



**Dear AACC Colleagues and Friends:**

Over the last 12 months, the AACC has been helping the new U.S. Administration to recognize priorities for U.S. policy toward Afghanistan that affect business. The AACC has helped educate and maintain U.S. public and Congressional support for U.S. economic assistance to Afghanistan and is providing thought leadership for much needed business and economic reform activities going forward. AACC has organized major events, attended the October 2016 *Brussels Donor Conference*, spoken at global fora and think tank events on Afghanistan and written important research and opinion pieces on key private sector development achievements and challenges inside Afghanistan.

*AACC leaders including Chairman, Sulaiman Lutfi and President and CEO, Jeffrey Grieco have attended the India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Conference and have worked to help promote regional business through the “Afghanistan as HUB” concept by participating in regionally-focused events concerning Central Asia. AACC Board Members (including President Emeritus and former U.S. Congressman Don Ritter and former Afghanistan Central Bank Governor, H. E. Noorullah Delawari) have helped launch the new **AACC Investment Advisory Council (IAC)** bringing major Afghan and international investors and business organizations together to promote large-scale investments inside Afghanistan. Lastly, the AACC liaison office in Kabul has been working closely with our Afghanistan membership and keeps the U.S. headquarters fully informed of significant developments as they occur.*

*We listened carefully to our members and are pleased to announce our **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Matchmaking Conference (BMC 2018) will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 24-26, 2018.** We did this for two reasons: a) in order to provide better weather than our usual December event date as this new date will coincide with springtime events in Washington, D.C. and b) in order to provide our attendees more time to apply for business visas to attend the BMC 2018. The U.S. Government has informed the AACC that the more time they have to review your visa applications, the greater the likelihood of success for visa applicants (but there are no guarantees). Please email us at [BMInfo@a-acc.org](mailto:BMInfo@a-acc.org) or go online today on our website at [www.a-acc.org](http://www.a-acc.org) and register for our 14<sup>th</sup> BMC annual event.*

As is customary, AACC will soon hold a one day **“Pre-BMC Kabul Event” on January 24, 2018** from 10:30AM to 3:30PM (*location to be announced soon*) to familiarize our Afghanistan AACC members and businesses and event sponsors with current BMC 2018 planning and provide advice on U.S. visa processing applications. If you wish to attend the **“Pre-BMC**

**Kabul Event**” please send an email immediately to: [info@a-acc.org](mailto:info@a-acc.org) with your name (first, middle, and last name), business organization name, title, direct email, mobile phone and business organization address in Afghanistan as soon as possible.

As we expect **“AACC BMC 2018”** to quickly sell out its sponsorships, please become a sponsor and send us your company profile as soon as feasible to [BMCinfo@a-acc.org](mailto:BMCinfo@a-acc.org). With the program momentum we described above, the AACC is working hard to engage more U.S. companies for this year’s conference especially for the matchmaking “One-on-One” sessions. We need your early registration in order to identify key areas of interest for your business. *Your early registration and/or sponsorship provide us the opportunity to seek out potential matches-U.S. companies with similar interests.*

- **Attending from the U.S., Afghanistan and International side:** Leaders from the Afghan Government Ministries; USAID; DoD; USACE; Departments of Commerce and State; JICA (Japan Aid Agency); GIZ (German Aid Agency); Asian Development Bank (ADB); World Bank/IFC; OPIC; and other organizations... plus, representatives of U.S., Afghan and other international companies.
- **What does your BMC registration and/or sponsorship include?** Event attendance, One-on-One Networking, possible panel speaking role, trade-fair space, business relationship building, potential memorandum of understanding (MoUs) joint ventures (JVs), sales, marketing, etc...

**BUSINESS  
MATCHMAKING  
CONFERENCE**

**PANEL  
DISCUSSIONS**

**ONE-ON-ONE  
NETWORKING  
MEETINGS**

**INFORMATIONAL  
TRADE FAIR**

**URGENT U.S. VISA NOTICE:** Afghan citizens are encouraged to register or sponsor and submit their names to AACC as soon as possible. ***AACC will coordinate its list of potential attendees with the U.S. Consulate. Partnering business organizations will also be submitting their names to AACC prior to applying on-line for a visa interview.***

We hope to see you in in Kabul on January 24th, 2018 and in Washington, D.C. on April 24-26, 2018.

Sincerely,

**Sulaiman Lutfi**  
*Chairman*

**Jeffery Grieco**  
*President & CEO*

**Hon. Don Ritter**  
*President & CEO Emeritus*