



AACC FLASH UPDATE

TO: Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce Members

FROM: Sulaiman Lutfi, Chairman
Jeffrey Grieco, President & CEO

SUBJECT: Important Updates on AACC Upcoming Programs

DATE: September 22, 2017

Greetings AACC members, colleagues and friends: We have some exciting and fast-breaking news to share with everyone. Over the last week the AACC has held high-level U.S. Government meetings and strategic discussions. These discussions have focused on what we believe are a number of strategic opportunities presented by the U.S. President's recent decision on a "New Afghanistan Strategy" and the surge of U.S. Special Forces into Afghanistan to help combat terrorism and return key regions of the nation to Afghanistan Government control. Over the next 12-18 months, U.S. forces working in close partnership with Afghanistan and other Allied forces will create the momentum and stability needed to finally launch an aggressive private sector-led, private sector-focused development plan for Afghanistan.

To this end, over the last several weeks, the AACC has met with senior leaders from the U.S. Government including the National Security Council, State Department, USAID, Department of Commerce, OPIC as well as senior Afghanistan Government officials and senior representatives from the World Bank and ADB. These meetings have focused on a path forward for the "Non-Military Component" to the U.S. Administration's new Afghanistan strategy. The AACC's focus has been on prioritizing private sector development within the "New Afghanistan Strategy" and developing a private sector-led strategy for economic growth going forward. As a result, the AACC is proud to announce:

- **India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show:**
The AACC leadership team will be attending the "India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show" in New Delhi next week. The event is entitled: "Passage 2 Prosperity" and will take place at the ITC Maurya Hotel from September 27-30, 2017. The AACC has agreed to speak on at least two panels discussing U.S. - Afghanistan private sector needs and opportunities.

- In addition, the AACC will host various AACC “*Member Only Briefings*” with U.S. and Afghan private sector leaders during the event.
- The AACC encourages all AACC members to attend this important trade and investment event. The links to the websites for registration is: www.passage2prosperity.com or www.facebook.com/passage2prosperity
- **New AACC Private Sector Events/Initiatives in 2017-2018:**
Multiple government and non-governmental organizations have been in contact with the AACC since President Trump’s announcement of a “New Afghanistan Strategy” with the intention of partnering with the AACC in a series of new initiatives or events to be undertaken over the next 12-18 months. These activities will be focused on sector-based investment and trade initiatives together with enhanced government and donor support for AACC programs globally. Based on these various discussions (which need to remain confidential at this time) the AACC has developed a notional plan for events in the: U.S., Dubai, Kabul, Istanbul, Japan and Germany over the coming 12-18 months.
- **Postponing the AACC BMC from December to First Quarter 2018:**
As a result of the aforementioned chain of new events in planning, the AACC has decided to slightly delay December 2017 Annual Business Matchmaking Conference (BMC) until the **first quarter of 2018**. This will allow the AACC to better link specific AACC programs together with specific U.S. and Afghanistan Government sector-based initiatives involving: mining and extractive industries, energy & power, ICT, agribusiness & food exports, textiles & carpets, construction and infrastructure development, etc...More updates on these activities will be provided in our October E-newsletter.

We hope you have enjoyed this **AACC Flash Update**. We welcome your email responses, ideas, questions or advice to: info@a-acc.org

Thank you,

Sulaiman Lutfi
Chairman

Jeffrey Grieco
President & CEO