



Congressional Forum: Reassessing Priorities for U.S. Funding in Afghanistan

Forum Date and Time: Wednesday, April 18, 2007

8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. Panel: Reassessing Priorities & Effectiveness of U.S. Funding in
Afghanistan

Forum Location: Senate Dirksen Building, Room SDG-50

Use Visitors Entrance facing Union Station (SDG-50 is located at the left of this entrance)

Parking around the Senate buildings is limited, but there is ample space for public parking at Union Station. The Senate Dirksen Building is located three blocks in front of Union Station. Alternatively, participants could use the Metro's Red Line, stopping at Union Station, or take a cab.

Please arrive 15 minutes earlier than the start time of the event to clear through U.S. Capitol Police security and take a valid Government issued photo ID with you

Networking Reception

April 18, 2007

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Four Seasons Hotel

2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20007

(202) 342-0444

RSVP by 5:00 p.m. on April 16, 2007

To RSVP, please fax this form to (703) 442-5008 or e-mail to info@a-acc.org.

REGISTRATION	
NAME:	TITLE:
COMPANY/ORGANIZATION:	
PHONE:	E-MAIL:
AACC MEMBER?	If no, would you like membership info?
Attending Forum?	
Attending Networking Reception?	





The Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC)

invites you to its:

Congressional Forum: Reassessing Priorities for U.S. Funding in Afghanistan

Who We Are: The Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is the leading organization facilitating U.S.-Afghan business, investment, and trade ties. AACC works to ensure that Afghanistan's economic development remains a priority for U.S. and Afghan policymakers and serves as a link between business and government to encourage progressive economic policies that will result in increased business and investment linkages between the U.S. and Afghanistan.

What the Forum Will Address: Although significant progress has been made towards rebuilding Afghanistan's political, social and economic institutions since the fall of the Taliban, insurgent attacks and narcotics production increased in 2006. The U.S. Administration has responded with a new budgetary request that would significantly increase assistance for improving governance and security and would address infrastructure needs, among other areas. Funding priorities and mechanisms for distribution are important considerations in ensuring aid effectiveness, especially in the strategy to reduce poppy production and "winning hearts and minds." AACC, representing the interests of U.S. companies investing and doing business in Afghanistan and serving as a strong voice for economic policies that promote growth, will convene the forum to discuss funding priorities and allocation of assistance.

Who Will Participate: AACC is inviting members of the Senate Appropriations, Foreign Relations, and Armed Services Committees, Representatives of the Government of Afghanistan, leading scholars on Afghanistan, and corporate executives, to share their viewpoints. AACC's leadership will facilitate the discussion and attendees will be given an opportunity to submit written questions through moderated Q&A.

What Will Be the Result: As a result of the forum, AACC will produce an *Afghanistan Appropriations Policy Brief* to share the viewpoints of its members and key analysts and the position of numerous Congressional representatives will be highlighted. AACC will present the Policy Brief at a private sector event taking place in late April in Afghanistan and will utilize it to guide ongoing advocacy efforts.

When and Where the Forum Will Take Place: The forum will take place in the prestigious Senate Dirksen Room SDG-50 on Wednesday, April 18, 2007. It will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. Continental breakfast and registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. A Networking Reception will also be held on April 18th from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington in order to provide additional time for networking amongst the vast array of guests who will attend from the area and from out of town.

