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### ***AACC Highlights Telecommunications Sector Achievements with Afghanistan's Minister of Communications***

As part of its objective to promote investment in Afghanistan and business linkages between the United States and Afghanistan, as well as facilitate networking opportunities for its members, AACC organized a reception and dinner in honor of Afghanistan's Minister of Communications. This marked the first official visit of the new Minister to the United States.

*AACC Senior Advisor*, Mrs. Mariam A. Nawabi, opened the event and noted the telecommunications sector served as a model for other sectors because the Afghan government enacted the right policies and programs to promote private sector participation. *AACC President*, Mr. Atiq Panjshiri, expressed his gratitude to event sponsors and reflected upon the rapid changes the sector has experienced since 2002. He noted the importance of providing further service to the Afghan population. *Senior Telecommunications Advisor for the U.S. Embassy*, Mr. Jim Craft, informed the audience of the United States' efforts to revive the Afghan communications industry.

*Afghanistan's Minister of Communications*, H.E. Amirzai Sangin delivered the keynote address and shared his reflections on the enormous growth of the telecommunications sector in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban. Minister Sangin stated that these achievements are due to the Government of Afghanistan creating an environment conducive to investment and the rapid mobilization of the private sector to provide service.

*AACC Executive Vice-President*, Mr. Assad Mattin, concluded the reception and emphasized the importance of the ICT sector to sustainable economic growth, which is necessary for the security and stability of Afghanistan and the international community.

After the reception, an exclusive dinner was held for H.E. Minister Sangin. During the dinner, companies and distinguished guests were recognized and a video presentation showcasing the developments of Afghanistan's ICT sector was launched for the first time in the U.S. *AACC Chairman of the Board*, Mr. Ajmal Ghani, facilitated a question and answer session between Minister Sangin and guests. Mr. Ghani noted that the telecommunications sector was a success story and encouraged the Ministry of Communications to reach out to more companies to continue to improve collaboration.



The event attracted over seventy participants from corporations, government agencies, and institutions interested in the development of Afghanistan's telecommunications sector and related business opportunities. Major ICT corporations included Afghan Wireless Communication Company, Roshan, Lucent, GlobeComm Systems, Verizon, and Sprint/Nextel. Suppliers of telecommunications equipment, as well as trade associations such as the Information Technology Association of American and the Broadcasters Board of Governors, were represented. Organizations such as the Society of Afghan Engineers, multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, U.S. government agencies such as USTR and OPIC, and academic institutions such as the American University of Afghanistan, also participated. The Department of Defense, who is supporting rural communications and energy infrastructure in Afghanistan, facilitated the Minister's trip and was represented at the event. Sponsors of the program included the Center for International Private Enterprise and USAID.

The Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce is an organization that serves the business interests of its members, advocates for a free and open market economy in Afghanistan, and builds U.S.-Afghan economic relations. AACC is a growing national organization that brings together the ideas and efforts of the many businesses across America with a stake in helping Afghanistan succeed. For more information on AACC, please contact (703) 442-5005 or [info@a-acc.org](mailto:info@a-acc.org). AACC's website can be found at [www.a-acc.org](http://www.a-acc.org).