



د افغانستان بانکونو ټولنه
Afghanistan Banks Association

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ABA E-Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Third Access to Finance Exhibition

2015
Kabul, Afghanistan

ABA is Supported By



ABA Participated in the Third India-Afghanistan Innovation Partnership Fair

Herat Chamber of Commerce and Industries (HCCI) with the support from Indian Embassy and USAID/FAIDA project organized the Third India-Afghanistan Innovation Partnership Fair in Herat province during March 10-11, 2015. Around 20 organizations from India and 30 organizations from Ghor, Badghiz, Farah and Herat provinces of Afghanistan were invited to showcase their innovative solutions in the areas of Agriculture, Clean Energy, Education, Health, ICT, and, Water and Sanitation.

The two-day India-Afghanistan Innovative Partnership Fair focused on showcasing successful Indian innovations, establishing contacts, and sharing information on financing and the establishment of private and public-private alliances. The event aim was to bring together the individuals and organizations that are best-positioned to forge meaningful business-partnerships with Indian invitees and create opportunities within the local marketplace.

Afghanistan Banks Association (ABA) coordinated with its member banks to take part in the event. ABA and its seven

Contact us

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member banks [Afghanistan International Bank (AIB), Afghan United Bank (AUB), Afghanistan Commercial Bank (ACB), Azizi Bank, Bakhtar Bank, Ghazanfar Bank (GB) and First Microfinance Bank(FMFB)] participated in the event.

During the inaugural ceremony of the event, Mr. Najibullah Amiri, ABA's Deputy Executive Director delivered a comprehensive speech on ABA establishment, activities, achievements and role of ABA member banks in financing of innovation solutions. Mr. Amiri also participated as a panel member in panel discussion on the 2nd day of the event and answered participant's questions.

The event provided a great opportunity to ABA member banks by showcasing their products and services to the participants and conducting roundtable discussion with innovative business financing aspect.



Event: Third India-Afghanistan Innovation Partnership Fair

Venue: Herat province

Date: March 10-11, 2015.

Photo by: Indian Embassy

ABA-Member banks Participation in the Trade Finance Roundtable

On March 3, 2015 ABA and ten representatives from ABA six member banks (Afghanistan Commercial Bank, AIB, Afghan United Bank, Ghazanfar Bank, Habib Bank Ltd, Pashtany Bank representatives participated in the Trade Finance Roundtable that was organized jointly by USAID's Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project (ATAR) and FAIDA project in Baron Hotel, Kabul. The purpose of the roundtable was promoting trade finance in general and export finance in specific which includes the promotion to different financial solutions and discussing the export fund idea. In the mentioned event, ABA member banks had presentation on their loan portfolio and procedures for financing trade sectors.



Event: Trade Finance Roundtable, Kabul

Venue: FAIDA Office

Date: March 03, 2015

Photo by: Mr. Naveed Hadawal, ABA Member Service Coordinator

ABA- AMA Coordination Meeting on Third Access to Finance Exhibition

On March 04, 2015 ABA had meeting with Afghanistan Microfinance Association (AMA) on 3rd Access to Finance (A2F) Exhibition and other coordinative issues.

Mr. Najeebullah Samim AMA Executive Director and Mr. Najibullah Amiri ABA Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Naveed Hadawal ABA Member Service Coordinator and Mr. Edrees Alimy ABA Research Associate participated the meeting and discussed how ABA and AMA can coordinate the upcoming A2F Exhibition.

During the meeting it was agreed that AMA to speak during the opening and closing sessions, a separate pavilion should be given for AMA members and its clients as last A2F event and AMA to organize and lead 1-2 Microfinance related workshops



Event: ABA-AMA Coordination Meeting on 3th Access to Finance Exhibition

Venue: ABA Conference Hall

Date: March 04, 2015

Photo by: Mr. Sayed Jamal, ABA IT Officer

ABA Meeting with Afghan Protein Company

On March 25, 2015, Mr. Najibullah Amiri, ABA's Deputy Executive Director met with Saied Habib Rasoly, owner and Executive Director of Afghan Protein Company, a poultry company established in 2014 in Herat province. The company is proposing to expand its business by opening new branch in Kabul, and is requesting ABA's help to assistance in terms of facilitating access to finance and coordination with banks providing loans (preferably Islamic Finance). Mr. Amiri provided Mr. Rasoly with information from ABA member banks on conventional and Islamic loans, and suggested that ABA could organize meetings as needed with any of the member banks. Mr. Rasoly was extremely interested to have a booth in upcoming Access to Finance Exhibition to showcase the Afghan Protein Company products and services.

ABA meeting with Afghanistan Payment System (APS)

On March 31, 2015 ABA officials met with Mr. Zaheer Bawar the Managing Director of APS to discuss the progress of APS. Mr. Zaheer Bawar mentioned that APS met individually with several banks and their responses were positive. Mr. Zaheer Bawar intends to meet all the heads of banks in next two weeks. Once the meetings are finished then APS will call for a meeting of the entire APS stakeholders to discuss and resolve the pending issues of APS.

New Executive Director Joins ABA

Mr. Abdul Majeed Jabarkhail joined ABA as Executive Director on March 18, 2015. Previously, Abdul Majeed Jabarkhail was supervisory board member of Bank-e-Millie Afghan since 2013. He was a senior Financial Management Specialist with Afghanistan Skills Development Project, Ministry of Education. He was involved in budget Management, Financial Management and capacity building. Moreover, he has worked for USAID projects as a Public Financial Director and played key role in modernizing municipality accounting and budgeting system and assisted in implementation of performance based budgeting in Municipalities.

He has completed his masters in international Financial Management, from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in Delhi, India, and has completed his under graduate degree in Economics from Nangarhar University. In this regard, on the same day, ABA arranged a meeting with its staff for orientation of ABA new Executive Director.

DAB Finalizes Bank Check Standardization Documents

On Sunday, March 01, 2015, Da Afghanistan Bank finalized

the Check Standardization Document and shared it with Check standardization Committee and after the committee approval, DAB will send it to all commercial banks for implementation. The committee members comprise of the following.

Ahmad Javed wafa, Director Economic and Strategic Planning, President Office
Rejendra Singh Azizi bank, Chief Risk Officer
Rafi Amin AIB, Head of Operation,
Shaukat Bangash, Habib Bank, Compliance Officer
Pir Mohammad DAB, Deputy Banking Operation
Wahid Jabarkhail DAB, Director General Operations

After the committee approval, Afghanistan Banking sector will experience a standardized check within the country. Before, banks in Afghanistan had different format of checks

Other News Highlights

Ministry of Finance and International Monetary Fund Discussion on New Kabul Bank

H.E Eklil Ahmad Hakimi, Finance Minister of Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Director- General of Treasury of Ministry Finance, Alhaj Mohammad Aqa met with International Monetary Fund (IMF) over the New Kabul Bank (NKB) sale. Alhaj Mohammad Aqa, said that NKB, has lost about USD 56.00 million over the past four years because of tighter rules on its lending and investment activities. Afghan authorities initially proposed to merge the NKB with two other public banks, Pashtany Bank and Bank-e-Millie, Mr. Aqa told Reuters. He added a second option being considered is an outright sale of New Kabul and this is the one that appears most likely. The IMF confirmed to Reuters that talks are taking place, but has given no indication of when a plan will be decided.

Reuters Posted on Friday, 27 February 2015.[Source](#)

New Afghanistan Banking Law may jump-start Islamic Finance

Afghanistan could have a new banking law approved by parliament in a few months including provisions for Islamic products, which may help to draw hundreds of thousands of people into the formal financial sector. In one of the poorest countries in the world, Afghanistan's government faces a growing fiscal crisis aggravated by a drop in foreign financial aid. An estimated nine out of 10 households in the Muslim-majority nation of 30 million shun interest-based finance, at least partly for religious reasons.

The central bank, Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), is finalizing a regulatory framework for Islamic banking which will be ready by the time the new law is passed, Akhond Jan Rustaqi, acting deputy director general of Islamic banking at DAB, told Reuters.

"The new banking law, which includes Islamic banking, is with the parliament and DAB hopes it will be adopted by June."

Currently, Islamic banking products are offered by a handful of lenders through so-called Islamic windows, but there is no standalone Islamic lender. As of last June, Afghan banks held \$4.2 billion in assets and \$813 million in outstanding loans, according to the World Bank. The central bank has stopped processing banking license applications until the new law is approved, said Rustaqi. The new banking law and the central bank's rules will cover areas such as operating procedures, contract specifications and the operation of a centralized sharia board to determine whether products obey Islamic principles.

Banks with Islamic windows include Afghan United Bank, Ghazanfar Bank and state-owned New Kabul Bank. Afghanistan International Bank launched an Islamic window last year. [Source](#)
