H.E. Mr. Ferzo Khan Masjidi Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry for private sector and industries development were among them. H.E. Nehan presented Afghanistan’s Strategy and Roadmap for the Extractives Sector during the Convention and highlighted areas of opportunities for Canadian and other companies. It’s worth mentioning both of Board of Directors of AWCCI cover all the travel expenses themselves.



Celebration of International Women Day in Presidential Palace



AWCCI leadership participated in a town hall style discussion with H. E. President on International Women’s Day on March 11th, 2018. AWCCI President Ms. Manizha Wafeq spoke on the Chamber’s activities and what works for women’s economic empowerment. Board members Ms. Laila Samani, Ms. Freshta Sarwary and Ms. Sona Mahmody were among the participants.

AWCCI celebrated its one year existence at H.E. First Lady Office

On March 12th, 2018 Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry leadership team celebrated AWCCI's first anniversary at H.E. First Lady Office Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Where H.E. Ms. Rula Ghani welcomed all the participants. A short video was played on establishment of AWCCI, Board of Directors, seats in High Councils, Launch of Zone offices, Media Coverage, Partners, MoUs, Booklet publications, Bazar-e-Roz exhibition, Research and Law Review committee showed up. After that AWCCI leadership team presented a gift to honor H.E First Lady efforts on establishment of AWCCI and her all support. She received the gift with thanks and emphasized to all business entrepreneurs to keep on working. H.E. also stated, "Hard work of Ms. Manizha Wafeq and her colleagues resulted in having a chamber for women (AWCCI) today".



One year of existence, International Women's Day and its new collaborations and partnerships Celebration

Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI) celebrated its one year of existence, International Women's Day and its new collaborations and partnerships, at AWCCI office in Kabul, Afghanistan on March 13th, 2018. In this event government dignitaries, entrepreneurs and AWCCI Board of Directors and team participated. H.E. Ms. Kamila Sediqi DM of Ministry of Commerce and Industry presented her short speech. Later H.E. Ms. Sediqi and Ms. Manizha Wafeq launched AWCCI's 2nd volume of booklet. AWCCI also signed number of MoUs such as, with Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Department of Handicraft, Ministry of Commerce, Kabul Municipality, Afghanistan International Bank, Roshan Telecommunication Company. Same day AWCCI presented its



Annual report of 2017 and a research on potential areas of investment in Afghanistan by Ms. Masooma Ebrahimi AWCCI Vice Chair of Business Development Services. Ms. Wafeq shared good news about holding Juma Bazar each week on Friday's, the park located in Macroreyan 1st and 3rd. Partners that collaborated AWCCI were also thanked by appreciation letters to them. AWCCI presented on the new accomplishment of Afghan government and AWCCI the 5% preference for women businesses in National Procurement and Mr. Hotaki Chair of National Procurement Authority received a BIG Thank you board, signed by AWCCI members.



Celebration of International Women's Day and Nawroz Bazar at Bagh-e-Babur

On March 14th, 2018, A joint Event for celebrating International Women's Day and Nawroz Bazaar held in collaboration by Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)-Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program (AREDP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), The Women's Center (TWC) of American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) and Afghanistan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI) at Bagh-e-Babur and lasted for 3 days. H.E. Minister Mujeeb Rahman Karimi (MRRD) briefed that in today Nawroz Bazaar exhibition 130 women businesses participated, 80 of which are from rural areas and 50 others are from Kabul. H.E. also stated that the purpose from holding such exhibitions are to provide opportunities for women businesses.



In her speech, Ms. Wafeq stated about women's role in the private sector. She said in collaboration with MRRD we launched campaign to buy from women businesses. Afghan women are the economic activist of the country.

Also on this day, session on Business Match Making between women businesses facilitated by Ms. Parwarish Oryakhail Business Development Services Director of AWCCI and Ms. Freshta Sarwari one of AWCCI Board member. The purpose of business match making was introduction of women businesses and their products to each other's. Also to make business linkages among them.



Farmer's Fair, Bazar-e-Roz and spring AgFair celebrated

Farmer's fair, spring AgFair and Second 2018 exhibition Bazar-e-Roz of AWCCI was held on March 22-24, 2018 in Badam Bagh. The exhibition was attended by high delegations from different organizations such as, H.E. Mr. Nasir Ahmad Durani Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), H.E. Mr. Hameed Helmandi senior advisor to H.E. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, Representatives from Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI), Ms. Freshta Sarwari Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries (AWCCI) Board of Directors and AWCCI team participated. 30 Women entrepreneurs who hold membership of AWCCI keenly participated in this exhibition. They exhibited and placed their products for sale and had great sales. Afghan women entrepreneurs expressed their satisfaction of holding such exhibitions.



AWCCI participated in Industrial Park Policy finalization meeting

On March 26th 2018, the Industrial Park Policy Finalization meeting was chaired by Mr. Ali Aqa Mortazawi Director of the Maintenance and Supervision and Acting Director of Industrial Parks Directorate, Ministry of Commerce and Industry held in the conference hall of the Ministry. Mr. Ali Aqa Mortazawi stated that in the history of Industrial Park this is the first policy on arrangement and management of industrial parks that set out in the country. The meeting discussed draft final policy of industrial parks that is prepared by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. After revising by related departments and reform, it will be sent to Economic High Council for approval. On behalf of AWCCI, Ms. Afsana Rahimi Chair Board of Directors participated in this meeting. She stated in the meeting that strength, weakness, opportunities and thread (SWOT) analysis must be specify in the policy.



Financial Review session held at AWCCI by Advanced Accounting LLC

Based on MoU between AWCCI and Advance Accounting LLC, the Financial Review session of Business Expansion and Standardization Program for women held on March 26th, 2018 at AWCCI. Advanced Accounting LLC trainer briefed the participants on Financial Management Systems and also talked about the importance of a standardized financial system for an organization. He also had a brief introduction on the usage of softwares for accounting and financial system (such as QuickBooks) and how effective it is for small and medium enterprises.

Next he worked individually with each businesswoman and reviewed their accounting and financial system. The purpose of this review engagement was to ensure the suitability of a proper and accurate financial system within an organization which is the basic need and the backbone of each and every organization. Afterwards, based on MoU, AALLC will offer a discounted rate for establishing and/or standardizing the accounting and financial systems of these women businesses.



AWCCI participation in International Consumer Day

On March 27th 2018, Ms. Masooma Ebrahimi AWCCI vice Chair of Business Development Services participated in celebration of the International Consumer Day in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Ministry prepared national policy on Consumer rights which is approved by the Cabinets. In her words Ms. Ebrahimi stated that Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry work closely with its Consumer who are women and has provided various services to them such as, holding various





training courses, arranging national and international exhibitions, holding Bazar-e-Roz exhibition, Business Match-making and others. She added in general we are all Consumer and benefited from different kind of services and products, the basic need of a Consumer is price, quantity, quality, packaging, expiration date and facilities that manufactures should consider them.