

Highlights of the Month

- **Bibi Khadija Award Ceremony**
- **Balkh Women Bazaar**
- **National Priority Authority (NPA) Training in AWCCI**
- **Taxation session by Medium TaxpayersOffice (MTO) in AWCCI**
- **AWCCI attended Geneva conference on Afghanistan 2018**
- **AWCCI members participation at 6th OIC Halal Expo in Istabul, Turkey**

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Taxation Session for Business women in AWCCI by Medium Taxpayes Office (MTO)



AWCCI with the cooperation of MTO held an awareness session on Taxation for businesswomen on Nov 1st, 2018. Mr. Habibullah Amin Andar, Head of MTO, Mr. Hasib Mazhar, from MTO and AWCCI Board of Directors and members participated in this session. At the beginning Ms. Mohsena Saqeb, Board member of AWCCI welcomed the Mr. Andar, officials of MTO and other participants to Taxation session. Mr. Andar introduced MTO to the participants and expressed his happiness for holding the first taxation session under his leadership in AWCCI for businesswomen. He said for increasing women role in business and economy of the country, MTO will have its cooperation with AWCCI. In this session, participants discussed types of Taxes and Paying it, Additional Taxes and Tax Crimes, and Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). At the end, Mr. Mazhar recommended to sign an MoU with AWCCI and under this MoU, shared responsibilities of two parties will be clear for economic empowerment of women.

Meeting on Vocational Trainings and Job Creation for women with Mercy Corps International

Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry West Zone – Herat office had a meeting with Mercy Corps International’s Program Officer on Nov 1st, 2018. In this meeting Mr. Zia Ul Haq Munsef, the Program Officer of Mercy Corps International, Ms. Maryam Jami Ul Ahmadi, Chair of AWCCI West Zone Board of Directors and Ms. Nasim Gul Azizi, Zone Manager of AWCCI- Herat participated. The purpose of meeting was to know about the programs of Mercy Corps and introducing AWCCI- West Zone for them. In this meeting Mercy Corps representative promised their cooperation and collaboration with AWCCI for the marketing of women products and contributing in holding the exhibitions and capacity building programs for their vocational trainings female graduates and other businesswomen in the future, and welcomed any comments and suggestion by AWCCI for better and effective implementation of their programs.





Balkh Women Bazaar

Balkh Women Bazaar held for three days from Nov 4 to Nov 8, 2018 by Women for Women association 10 members group with the cooperation of Balkh Chamber of Commerce and financial support of SEDEP-GIZ. In this Bazaar, 38 booths were installed for the businesswomen from Balkh and Samangan. The purpose of holding this bazaar was introducing women products from Balkh and

Samangan to the people which can greatly affect their businesses to expand. In this exhibition, different sectors and industries like Agriculture, Food, Manufacturing and Processing, Production and Service Associations, and Architecture participated.

Meeting with Herat Municipality on establishing of Women Business Market

AWCCI West Zone – Herat met Herat Mayor on 6th Nov 2018. In this meeting, Mr. Muhammad Dawod Anwari, Herat Mayor, Ms. Maryam jami Ul Ahmadi , Chair of AWCCI Board of Directors- West Zone, Ms. Nasim Gul Azizi, Zone Manager of AWCCI- Herat and five businesswomen participated. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the promis made for the establishment of a women business Market in a proper location of Herat by the Mayor. Mr. Anwari and AWCCI talked about allocating a piece of land for women business market and he shared the opportunities of getting proper places for market of businesswomen. AWCCI- West Zone recommended that, booths for women products should be considered in different locations of the city. Mr. Anwari said that Herat municipality will sign a contract for providing about 200 standard booths and they will give priority to women businesses.



Special Training on National Procurement for Businesswomen by NPA held at AWCCI

Based on the cooperation between AWCCI and NPA, NPA conducted a three-day special training on Nov 13, 14 and 17, 2018 in AWCCI for Businesswomen to know about National Procurement Procedures as bidders. Mr. Hokumran Aria, the trainer of NPA facilitated this training. This training was for women to use the 5% priority in national contracts/procurement at NPA for women. During the training, topics such as, Procurement Policy, Procurement Plan, Requirements for Applicants, Financial evaluation, and estimated evaluation were discussed among Participants. 15 businesswomen participated the training.

Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Women Empowerment Sission in Herat



AWCCI West Zone-Herat held a session under the title of "Economic Empowerment of businesswoman" on Nov 15, 2018 in Khadijat ul Kubra Market from 9 am -11 am. Keynote speakers of this session were, Ms. Maryam Jami al Ahmadi, Chair of AWCCI West Zone Board of Directors, Ms. Wahida Aziz, Gender Officer of Herat Governor, Ms. Anisa Sarwari, Head of Women Affairs Directorate, Ms. Lina Shafaq, Deputy of AWCCI relations and Ghazanfar Bank Representative. Ms. Anisa Sarwari and Ms.

Wahida Aziz spoke about Economic role of women, its effects on reducing the Violence against them, Challenges and Solutions for them. At the end of session, participants talked about the existing opportunities for women in Herat and did group works for evaluation of women challenges and solutions for them. A total of 100 businesswomen and Government officials participated in this session.



4th Annual Bibi Khadija Award Ceremony



AWCCI and PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS Afghanistan celebrated "International Women's Entrepreneurship Day" through Bibi Khadija Annual Award Ceremony for the fourth time on November 19, 2018 at Kabul Serena Hotel in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. This ceremony was attended by the officials from Government, H.E. First Lady's Office, Embassies, Afghanistan International Bank (AIB), ICC – Afghanistan, Agha Khan Development Network, and a majority of

Afghan Businesswomen from Kabul and provinces. Five successful Businesswomen who were chosen based on specific criteria by AWCCI in five categories as Competitive Awardees were recognized. The Competitive Awardees were Ms. Zohal Atmar, in creation of the highest number of Employment Category, Ms. Benazir Yakta, in entering the male dominate sector, Ms. Atena Hashemi, in starting a service business for other business/women, Ms. Sima Hashimi from Balkh, in running her business for more than 5 years category and Ms. Behnaz Saljoghi form Herat, in starting an innovative category. Besides, there were seven honorary awardees that were chosen based on their supports for Economic Empowerment of Women in the country. Honorary Awardees were, Dr. Humayon Qayoumi, Acting Minister of Finance and Senior Adviser of the President, Mr. Elham Omar Hotaki, Director General at National Procurement Authority, Ms. Naheed Srabi, Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Rahmatullah Quraishi, Women Economic Empowerment Rural Development Program (WEERDP), Ms. Fazila Azizi, Head of Small and Medium Enterprises, and Ms. Roya Hafizi, the President of Sana Production. Also, Department of Economic Cooperation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs which had their continual supports to AWCCI and its members, was one Bibi



Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Khadija Honorary Awardees. AWCCI is Grateful for the generous sponsorship of MoIC and AIB and looks forward to having their support in future as well.

AWCCI-West Zone Meeting with GIZ



Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry West Zone – Herat met the Program Officer of GIZ on November 22, 2018. In this meeting, Mr. Omid Dawlati, Program Officer of GIZ in Herat, Ms. Jila Habibi, Board member of AWCCI-West Zone, and Ms. Nasim Gul Azizi, Zone Manager of AWCCI- Herat participated. The purpose of meeting was getting information about GIZ programs for women owned businesses development and expansion. GIZ

promised to support businesswomen to take part in exhibitions, financial and technical aid for developing their businesses, capacity building programs for businesswomen and to collaborate with AWCCI –West Zone to hold business programs in the future.

AWCCI participated in the Launch of Peace Runway Project in Lahore, Pakistan



AWCCI was attended the launch of Peace Runway Project and a Pak-Af apparel fashion show on 24th November 2018 in Lahore, Pakistan. This project was a small grant awarded by the Hollings Center (US Consulate of Kabul – Lahore) to Women’s Digital League of Pakistan in partnership with Agheaz Consultancy in Afghanistan. From AWCCI, Ms. Parwarish Oryakhail, the Director fo Business Development Services, and two of its members, Ms. Mohsena Saqeb, Owner of Jama Saqeb Handicraft Production Company and Ms. Zahra Kazimi, Owner of Zanan Momtaz Bamyam participated in the event and intracted with people from different sectors and media, and made connections. Ten dresses from each country were showcased focusing on locally sourced material for creating them and also the accessories. The event was be attended by 200 people from diplomats and technocrats to local celebrities. This project

aims to develop a website for the products made by Afghan women and AWCCI will be playing a vital role in linking Afghan women owned businesses with the global market through this website by the support of Aghaez and Women’s Digital League.



Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry



AWCCI attended Geneva

Two representatives from AWCCI attended the Geneva Conference on Nov 27 and 28, 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. Ms. Afsana Rahimi, Chair of AWCCI was a panelist on Private Sector where stressing on the very powerful slogan, “Afghan women are not economic beneficiaries, they are economic actors”, talked about the Achievements and challenges.

Ms. Manizha Wafeq, the President of AWCCI was a panelist on SDGs Side Meeting and she spoke about below points:

- Small and Medium Enterprises owned by both men and women are important to the economy of a country specially Afghanistan where unemployment as high as over 40%. These SMEs have created and are potential to create more jobs and contribute to the SDGs 1, 8 and 16
- SMEs with their social entrepreneurship spirit in service sector have and can contribute to SDG 4 Quality Education by having started and starting school and learning institutions.
- There are around 1200 formal businesses owned by women who created over 45000 jobs. 200 of these businesses are start ups - since 2016. Government can provide a better environment for entrepreneurship and startups and Larger companies and international partners can provide support in various kinds to creat more of them and so more jobs.
- Afghan Gov. has developed strategies that encompasses skills development, promoting and fostering entrepreneurship and startups, strengthening institutions with women mainstreamed in them such as NES, WEE NPP, PSD NPP and NTP these are well aligned towards achieving SDGs.

AWCCI also participated in Geneva exhibition and presented its activities and women products in a booth.

AWCCI participation in Halal Expo



Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Afghanistan has been hosted in the World Halal Summit and 6th OIC Halal Expo from Nov 29 to Dec 2, 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey for the very first time in the last 6 years and AWCCI was privileged to be the only partner from Afghanistan. AWCCI facilitated the participation of 10 women owned companies from Jewelry, Handicrafts, Show pieces of semi-precious stones, Carpet, Apparel, Saffaron and Dry fruits. The overall sales of these 10 businesses were around USD 2000. The most important thing was making connections with the businesses from Turkey, Africa, Europe and other International countries. The ten women owned businesses had deals on Dry Fruits, Show pieces of Semi-Precious stones and other handicrafts, and hand made bags worth around USD 600,000. AWCCI is grateful for the efforts made by our H.E. First Lady, General Consulate in Istanbul, Commercial Attache in Istanbul, the sponsors, AIB, Roshan and Kam Air to make women's participation possible. AWCCI also thanks the World Halal Summit and Halal Expo for working with AWCCI from Afghanistan as its counterpart.

