



## Conference Agenda

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Matchmaking Conference (BMC) 2016

Hosted by the  
Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC)  
December 13, 14, and 15, 2016

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center &  
J.W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C.

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**TUESDAY (EVENING), DECEMBER 13, 2016, 6:00PM-8:00PM**

***Welcoming Reception for Visiting Afghan Business & Gov't. Delegation***

J.W. Marriott Hotel, Garden Terrace Ballroom, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

*Refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres will be served.*

**Master of Ceremonies**

AACC Board Chairman, Sulaiman Lutfi & President and CEO, The Honorable Don Ritter, Sc. D.

**6:00-8:00 PM Welcoming Remarks, Acknowledgement of Afghanistan Government and Private Sector Delegations and Recognition of AACC Board Members and Staff**

- **Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC),**  
Chairman, Mr. Sulaiman Lutfi and President & CEO, The Honorable Don Ritter, Sc. D.
- **Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI),**  
President, Mr. Atiqullah Nusrat
- **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) of Afghanistan**  
First Vice Chairman, Mr. Zabiullah Ziarmal
- **Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA),**  
President & CEO, Mr. Naeem Yassin
- **Afghan Business Council-Dubai (ABC-Dubai),**  
Chairman, Mr. Haji Obaidullah Sader Khail
- **Canada Afghanistan Business Council (CABC),**  
President, Mr. Aziz Amiri
- **Embassy of Afghanistan to the United States**  
Mr. Said Mubin Shah Musamam, Commercial Attache

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016

### 2016 BMC Conference Opening Session

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Atrium Ballroom, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Washington, DC 20004

8:00-9:00 AM

#### **Registration, Networking and Informational Trade Fair Viewing**

--Continental Breakfast & Coffee/Tea Service Provided

9:00-9:30 AM

#### **Introduction of AACC's Sister Organizations**

Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC),

Chairman, Mr. Sulaiman Lutfi & President & CEO, The Honorable Don Ritter, Sc. D.

- Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI),  
President, Mr. Atiqullah Nusrat
- Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA),  
President, Mr. Naeem Yassin
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) of Afghanistan  
First Vice Chairman, Mr. Zabiullah Ziarmal
- Afghan Business Council-Dubai (ABC-Dubai),  
Chairman, Mr. Haji Obaidullah Sader Khail
- Canada-Afghanistan Business Council (CABC),  
President, Mr. Aziz Amiri
- Embassy of Afghanistan to the United States  
Mr. Said Mubin Shah Musamam, Commercial Attache

9:30-9:50 AM

#### **Opening Keynote:**

- H.E. Nasir Andisha, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Finance and Administration (MOFA), GIROA, Topic: "How MOFA promotes Afghan Business Abroad and Assists Foreign Investors in Country."

9:50- 10:50 AM

#### **Panel 1: Opportunities in Agriculture and Food Processing**

- Panelist & Moderator: Mr. Bruce Spake, DAI, VP & Regional Director for Afghanistan and MENA. "Brief Afghanistan Agriculture Industry Overview and USAID role in promoting Afghan Agriculture and Agribusiness." From perspective of USAID Regional Agriculture Program Implementer.
- Dr. John Mellor, Professor Emeritus, Cornell University and President of John Mellor Associates, Inc. - A Policy Consulting Firm. *Improving Agricultural Opportunities for Afghan Growth and Private Sector Development*".
- Ms. Emily Miller, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Rumi Spice Company, "How Rumi Spice Makes It Work: Importing Premium Saffron Directly from Afghan farmers and Cooperatives into the U.S. Marketplace."
- Mr. Ahmad Zia Rasouli, CEO, Apple Group Agricultural and Horticultural Union (AGAH Union). "Mobilizing and Integrating Small & Medium Sized Afghan Agricultural Enterprises to Bring Greater Marketplace Success."
- Mr. Muqim Jamshady, Founder and CEO, Afghan Logistics & Tours Pvt. Ltd & Future Bright General Trading LLC, "Building a U.S.-Afghan Partnership for Agricultural Machine Supply, Distribution, Maintenance and Parts."

10:50-11:05 AM

#### **Coffee/Tea Networking Break**

11:05-11:20 AM

#### **Morning Keynote:**

- H.E. Mohammed Qurban ('Kabir') Haqjo, Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industries. Topic: "Invest Afghanistan-Summary of Today's Business & Investment Opportunities."

- 11:20-11:30 AM** ***GIRoA Leadership Video: H.E. Dr. Mohammed “Mo” Qayoumi, Chief Advisor to the President for Infrastructure, Technology and Human Capital***
- 11:30-12:30 PM** **Panel 2: Energy Business Opportunities in Afghanistan**  
**Keynote:** H.E. Aman Ghalib, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Water, *Capacity for domestic generation of both big (fossil fuels) and small energy (solar, wind, small hydro) to meet Afghanistan’s electricity needs*  
**Moderator:** Hon. Don Ritter, AACC CEO and President;
- **Mr. Craig Steffensen, North American Representative and former Representative in Afghanistan, Asian Development Bank (ADB), ADB Financing of Energy, Power and related Infrastructure Development in Afghanistan**
  - **Mr. Zabiullah Ziarmal, CEO CEFE Group, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair, ICC, Afghanistan, An Afghan businessman looks at Energy Opportunities in Afghanistan**
  - **Mr. Jake Cusack, Managing Partner, CrossBoundary Partners, How CrossBoundary Approaches Afghanistan Energy Investments**
  - **Mr. Kevin Pedone, Clements Worldwide, Global Organizations Producer, How Risk Insurance Can Facilitate Investments in Afghan Energy Projects**
- 12:30-1:15 PM** **Lunch Served & Business Networking**
- 1:15-2:15 PM** **PANEL 3: Empowering Women to Promote Economic Growth and Stability**  
**Moderator:** Ms. Leslie Schweitzer, Chairwoman, Friends of the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF)
- **Ms. Mina Sherzoy, Director Afghanistan, USAID Promote-“Women in Government” program, Chemonics International**
  - **Mr. Peter Dimitroff, Senior Development Practitioner, Development Associates Int’l. (DAI), USAID “Women in the Economy” program**
  - **Ms. Nilofar Sakhi, Former Executive Director, AUAF Center for Women’s Affairs**
  - **State Dept. Rep. TBD**
- 2:15-3:15 PM** **PANEL 4: Construction & Infrastructure**  
**Moderator:** Mr. Assad Mattin, President, Oxus Consulting, Bd. Member, AACC
- **USACE, Infrastructure and Power Production in Afghanistan (Invited)**
  - **Mr. Aziz Azimi, Chairman & President, Technologists, Inc. Great Changes in the Construction Industry in Afghanistan—Responding to the New Market**
  - **Mr. Michael Petti, Tetra Tech, Building Capacity of Afghan Engineering and Infrastructure Programs.**
  - **Mr. Naeem Yassin, President and CEO, Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA), How ABA Serves Afghan Construction Companies**
- 3:15-3:35 PM** **Afternoon Keynote:**
- **H.E. Javid Sadat, Minister of Mines & Petroleum (MOMP). Topic: “Getting to Greater Self-Sufficiency in Energy – the Potential for Fossil Fuel Development in Afghanistan.”**
- 3:35-4:30 PM** ***“One-On-One” Networking Sessions with Speakers, Panelists and Attendee Experts***  
 AACC Conference Speaker and Panelist Coordinator, LTC. Ret’d. U.S. Army, Dr. Ed Corcoran
- 4:30 PM** ***Closing Remarks and Announcements***  
 Hon. Don Ritter, Sc. D.

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**WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 2016, 6:00pm-9:00pm**



**2016 BMC Conference Award Dinner**

**At: The Capitol Ballroom in the J.W. Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.**

**Mix & Mingle Reception & Dinner  
Awards Presentation**

Hosted By: AACC Board Chairman, Sulaiman Lutfi and President and CEO, Hon. Don Ritter  
on Behalf of the Afghan American Chamber of Commerce (AACC)

**6:00 PM**

**Mix & Mingle Dinner Reception**

**6:30 PM**

**Welcoming Remarks**

by Mr. Yama Azami, Board of Directors and Treasurer, AACC

**6:35-7:00PM**

**Introduction of Board Members & Sister Organization Officials**

by AACC Board Chairman and AACC President & CEO

**-Recognition of Sponsors-**

**AACC Businessperson of the Year Award**

Presented by the AACC Board of Directors  
to

**Surprise Announcement!**

**Dinner**

*American and Afghan Food*

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**Thursday, DECEMBER 15, 2016**

**2016 BMC Conference Final Day**

**At: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Atrium Ballroom, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20523**

**8:00 -9:00 AM**

**Registration and Networking**

*Continental Breakfast & Coffee/Tea Service Provided*

**9:00am-5:00 PM**

**Opening of Trade & Informational Fair**

**9:00-9:10 AM**

**Welcoming Remarks and Outline of Days Schedule**

AACC Chairman of the Board, Mr. Sulaiman Lutfi and President and CEO, Hon. Don Ritter, Sc. D.

**9:10-9:30 PM**

**Opening Keynote - Ambassador's Perspective:**

- **H. E. Hamdullah Mohib, Ambassador to the United States from Afghanistan.** *"Afghanistan's Economic Reform Agenda and its Impact on U.S. Business"*

**9:30-9:50 AM**

**Morning Keynote - U.S. Government Perspective**

- **Mr. William Hammink, Assistant to the Administrator for Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, USAID.** *Former USAID Mission Director to Afghanistan.*

**9:50-10:50 AM**

**PANEL 5: Opportunities in Afghanistan Information, Communications and Technology (ICT)**

- **Moderator, Mr. Oliver Dziggel, ICT/e-Services Advisor and Mentor to U.S.-Afghanistan ICT Industry Development.** *"A U.S. – Afghanistan ICT Industry Mentor looks at 2017 and Beyond."*
- **Dr. Mohammad Najeeb Azizi, Chairman, Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority (ATRA).** *"Afghanistan ICT 2017 and the New Open Access Policy."*
- **Mr. Farhad Ghafoor. Executive Vice President, RANA Technologies.** *Vocational Training for Afghan ICT Sector.*



Embassy of  
Afghanistan,  
Washington, D.C.

- **Mr. Joel Allen, Managing Director, Talia International:** *“ICT Opportunities for U.S. Companies in Afghanistan in 2017 and Beyond.”*

10:50-11:10 AM

Mid-Morning Keynote:

- **H.E. Javid Sadat, Minister of Mines & Petroleum (MOMP),** *“Getting to Greater Self-Sufficiency in Energy – the Potential for Fossil Fuel Development in Afghanistan.”*

11:10-11:25 AM

**Coffee/Tea Networking Break**

11:25-12:15 PM

**Panel 6: Regional Business and Economic Development in Afghanistan and C. A. Region**

Moderator: Dr. S. Frederick Starr, Founding Chairman, Central Asia Caucuses Institute, Research Professor, School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS, Johns Hopkins University)

- **H.E. Mohammed Qurban (‘Kabir’) Haqjo, Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industries,** *“How Companies Investing in Afghanistan can Expand into Regional Markets”*
- **Mr. Wahid Waissi, Director General for Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), GIROA**
- **Dr. Richard Ponzio, Non-Resident Fellow, Stimson Institute, former State Dept. Official, led Silk Road Initiative**

12:15pm-12:35 PM

Pre-Luncheon Keynote Address

- **H.E. Masood Azizi, Deputy Minister of Interior for Policy & Programs, A Realistic Appraisal of the Security Situation for Business & Investment**

12:35-1:30 PM

Lunch and Business Networking

1:30-2:30 PM

**Panel 7: AACC Policy Discussion - Afghanistan and a New Trump Administration**

Moderator: Jeffrey Grieco, AACC Vice President

- **Hon. Don Ritter, AACC President & CEO**
- **Leslie Schweitzer, AACC Board Member/Executive Committee.**
- **Howie Lind, President, International Stability Operations Association (ISOA) (Invited)**
- **Lester Munson, Former Majority Chief of Staff, Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Aide to SFRC Chairman Bob Corker (Invited)**

2:30-3:30 PM

**“One-On-One” Networking Sessions with Speakers, Panelists, and Attendee Experts**

AACC Conference Speaker - Panelist Coordinator, LTC Ret'd. U.S. Army, Dr. Ed Corcoran

3:30 PM

**Conference Wrap-up**

AACC Chairman of the Board, Sulaiman Lutfi and President and CEO, Hon. Don Ritter