



د افغانستان د بانکونو ټولنه  
Afghanistan Banks Association

December 2014-Issue#10

# ABA E-Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### Third Access to Finance Exhibition

First Quarter, 2015  
Kabul, Afghanistan

## ABA is Supported By



## ABA Signs MOU with BACCI

On November 18, 2014, ABA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with British - Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BACCI) in ABA office. Three representatives from three ABA member banks (CEO of Afghan United Bank (AUB), Acting CEO of Bank-e-Milli Afghan (BMA) and Deputy CEO of Azizi Bank), President and Country Director of BACCI and ABA employees participated in the signing ceremony. Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA)'s Chief of Party, Regulatory Team Leader and Loan Product Specialist also participated in the event. The agreement will be a starting point to establish bilateral business relationship with United Kingdom to encourage and promote private sector businesses in Afghanistan. During the ceremony Dr. Hotak, The president BACCI in Afghanistan, delivered detailed speech on trade and investments opportunities in Afghanistan and importance of the MOU.

He mentioned that, as London is capital of business in the world, so, this agreement will be a great opportunity for initiating the steps towards making bilateral business relationship with Afghan partners. BACCI will deliver value to ABA by establishing correspondent banking relation with England banks and financial markets.

The purpose of this MOU is to:

## Contact us

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- a. To promote and enhance economic relations in the field of trade, investment and financial services between Afghanistan and United Kingdom
- b. To encourage cooperation and liberalize trade and investment between the two countries
- c. To promote a favorable environment for private sector investment and support private sector development as a source of peace, democracy and prosperity



Event: ABA –BACCI MOU Signing Ceremony  
Venue: ABA Conference Hall  
Date: November 18, 2014  
Photo by: ABA IT Officer/Web Designer

## ABA Follow up Meeting with AIBF

On November 15, 2015 ABA had a follow up meeting with Afghanistan Institute of Banking and Finance (AIBF) in ABA office. The agenda points focused on mutual coordination ABA-AIBF on enhancing capacity building of the member banks by conducting valuable trainings/workshops. During the meeting, AIBF curriculum for 2015 was reviewed by ABA management and it was observed very helpful for capacity building of the member banks.

In the meeting, Mr. Ghafoor Sadat AIBF Executive Director, requested ABA to support AIBF in terms of coordination and encouragement of member banks to take active parts in trainings and workshops conducted by AIBF. In response Mr. Amiri mentioned that, ABA will remain fully supportive to AIBF, encourage banks to take parts in the AIBF programs and will arrange AIBF-ABA Member Banks coordination Meetings after every 2 months to have direct discussions regarding current banking training needs/improvements and suggestions.



Event: ABA-AIBF Follow up Meeting on ABA member banks capacity building

Venue: ABA Conference Hall

Date: November 15, 2014

Photo by: ABA IT Officer/Web Designer

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### **ABA Meeting with CHEMONICS, International on main challenges of women in accessing finance from Afghan banks**

On November 12, 2014, ABA management had meeting with Ms. Stacy Edger CHEMONICS, Director Business Development Afghanistan and Ms. Mina Shrezoy New Business Afghanistan. The meeting agenda points was to discuss enhancing women's participation in the banking sector and the main challenges for women in accessing finance from Afghan banks. During the meeting, Ms. Edger Mentioned that, USAID signed the Promote project (having 216 million USD fund) with the Afghan government which totally will be utilized for women empowerment containing 3 sub projects that Women and Economy is included in that. The aim of the project is to promote and develop women access to finance, enhancing women capacity building, creating new businesses, promoting existing women businesses and pushing women work force in Afghanistan. During the meeting, Mr. Amiri ABA Director Admin/Finance and acting Director Research added that, there are some barriers against women access to finances namely cultural, social problems, men domination, religious sensitivity and also the regulatory framework. Moreover, Mr. Amiri mentioned that, about 99% of peoples in Afghanistan are religious mind and they are more interested dealing in Islamic banking products rather than conventional banking, so the Islamic banking

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should be supported. Mr. Hadawal mentioned that, unfortunately majority of women in Afghanistan don't have properties or the properties are not in the name of them, thus, they are not able to take loan from the banks, as the banks requires collateral on disposal of loan. Although recently Da Afghanistan Bank drafted movable property regulation, that the bank can grant loans against that, but still it is in initial stage, not applied generally.

At the end, CHEMONICS representatives thanked ABA for arranging the meeting and mentioned that in the near future, they will have a follow up meeting with ABA in this regard.



Event: ABA- CHEMONICS Meeting on Women Access to Finance Improvement

Venue: ABA Conference Hall

Date: November 12, 2014

Photo by: ABA IT Officer/Web Designer

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## **ABA Held Access to Finance Business to Bank Roundtable in Balkh Province**

Afghanistan Banks Association (ABA) with support from USAID's Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) project organized a two-day ABA-Access to Finance (A2F) Business to Bank Roundtable (B2B) event in Balkh province during December 23-24, 2014. The roundtable specifically targeted the enterprises functioning in Balkh Province of Afghanistan by facilitating access to finance through linking them with banks and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in the area. The roundtable provided the enterprises with the opportunity to exchange viewpoints in identifying challenges and opportunities/strengths in improving their productivity and

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Date: December 23-24, 2014

Photo by: FAIDA

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## Other News Highlights

### Election of New Board Members

ABA organized its General Assembly Meeting on December 24, 2015. The main agenda of the meeting was to elect new board members for ABA and consider ABA annual financial audit report. The CEOs, Acting CEOs or their representatives of all the ABA member banks participated in the meeting. As Mr. Khalil Sediq, ABA's Chairman mentioned that he would not like to continue to be on the Board since he will be completing two terms, he was not considered for re-election. ABA General Assembly elected the following new office bearers with effect from January 1, 2015.

- a) Mr. Siar Khorieshi CEO of Ghazanfar Bank as ABA Chairman
- b) Mr. Mukesh Verma, CEO of Maiwand Bank as First Vice Chairman
- c) Mr. Inayatullah Fazli, CEO of Azizi Bank as Second Vice Chairman
- d) Mr. Ashokkumar Valechha, CEO of First Microfinance Bank as Board Member
- e) Mr. Sarfraz Nazir, CEO of Bank Alfalah Limited as Board Member

Mr. Najibullah Amiri also briefed the member banks in the general body meeting about the audit of ABA, which was done by external audit company (Zeeshan Ali & co). During the meeting, ABA General Assembly approved the 2013 Statutory Audit Report which was conducted by Zeeshan Ali & Co. To see ABA Board members' Profiles please click [here](#).



Event: ABA General Assembly Meeting  
Venue: ABA Office  
Date: December 24, 2014  
Photo by: ABA Admin/Finance Officer

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