



Highlights of the Month

- **Training and Planning with AWCCI Zones Offices**

The Board of Directors and Managers from four provinces, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar and Nangarhar participated in a three days training and planning program for the zone offices.

- **Launch of “Made by Afghan Women” Trademark**

Ministry of Industry and Commerce and AWCCI celebrated World Intellectual Property Day through Launch of “Made by Afghan Women” Trademark and Creative Industries Project.

- **AWCCI signed MoU with Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC)**

The purpose of signing MoU is to have strategic collaboration and to allocate a room for AWCCI zone offices in four Commerce Directorate of MoIC (Nangarhar, Balkh, Herat and Kandahar).

- **AWCCI signed MoU with Kabul Municipality**

The purpose of this MoU is to gain Kabul Municipalities support in utilizing public spaces for Exhibitions and Bazars for women’s products based on municipalities.

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Report on training and planning with the zones

Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry on May 5, 2018. The Board of Directors and Managers from four provinces, such as Herat, Balkh, Kandahar and Nangarhar participated in three days training and planning program for the zone offices. The program was held in collaboration with CIPE



(Centre for International Private Enterprise), Mr. Matiullah Murad, Program Manager from the CIPE facilitated two days part time training on Advocacy and

Planning. Achievements from 2014 to 2017 as LEAD and AWCCI were shared with members also AWCCI Strategic Plane. The action plan for zone worked as a group with the participants.



AWCCI participated in Training on Export Import Procedure



AWCCI's 10 members and staff participated in 3 days workshop on Export Import Procedure at Indonesia Embassy held from May 7-9, 2018. The training covered theme such as, Afghanistan and Indonesia Potential Products, over view of export import, export import system, export import Transportation and Cargo Handling, Incoterms, Export Costing and Pricing and etc. The training of Export Import for women are really necessary for their business expansion.

Celebration of World Intellectual Property Day through Launch of “Made by Afghan Women” Trademark and Creative Industries Project

Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce, and Industries (AWCCI) celebrated World Intellectual Property Day through Launch of “Made by Afghan Women” Trademark and Creative Industries Project on May 13, 2018 at the Government Media and Information Center. The event was attended by high ranking government dignitaries, business women and international partners.

Ms. Manizha Wafeq, in her speech said that the theme for the World Intellectual Property Day this year is “Afghan Women empowering”. We wanted that Afghan women products receive a recognition in international market and in collaboration with Ministry of Industry and Commerce worked on the trademark and as the result of that, today we are going to launch it “Made by Afghan Women”. In her words, she also said that appointing women in government high positions provide the opportunity of not forgetting women role in the society.



The First Lady of Afghanistan, H.E. Rula Ghani in her speech congratulated all for the launch of trademark “Made by Afghan Women” and expressed that afterwards women products will be exported to the countries outside with this trademark. She also mentioned that, the trips she has to the foreign countries; can proudly said that in Afghanistan we have Women Chamber of Commerce; that women



Afghanistan Women Chamber Commerce and Industry

unified and established it by their own efforts. She also said that it's really a pleasure that today we have AWCCI's chapters in zones; North, South, East and West. Having seat at High Economic Council is another great achievements for AWCCI.

In the last session of program awards presented to the most creative and innovative women industrialists and service providers they are, Ms. Mohsina saqib in Designing Cloths, Ms. Homira Kohzad in Training of Cleaners and Finding jobs for them, Ms. Samira Sarwar for establishing Apple Vinegar factory, Ms. Nahid Hamidi for the establishment of Gemstone Mill and Fouzia Amin for creating beauty and health complex for women.

AWCCI signed MoU with Ministry of Industry and Commerce

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) and Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI) on May 15, 2018. The MoU signed by H.E. Ms. Kamila Sediqi, Deputy of Trade Affair Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) and Ms. Afsana Rahimi Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI).



MoIC has close cooperation with AWCCI and by signing this MoU cooperation will be enhanced. The purpose of signing this MoU is that, MoIC will provide a room in four zone Directorates of Commerce of MoIC (Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, and Nangarhar) to AWCCI zone offices to proceed their activities and AWCCI team will be mainstream from all business affairs. Mr. Zia-ul-Haq Wazirzai President of Paktia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Wazirzai Group was also appreciated for his cooperation to equip AWCCI zone offices.

Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed MoU with Kabul Municipality



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Kabul Municipality and Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI) on May 22, 2018. The MoU signed by Mr. Abdullah Habibzai, the Mayor of Kabul and Ms. Manizha Wafeq, President and Co-Founder of the Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI). By signing this MoU cooperation will be enhanced between these two organizations. The Municipality administration can cooperate to introduce women to participate in various exhibitions organize by AWCCI. Also through this



Afghanistan Women Chamber Commerce and Industry

MoU Juma Bazars will be held each Friday in two parks at First Macroreyan and Third Macroreyan for business women to showcase their products for sale.

AWCCI signed MoU with Tashabos Educational Organization

MoU was signed between the Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI) and Tashabos Educational Organization (TEO) on May 23, 2018. The MoU signed by Mr. Fazal Rabi Haqbeen, the Executive Director of Tashabos Educational Organization (TEO) and Ms. Manizha Wafeq, President and Co-Founder of AWCCI.

TEO prepared book named Tashabus (Entrepreneurship) for class 10, 11 and 12 students of Kabul, Bamyan, Parwan and Nangarhar students, this subject lead students to start their own businesses after graduation. Female graduates of TEO will have chance to be connected with AWCCI; in its exhibition/other activities for their business development.



Ms. Manizha Wafeq said that for Afghan's we need to change our culture of only working for others but starting our own small business and not only employ ourselves but many others. TEO's mandate is aligned with AWCCI's to enhance entrepreneurship in the society. AWCCI will be supportive to enhance TEO's female graduates' skills and businesses.

A meeting with members on Opportunities and Business Contracts

A session took place on Opportunities and Business Contracts for AWCCI's member on May 24, 2018

chaired by Ms. Manizha Wafeq, President and Co-Founder of AWCCI. Ms. Wafeq started the session with welcome remarks and briefed the participants for holding the session. She said that the main purpose of holding this session is, how to make use of the opportunities provided to businesswomen. Lots of work has been done by the efforts of AWCCI, such as policy change of 5 % preference in National Procurement Procedure. She added that women has political support and we have to make use of the opportunity and move on by getting contracts. She briefed the participants on Procurement Institute that provide trainings on procurement and teach various topic such as, getting contracts, bid, biddings etc and its great opportunity that



AWCCI members participate in this institute, get contracts and expand their businesses. Information was provided on other opportunities such as, Roshan Telecommunication Dealership and Public Private Partnership (PPP). The session also brought information on Banks that provide Loans to womenbusiness with less interest such as, AIB, Ghazanfar Bank and First Microfinance Bank (FMFB).



Afghanistan Women Chamber Commerce and Industry

Next section carried by Nisar Ahmad Rumi LLC Deputy Director, Ms. Zakya Roshan President of Maza Tu Company and Ms. Noor Jahan president of Mahmmodzada wood carving company. These three members participated in Indonesia SMEs Training. They showed the sample that they brought with themselves such as, plastic and paper packages and cans in different shapes. They briefed all the participants of attending the training program, visiting exhibitions and meetings with entrepreneurs. They asked members to be careful of the quality of products in order to find a place in markets.



AWCCI facilitated session to its members with Ghazanfar Bank on its Loan Packages

The “Banking with Ghazanfar Bank” session facilitated by AWCCI took place on May 24th, 2018. Mr. Jayanta Ray, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Mohammad Naweed Hamidi, Head of Business Development carried out the session through a presentation.



They provided information on the mission and vision of this bank. They explained the Ghazanfar Bank outlook for empowering women in three sections: 1. Financial Services which include serving with new banking technology, commercial remittances, LC and LG 2. Financial Investment which include “Arzan Loan”, Self-Help Group and other Commercial Loans, 3. Financial Advise.

1. Self help Group that guarantee each other. And other one is SMEs Loan. 2. The loan interest is 6.5% and women can start with

2000\$. 3. Financial review and planning will be done by Bank’s Loan Officer

AWCCI members received participation certificate

On May 26, 2018, AWCCI’s 15 members and Board of Directors received training certificate on procurement from National Procurement Institute. Ms. Afsana Rahimi chairperson of Board of Director spoke in the event. Ms. Rahimi thanked from the cooperation of National Procurement





Afghanistan Women Chamber Commerce and Industry

Authority and asked for the launch of these kind of training for women entrepreneur empowerment in government contracts.

AWCCI got its permanent membership of Protection of Private Sector Committee

AWCCI's active member Ms. Zakya Roshan efforts was that this organization received permanent membership of Protection of Private Sector Committee. This committee chaired by H.E. Sarwar Danish, second Vice President of the Islamic Republic Afghanistan. The first session of the committee took place on 27th May, 2018. The session was on committee work procedure which cover 13 article. The main purpose of which are, to protect the security of business people, entrepreneurs, and other groups to prevent damage of their property, capital, family dignity, relatives, establishing coordination between security departments, discovery and justice institutions in securing private sector security.



Workshop on Financial and Non-Financial Interventions



AWCCI Board and Executive Body participated in a joint session on AWCCI-FMFB collaboration for Women Economic Empowerment (WEE). At First, Ms. Feroza Karimi, Deputy Branch Manager of FMFB carried out the presentation on the Bank Loan Packages. She provided information on Small Loans for Women, Loans Standards and documents and M-Paisa.

Next,
Parwarish
Oryakhail,
Director of
Business

Development Services of AWCCI had presentation on the organization establishment LEAD/AWCCI and membership.

So that FMFB clients can use AWCCI services and AWCCI's members can make use of FMFB packages.





Afghanistan Women Chamber Commerce and Industry

AWCCI leadership congratulated New Chair of Vocational and Technical Education Board



AWCCI leadership visited Ms. Nadima Sahar former LEAD/AWCCI Board member and new Chair of Vocational and Technical Education Board of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to congratulate her appointment and bring some market skills' gaps into her consideration. The meeting was so informative as Ms. Sahar presented her great plan to evaluate the internal organization, market and public demands. AWCCI leadership wished her best of luck for accelerated and effective work in this sector.