



**RECCA-VI Business Forum  
01 -02 March 2017, Istanbul**

**Draft Agenda**

**Venue: Intercontinental Hotel, Istanbul**

**Day 1 (01 March 2017)**

**09:00 -10:00** Arrival & Registration

**Inauguration Session:**

**10:00 – 10:10** Welcoming Remarks by H.E Nihat ZEYBEKCI, Minister of Economy, Republic of Turkey

**10:10 – 10:20** Address by H.E Humayoon Rasaw, Minister of Commerce and Industries, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

**10:20 – 10:30** Video presentation of Invest in Afghanistan

**10:30 – 10:45** Family Photo/Tea/Coffee

**Plenary Sessions:**

**10:45 – 11:45 Plenary Session I - *Regional Connectivity with Business Leaders from Afghanistan, the Region, and Globally***

The RECCA Series, initiated in 2005, has maintained a strong focus on the development of cross-border transportation infrastructure, trade, and mutually beneficial investment activities between Afghanistan and neighboring countries, including Harmonization and Simplification of Customs Procedures (such as the use of single window and interoperable national paperless trading systems). In particular, this regional forum has promoted Transit-Trade Agreements with Central, South, and Southwest Asian countries, enabling Afghanistan to serve as a transit hub for expanding trade between Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

- *How can the private sector across Central, South, and Southwest Asia contribute to the development of cross border economic (duty free) zones?*
- *How can the RECCA partner governments collaborate further in bringing harmonization & simplification reforms to their customs procedure, and how would they help advance transit and trade across the region?*
- *How can regional transportation infrastructure initiatives contribute to greater regional trade & transit?*

**11: 45 – 12:15: Discussion**

**Moderator:** DEiK

**Speakers (Panelists):** *The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Mr. Yama Shams, Afghan Railway Authority, Ministry of Public Works), The Islamic Republic of Iran, Peoples Republic of China, Republic of Turkey, Mr. Samer Seif El Yazal, WTO, TRACECA and the Republic of Uzbekistan (Gov./Pvt Sector, TBD)*

**12:15- 13:30 Lunch**

**13:30– 14:30 Plenary Session II - *Regional Energy & Natural Resource Cooperation with Business Leaders from Afghanistan, the Region & Globally***

RECCA partners must stay committed in taking serious action toward implementation of ongoing regional investment projects and policy priorities, particularly in the areas of regional energy and natural resource cooperation. Energy and natural resource projects, such as TAPI, CASA-1000, TAP-500, the Afghanistan-Regional Electric Grid, Kunar Dam, Hajigak Iron-Ore, and Aynak Copper Mine are significant and could collectively have a game-changing effect on expanding regional economic ties between Central, South, and Southwest Asia.

- *What is the current status of major regional energy and natural resource projects and how the implementation flows?*
- *How can these investment projects contribute to further regional economic integration and be beneficial to the development of a strong regional business community?*
- *What role could Sovereign Wealth Funds, regional development banks, and larger neighboring countries, such as China and India, play in the implementation of these mega energy and natural resource investment projects?*

**14: 30 – 15:00 Discussion**

**Moderator:** *Mr. Yurdakul Yigitguden, Co-coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities*

**Speakers (Panelists):** *The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Mr. Waisur-Rahman Aria, DG of Technical and Consultative Board, Ministry of Energy and Water), Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan (Gov./Pvt Sector, TBC).*

**15:00 - 15:15 Tea/coffee**

**15:15- 16:15 Plenary Session III - *Public Private Partnerships and Business-to-Business Cooperation across Eurasia through Afghanistan with Business Leaders from Afghanistan, the Region, and Globally***

In the current economic climate, cooperative ventures between public authorities and private enterprise can provide effective and creative ways to

deliver on large-scale infrastructure projects, provide general services to the public, and contribute to economic growth and job creation in Afghanistan and across the region.

- *How can the RECCA Partners develop and implement a vision for the region together with government and businesses through innovative public private partnerships?*
- *How can the interests of the local community, central government, the local private sector, multinational corporations, and domestic and foreign investors be accounted for?*
- *How can improved communications and information technologies help to facilitate regional dialogue, investment, and trade between businesses across Central Asia, South Asia, and Southwest Asia?*

**16: 15: 16:45 Discussion**

**Moderator:** *Mr. Abdul Rahim Saeedi, General Director of Private Sector Development, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Afghanistan*

**Speakers (Panelists):** *The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Mr. Momin Mansoor, Director of PPP unit, Ministry of Finance and Mr. Atiqullah Nusrat, CEO, Afghan Chamber of Commerce), Republic of Kazakhstan, United Arab Emirates, ITC and the Republic of India (Gov./Pvt Sector, TBC).*

**16:45 - 18:00 RECCA Business Match-Making and Investment Forum**

**18:00 – 19:00 Concluding Session and Networking Dinner**

**Presentation of the summary of salient points by the moderators of the three Thematic Plenary Sessions (5-7 minutes each)**

**Concluding remarks by Dr. Mohammad Mustafa Mastoor, Special Representative and Senior Advisor to H.E CEO, and Deputy Minister of Finance of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

**Moderator: Directorate General of Economic Cooperation, MoFA**

**Day 2 (02 March 2017)**

**09:00 – 12:00**

Visiting some factories or exhibition centers (TBD by DEiK)