

Young women entrepreneur visited Japan

On 1st February 2018, 10 of AWCCI member's young women entrepreneurs participated in an exposure visit to Japan organized by Japan Embassy Kabul. They all returned with a world of new energy, experience and ideas which is really needed to continue their work here.



USAID's event on mining sector



On 8th February 2018 Ms. Manizha Wafeq made a presentation of the Precious Stones and Jewelry Strategy as part of the National Export Strategy of Afghanistan at USAID's event on mining sector of Afghanistan. The conference attendees were mining sectors' value chain actors from Kabul some provinces of Afghanistan.

H.E. Ministry of Mine's high delegations visited to AWCCI

On 8th February 2018 H. E. Ms. Nargis Nehan Minister of Mines and Petroleum and H. E. Mr. Javed Sadat the Deputy Minister and their colleagues visited AWCCI. Where possibilities of increasing women's role in mining sector was discussed. Ms. Wafeq presented the challenges Afghan women entrepreneurs facing in the mining sector such as testing, pricing of gemstones and certifications. Meanwhile Ms. Nehan promised in providing better facilities and will focused to provide more opportunity in providing contracts to businesswomen working in mining sector.



Reporting to the members of 2017 and discussing 2018 plan of AWCCI took place

On 8th March 2018, Reporting to the members of 2017 activities and discussing 2018 plan of AWCCI took place. Meeting held at AWCCI conference room where Ms. Manziha Wafeq President and one of Founder of AWCCI started the session and gave report on 2017 performed activities and AWCCI Strategic and Organizational Plan of 2018. She briefed them on each quarter's activities.

First cohort of 2018 business expansion training

On 12th February AWCCI's Business Development Services Department launched first cohort of 2018 business expansion training, coaching and hands on work on operations and quality management, financial management and marketing and strategic management.



AWCCI visited Parwan province

On 13th February 2018 AWCCI visited the neighboring province Parwan as Parwan Mayor is planning a Women only Market in the city. Ms. Afsana Rahimi Chair of the Board and Ms. Manizha Wafeq President of AWCCI met with Mr. Khawja Rohullah Sediqi Mayor of Charikar and Ms. Shahjan Director of Women's Affairs of Parwan. The meeting included discussing the plan and a field visit.



Training on ISO Certificate and Afghan Made Grant

RICGISO and Ashna International Organization, in collaboration of Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized awareness training sessions at the conference hall for two days. The two institutions provided information on obtaining an ISO certificate and Afghan made grants. 20 women businesses participated and Tolo News cover the session and made a report on it. The program was for two days, the first day on the ISO Certificate, and the second day training was on the introduction of RICGISO organization, Ashna Charity organization. In this program, these two entities shared their capabilities with the partnerships, one of which is the RICGISO Certificate.



AWCCI attended Economic Empowerment of Women through Women's Market meeting

On 14th February 2018, H.E. Ms. Spogmai Wardak, Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs chaired the meeting at the Ministry's conference hall. In this meeting Ms. Manizha Wafeq President and Founder of AWCCI, Ms. Parwarish Oryakhail Business Development Services Director of AWCCI, Representative of National and International organizations participated. The key issue was establishment of coordination among relevant agencies for the economic empowerment of women through Women's Market in center and provinces.



AWCCI Launch and General Assembly in East Zone-Nangarhar

On February 19th, 2018 launched of AWCCI activities in the East Zone, Nangarhar Province. The Governor Mr. Mangal, Director of Commerce Mr. Sher Alam and Director of Women's Affairs Ms. Anisa the Mayor of Jalalabad and Director of Roshan in East Zone Mr. Basit Nabil and more than 50 women joined AWCCI team from Kabul to do the inauguration. The inauguration was supported by H. E. First Lady's Video message.



AWCCI met with ANSA

On February 20th, 2018 AWCCI leadership had meeting with H.E. Dr. Naqibullah Faiq Director General of Afghanistan National Standards

Authority (ANSA). The main issues for discussion were how AWCCI and ANSA can work together towards standardization of women-owned businesses and "Made By Afghan Women Trademark". The meeting discussed to create a technical committee together with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to analyze the criteria for giving this Trademark to Women Businesses. At the end both parties agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding which would

include cooperation and collaboration among ANSA and AWCCI to create some standards for the good and services that do not have one and to conduct training programs on standardization and to conduct an in-depth research and analysis and quality and standardization of women-owned businesses.



Financial Management session at AWCCI by Advanced Accounting LLC

The Financial Management session of Business expansion and Standardization training program for women held on February 21st, 2018 at AWCCI. In this session 20 women businesses participated where AALLC trainer talk about the importance of standardized financial system and reporting to businesswomen. He also gave a brief introduction of financial statements and explained their procedure of financial system review, reporting and set up of women businesses. AWCCI signed an MOU with AALLC on the free review and reporting of women businesses' financial system and will provide a discounted rate for setting up their financial systems for the women businesses participating in this training program.



Meeting held on Made by Afghan Women Trademark

First consultation meeting was held on 21st February 2018 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, representative of women businesses and AWCCI leadership participated. The main issue for discussion was "Made by Afghan Women Trademark" and the standardization of women businesses products that will become good when their products prerequisite for introduction into local and foreign markets standardizations met. Each women-owned business will have to go through some process after that Brand will be printed on their products. Promotion and Branding plan for the

Trademark "Made by Afghan Women" is prepared by

AWCCI and after the review in meetings the design will be finalized by MoCI and AWCCI. Next meetings to follow and the launch will be in April 26th 2018 in celebration of International Day of Intellectual Property Rights which has Women Change: Creativity and Innovation as its theme. This is in line with Women Economic Empowerment National Priority Program.

The law review committee meeting

The Law review committee meeting on Property Rights chaired by Ms. Sultana Khaknizhad held on 22nd February 2018 at AWCCI. In this meeting 10 businesswomen participated. A discussion and exchange of ideas took place on Property Rights based on Afghanistan constitution. Further discussion will be held in next sessions.



AWCCI Launch and General Assembly in West Zone-Herat

AWCCI officially launched its activities and General

Assembly in the West Zone-Herat province on February 27th, 2018. The Governor H.E. Mr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Director of Women Affairs Herat Province Ms. Aziza Karimi, Deputy Governor Ms. Monisa Hasanzada and more than 80 Women Entrepreneurs joined AWCCI team from Kabul to do the inauguration. The inauguration was supported by H. E. First Lady's Video message. 5 Board members were elected and the governor promised to allocate a seat to AWCCI Herat in their provincial economic development committee.

