

Highlights of the Month

- AWCCI Published a Research report on Internal Factors Affecting Growth of Women-Owned Businesses in Afghanistan".
- AWCCI West Zone-Herat Physical office launched.
- AWCCI launched its 3rd volume of booklet.
- Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry West Zone-Herat office physical launched.
- In partnership with the Women Center of American University of Afghanistan (AUAF)

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AWCCI publishes a research report

AWCCI published a research report on "Internal Factors Affecting Growth of Women-Owned Businesses in Afghanistan". AWCCI is continuously making efforts to collect information on Business Women issues in order to come up with practical recommendations to improve Afghanistan women businesses. The report is new dimension looking into business women's barriers to growth.

The report can be downloaded from AWCCI website:

<http://awcci.af/en/12-3/>



AWCCI's leadership harnesses collaborations

On July 1st AWCCI invited startup graduates of The Founder Institute to introduce the Women Chamber, its activities and shared



collaborations. Ms. Manizha Wafeq, AWCCI President shared her personal experience on how to start and run a business successfully and what lessons she had learned during a 15 years of work and being involved with women businesses. She encouraged them all to have persistence and offered AWCCI's support. She also asked them to remain active and involved with various organizations such as Chamber in order to maintain their network and their voice heard for the challenges they face and the interests they have and want to reflect them in the policies.

A Workshop on Public and Private Partnership Law

On July 2nd, 2018, Public and Private Partnership (PPP) Directorate facilitated a workshop for AWCCI members to introduce and get Businesswoman's suggestions and recommendations on Drafted PPP Law. In this workshop, 25 businesswomen participated. The session was carried out by Mr. Wakman Samim Amin, Senior Legal Specialist of PPP. The workshop started with opening remarks of Ms. Manizha Wafeq, AWCCI President and co-Founder. After introduction Mr. Wakman Samim Amin, presented his presentation. First he congratulated AWCCI members for receiving permanent membership in Advisory Board of PPP. Mr. Wakman Amin added that PPP Drafted Law is moderated and there is the possibility of bringing any changes in the law, we are here to get businesswomen views regarding the law. We can have your suggestions and will bring changes in the



related section. The presentation started with an introduction of PPP law, definition of PPP, Law and regulations, Purpose and goals, Board and Advisory Committee. PPP registration form was explained to the participants. Also he asked all participants to share their views/comments and suggestions on the drafted PPP law, through AWCCI to PPP Directorate.

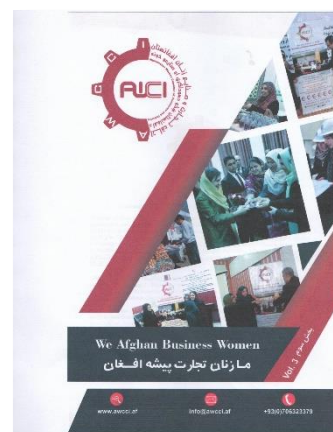
Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry West Zone-Herat office physical launched

Following the regular meetings and efforts, On 04 July 2018, Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry West Zone physical office launched in the presence of Ms. Jamila Bahadori, Director of Commerce and Industry Herat, Mr. Serat, Research Specialist at Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ms. Maryam Jami Ul Ahmadi, Chair of AWCCI West Zone, Ms. Lina Shafaq, Vice Chair of Communication, Ms. Romina Osmani, Vice Chair of Business Development, Ms. Nasim Gul Zone Manager of AWCCI west zone- Herat, a team of DoCI employees, business women, journalist and medias officially launched. The purpose from the launch of AWCCI office in West Zone is to growth and develop women's businesses, provision of managerial and professional training programs for women, marketing opportunities for women's products, advocacy about their problems and challenges and find effective solutions for them.



AWCCI launched the 3rd volume of booklet

The third volume of booklet was launched in the second quarter which covers about 14 sectors and 20 businesswomen's biographies and their success stories. This booklet is designed for advertising and familiarizing the women business to the national and international organizations and also to the public via website and social media. And finally we hope the reader to get inspired of what Afghan women are doing in difficult circumstances of Afghanistan and create admiration of the contribution Afghan women are making to economic prosperity and peace building of the country.



AWCCI's Board of Directors meeting held

Board of Directors meeting held on July 10th, 2018. The meeting discussed various aspect of AWCCI activities and planning. Board members took responsibility of improving/developing of institutional documents. The AWCCI delegation that had visited Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce shared their experience. Besides, the board decided on holding an emergency General Assembly to elect three new board members. Three seats are empty because one of the board members joined AWCCI's executive body and two others left the country to pursue some life opportunities. The date for the general assembly was decided to be around end of August, 2018.



Juma (Friday) Bazaar of Women Handicrafts Launched

AWCCI launched for the first time ever in the country Juma Bazar of handicrafts in women's park Macroreyan I and Ferdousi Park Macroreyan III on July 11th, 2018. In the launch ceremony Mr. Abdullah Habibzai, Kabul Mayor, Ms. Manizha Wafeq, President of AWCCI, Ms. Parwarish Oryakhail, Director of Business Development Services AWCCI, Mr. Shafi Sharifi, Director of Public Relations and Corporate Affairs of Roshan Telecom, Ms. Sahar Hamdard, Director of Policy and Planning Kabul Municipality, Mr. Eng. Merwais, Director of Macroreyan Repairing and Maintenance Enterprise, AWCCI staffs and businesswomen participated.

In his speech, Mr. Abdullah Habibzai expressed his gratitude from the launch of Juma Bazar. He said it was great collaborations between AWCCI and Kabul Municipality with financial support of Roshan Telecommunication. The purpose is to economically empower women. Thus we planned to launch various programs for women which include, placement, marketing and providing opportunity and to build women parks in different areas of Kabul.

Ms. Manizha Wafeq also thanked Kabul Municipality and Roshan Telecommunication for their cooperation. She added that considering women businesses problems that they do not have shops in local markets of Afghanistan for selling their products or services and connect to local buyers. Thus our first plan was to hold Bazar-e-Roz exhibitions once in two months, second one is Juma Bazaar and the long term plan is to hold permanent Watani Bazar for women. Juma Bazar is not only for Kabul businesswomen, the plan is to provide opportunity to all women from the neighboring provinces of Kabul by giving them turns in each Friday and also to do provincial specific Bazaars such as one Friday for Parwan, one Friday for Jalalabad and so on.



6 women-owned companies finalized to occupy the mini-industrial Park of AWCCI

AWCCI presented the recommendation to H.E. President Ashraf Ghani at a meeting of him with the private sector representatives to allocate spaces for women-owned businesses and help AWCCI establish mini-industrial parks. The first space that has three Hangers was allocated with a minimum rent to AWCCI and AWCCI's 6 members will occupy the space some to establish a totally new manufacturing and some will expand their current production by moving to this bigger space.



Second International Economic Forum on Women's Entrepreneurship

The 2nd International Economic Forum on Women's Entrepreneurship – an Exploration of Solutions was held by the Women Center of the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) in partnership with Afghanistan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI) and Women in Economy (WIE) at the Government Media Information Center (GMIC) on July 31, 2018. The forum focused on identifying viable solutions to external and internal barriers to the growth of women-owned businesses and The forum is attended by around 120 businesswomen from Kabul and provinces.

The key note speaker for event was His Excellency Humyoun Qayumi, Minister of Finance of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. His Excellency highlighted the continued commitment of the Afghan government in supporting Afghan female entrepreneurs. Additional expert speakers included Ms. Samina Ansari – Executive Director of the Women's Center TWC, Ms. Afsana Rahimi - Chairperson of the board at AWCCI, Ms. Manizha Wafeq – CEO of AWCCI, and Dr. Samapti Guha – Chairperson of the School of Management and labor studies at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

