

Highlight of the Month

AWCCI invited newly appointed Commercial Attaché

Afghanistan Women Chamber took the initiative of inviting the newly appointed Commercial Attachés to get them acquainted with the business community and give them messages before they depart for their locations of assignments.

AWCCI President talked to VOA Ashna TV

On April 3rd, 2018, Ms. Manizha Wafeq President of AWCCI during an unofficial trip to United States allocated time to talk to Ashna TV part of Voice of America. She talked about AWCCI's major achievements in one year time and the special ones she mentioned were connecting more than 250 women business owners to opportunities with over 650 participation and the 5% preference change in the National Procurement Procedure of the Afghan government.



AWCCI participated in High Economic Council

Ms. Afsana Rahimi Chairperson of AWCCI attended High Economic Council meeting on April 3rd 2018, where the National Export Strategy (NES) was approved. AWCCI contributed in the overall NES but specially worked with International Trade Center (ITC) and Afghan Ministry of Commerce on Export Strategy of Precious Stones and Jewelry part of the Handicraft. Approval of this vital document was a milestone to all the partners and it was accomplished but the real accomplishment is the implementation on the ground.



Launch of First Cohort of 2018's Startup Program at AWCCI



The First Cohort of 2018's startup program launched on April 10th 2018 at AWCCI. The program was opened by Ms. Parwarish Oryakhail, the Business Development Services Director of AWCCI, by welcoming the participants and an introduction of the program. The in-class part of the program will last for weeks, three days each week. During these three weeks, startups will learn about Entrepreneurship, Becoming an Entrepreneur, starting a Business, drafting a Business Plan and developing your Marketing Plan, Financial Plan and Operations Plan for your Business. They will also learn about Afghanistan Business Law, Registering a Business and Taxation. After a month of mentorship, Startups will present their business plans to an investor for



getting initial financing through a joint venture for their business. This Program will help Startups to change their idea to a real business.

The first session was facilitated by Ms. Sultana Khaknizhad, the Legal Expert of AWCCI on Afghanistan Business Law. The session was interactive where Ms. Sultana Khaknizhad had a presentation on Afghanistan Business Law, taking questions and concerns of the startups on the law and answering them back.

A Meeting on review of AWCCI Activities by Members



A meeting was called to review AWCCI activities and 2018 plans by its members on April 12th 2018 at AWCCI. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Parwarish Oryakhail, Director of Business Development Services of AWCCI. In this session about 22 Women Businesses participated. Ms. Freshta Sarwari, Board of Directors, Ms. Zakya Jafari, Board of Advisor and Ms. Shazia Stanekzai, Public and International Relations officer of AWCCI were among them. Ms. Parwarish Oryakhail while, talking to all members said, the members receive emails on overall business opportunities, AWCCI's policy advocacy work, information and awareness, and announcements.

AWCCI expect response from the members/businesswomen on the emails sent to them and that's your participation when you (members) to respond to email. Ms. Oryakhail also talked about AWCCI's Law Review committee that Ms. Sultana Khaknizhad, the Legal Expert is the responsible for it, she holds sessions to present law, regulations and policies to businesswomen; and get their feedbacks. She also added about opportunities in Public Private Partnership (PPP) and National Procurement Authority (NPA). During the session Ms. Oryakhail took questions of members and answer them back. The session summed up by all members and appreciated AWCCI team efforts and hard work.



AWCCI Members participated in Indonesia Training Program

Three of AWCCI members are participated in International Training on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) Empowerment for Asia and Pacific on 22 April-1 May 2018. They are getting exposed to SMEs work in Indonesia and are going through an SME Development.

Selection of AWCCI Board of Directors in East Zone-Nangarhar Province

Following the official launch and General Assembly of Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry on February 19, 2018 in the East Zone-Nangarhar province, where the election process for the selection of Board of Directors was postponed due to absence of number of active women in this zone.

Thus, Election of five Board of Directors in East Zone-Nangarhar province took place on April 23, 2018 at Women Garden of Jalalabad city. In this event Ms. Anisa Omrani Directors of Women Affairs in Nangarhar Province, Ms. Mozghan Head of Gender from Provincial Office of Nangarhar province and team from Kabul participated.

Based on the Bylaw, five members of the Board of Directors are selected after transparent election. They are Ms. Jamila Sadat, Ms.

Shahala Shaiq, Ms. Sharifa Ahmadzai, Ms. Mahtab Malikzai and Ms. Sulha Safi. At the end all Board members promised to perform their assigned duties very well.



Awareness session on business opportunities for women entrepreneurs

Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry facilitated awareness session on business opportunity for businesswomen on April 23, 2018 at AWCCI. About 24 women-owned businesses participated. Representatives from the National Procurement Authority (NPA) and Public and Private Partnership Directorate, Ministry of Finance took part in the session and presented essential information to all women entrepreneurs.

Mr. Kawoos Shahi from the NPA talked on getting business contracts and added that National Procurement Procedure contains a 5 % preference clause for women-owned businesses. Incase if 50% of its employees, owner and the beneficiaries are women. It's worth mentioning that by AWCCI leadership efforts and support of H.E. First Lady of



Afghanistan,

NPA gave 5% preference to women businesses in the procurement procedure. Mr. Shahi also talked on Procurement Institute of NPA that provide training on bidding and NPA procurement procedure.

Mr. Rohullah Shikeb representative from Ministry of Finance gave presentation on Public and Private Partnership (PPP) in Afghanistan to the participants. Public and Private Partnership means investment between government and private sector. Mr. Shikeb also explained registration form of PPP to the participants. At the end both representative answers to the participants questions.



AWCCI invited newly appointed Commercial Attaché



Afghanistan Women's Chamber of Commerce with its allies ICC-Afghanistan and ACCI organized a gathering to get acquainted with newly appointed Commercial Attachés.

The event started with a welcome and felicitation remarks by Ms. Manizha Wafeq President of AWCCI followed by remarks of congratulations and a request for an effective collaboration among Commercial Attachés and Afghanistan Business Community by Mr. Khairwah Chairperson of ICC-Afghanistan and Mr. Momand Vice Trade Chair of ACCI. Then all Commercial Attachés introduced themselves and their assignment location and all the men and women business owners approached them with their messages how they need support in specific countries during the Lunch. The great networking event ended by handing over gifts of AWCCI so Commercial Attachés remember Afghan Women Businesses in all what they are going to do. Worth mentioning that Chamber of Industries and Mines couldn't attend.

