

RECCA 
The Silk Road through Afghanistan

PROGRAM BOOK

6th Regional Economic Cooperation
Conference on Afghanistan

Kabul, 3-4 September



a decade of
RECCA



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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Dragon Valley (Dara-e-Azhdar), Bamyan
Photo Courtesy: Wildlife Conservation Society

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TOWARDS REGIONAL
ECONOMIC GROWTH
& STABILITY:

**THE SILK ROAD
THROUGH
AFGHANISTAN**



Since 2005, RECCA has provided a forum for regional engagement on economic cooperation. Critical to its success has been keeping pace with global, regional, and domestic economic shifts, and providing a platform for regional and donor governments for a more coordinated investment framework, while also availing itself of emerging investment opportunities, including for the private sector.

Since its establishment, over the past decade RECCA has worked to:

- Facilitate implementation of a select number of high impact regional economic cooperation investment projects;
- Maximize inter-regional trade, including with and through Afghanistan;
- Identify a series of economic policy priorities;
- Create a regional energy market;
- Facilitate trade and transit routes;
- Harmonize customs and borders routines; and,
- Expand markets and market access for public and private investors.

Welcoming Message from the Minister of Foreign Affairs



Distinguished participants,

I would like to welcome you all to the Sixth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA-VI) here in Kabul. We are pleased to have you with us and looking forward to your active participation.

RECCA-VI marks the largest international gathering in Kabul since the establishment of the National Unity Government. It is our sincere aim to make it the most successful RECCA conference thus far, building on the success we achieved at RECCA-V in 2012 in Dushanbe.

RECCA-VI is taking place at a time of rapid change in the world, in our region, as well as an array of challenges in both political and economic terms. With our regional partners, Afghanistan is striving to meet those challenges and advance our collective well-being amidst the flux of fast paced events.

At this conference we are particularly interested in the shifting geo-economic context in which these proceedings are taking place. Indeed we have assembled scholars and business executives to provide policymakers with their own independent views of how regional partners can best respond to and indeed take advantage of this shifting context.

Already this year, our two emerging energy corridors TAPI and CASA-1000 are picking up momentum. Additional momentum is being generated by the large-scale financial commitment that India and China are making to the region, which the ports of Chabahar and Gwadar will figure in prominently. The Lapis Lazuli and the Five Nations Railway project corridors are additional contributors to regional momentum. And Iran is in the process of economically re-engaging with the region to even a greater extent.

All told, these shifting global and regional contexts give RECCA a golden opportunity to take additional steps among regional partners to augment and accelerate this building momentum. By agreeing to additional concrete steps toward greater regional integration, partners in and around our region will be able to add to the collective momentum and move the region even closer to the shared goal of greater regional growth and development.

Together can we forge a greater collective future for our partner governments and in particular for our people with their own sets of aspirations and dreams for greater security and prosperity.

We are making good on the commitment to make RECCA as much about the region as about Afghanistan. With economic fortune increasingly intertwined, our government recognizes that our region is being transformed economically not from the inside out but rather from the outside in. Along with you, we view this newfound economic context as very promising in itself, a spur to make RECCA all the more relevant to increasing regional integration by being a driver of cross-border exchange in goods, services, and investment capital.

I would like to express my gratitude to your Excellencies for your avid participation and contributions to RECCA-VI and its dynamic conference and post-conference processes. Only together can we forge greater prospects for our people in the region, each with their own sets of aspirations and dreams towards regional economic growth and stability.

Salahuddin Rabbani
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Objectives

2014 represented a watershed year for Afghanistan. From presidential elections to the completion of the country's security transition and establishment of the National Unity Government, the political and security transition processes have been concluded. A successful economic transition remains the third critical pillar for ensuring that the significant gains achieved since 2001 are irreversible. Situated at the crossroads of Eurasia, Afghanistan can now access some of the world's fastest growing markets, as well as serve as a transit hub for expanding trade between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Besides raising living standards and spreading ideas and culture, increased economic connectivity through Afghanistan builds confidence and trust across the region, defending against the spread of extremism, narcotics, poverty, and hopelessness.

Situated at the crossroads of Eurasia, Afghanistan can now access some of the world's fastest growing markets, as well as serve as a transit hub for expanding trade between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Building on the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) series initiated in 2005 – and held in Kabul, New Delhi, Islamabad, Istanbul, and Dushanbe – RECCA-VI, to be convened on 3-4 September 2015 in Kabul, will:

- Provide a comprehensive review of progress since RECCA-I, including in the areas of trade & transport, energy, minerals extraction, private investment, vocational skills training, and disaster preparedness.
- Build an international consensus around action plans for a select group of regional investment projects and policy priorities, focused on overcoming implementation obstacles and attracting new investment partners.
- Reaffirm through the RECCA-VI Declaration international support for a sovereign Afghanistan integrated in the regional and global economy.
- Ensure that the Istanbul Process Confidence-Building Measures are achievable and supported by the Tokyo and London Conferences on Afghanistan commitments, as well as coordinated with strategies agreed through SAARC, CAREC, ECO, SCO, UNSPECA, TRACECA and other regional forums.

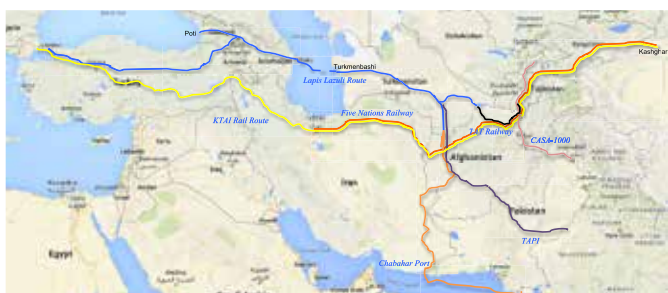
Consultations on the above goals will occur in advance of RECCA-VI with Afghan Ministries, regional and international counterparts. Preceding the high-level Ministerial Meeting on 4 September, an Academic Forum and Made in Afghanistan Exhibition, held on 3 September will engage scholars and business representatives from across the region and beyond around critical regional economic cooperation themes, including in the areas of trade & transport, energy & resource corridors, streamlining customs & border crossings, and attracting investment & technical know-how from the private sector.

Towards Regional Economic Growth and Stability: The Silk Road through Afghanistan



Wahidullah Waissi,
Director General of Economic Cooperation,
MoFA

Situated between historic conferences on Afghanistan in Beijing and in London in late 2014, and in Islamabad in late-2015, the Sixth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan in September 2015 will advance shared economic interests in the region through new approaches for regional integration and economic cooperation. In particular, RECCA-Six will further the dialogue on determining Afghanistan as a hub for regional trade and transit. This will benefit Afghanistan and its region through a select number of targeted investments and policy reforms that unleash the talents of the business community and civil society.



We have selected the theme of *“The Silk Road through Afghanistan”* as the theme for RECCA-VI. But what you might not be aware is that there are at least five concurrent “Silk Road” themed projects in Asia today, namely:

- 1) **The Silk Road Economic Belt**, with leadership from China and involving several countries in the region now including Afghanistan;
- 2) **Turkey’s Middle Corridor or Modern Silk Road** project, which also involves Afghanistan;
- 3) **The Silk Wind** initiative involving Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey;
- 4) **The Maritime Silk Road** project involving China again, Gulf Cooperation Council, and other Asian countries; and finally
- 5) **The New Silk Road** initiative supported by the United States.

In Afghanistan’s view, each of these initiatives is complementary in nature, and by connecting the Silk Road’s increasingly vibrant East-West corridors with its traditionally dynamic North-South corridors, the entire region can realize the full potential of a revitalized Silk Road through the transformation of Afghanistan into a regional trade and transport hub.

What we are trying to do is not necessarily a novel idea but to simply return Afghanistan to its historical commercial and cultural bridging role at the cross-roads of Asia.

While all five regional initiatives reflect different conceptions of the Silk Road, they can reinforce each other and simultaneously serve as “force multipliers” in support of private sector-led growth, job creation, and economic integration across the Eurasian landmass and beyond. Moreover, they each depend on stability within and the cooperation from Afghanistan, given the country’s location at the crossroads of the region’s traditional East-West and North-South transport corridors.

Through the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan series beginning in December 2005 here in Kabul, Afghanistan has come a long way in integrating economically with its neighbors, which has, in turn, helped to increased regional prosperity and stability. This is a key reason that the two economic confidence-building measures, supported by RECCA-VI, are a vital part of the Istanbul Process initiated in 2011 and why today’s meeting also serves as an important preparatory consultation for the next Istanbul Process Ministerial scheduled for late 2015 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

And it is also important to keep in mind that what we are trying to do is not necessarily a novel idea but to simply return Afghanistan to its historical commercial and cultural bridging role at the cross-roads of Asia. Indeed, it is no coincidence that the ethnic make-up of the people of Afghanistan largely reflects the amazing diversity found within the peoples of Central, South, and South-West Asia.



Pamir Highlands, Badakhshan
Photo Courtesy: Wildlife Conservation Society



WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND MAIN FORUM

WORKING GROUPS AGENDA

Day I – RECCA-VI Working Group Meetings

3 September 2015, Kabul					
Morning	8:00 - 9:00	Arrival & Registration			
	9:00 - 9:05	Opening Prayer			
	9:05 - 9:15	Welcome Address by H.E. Hekmat Khalil Karzai Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan			
	9:15 - 9:25	Keynote Speech by H.E. Abdul Satar Murad Minister of Economy, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan			
	9:25 - 9:45	Coffee Break			
	9:45- 12:30	First Working Group Session Regional Energy & Natural Resource Cooperation	Page 10	Side Event I: Economic Integration in The “Heart of Asia”: Role of Regional Organizations	Page 18
	12:45 - 14:00	Lunch			
Afternoon	14:00 - 16:00	Second Working Group Session: Regional Connectivity	Page 12	Side Event II: Renewable Energy Session	Page 20
	16:00 - 16:15	Coffee Break			
	16:15 - 18:15	Third Working Group Session Promoting Regional Trade, Private Sector Development, and Business-to-Business Cooperation across Asia through Afghanistan			Page 14
	18:15 - 18:50	Concluding Session Chaired by: H.E. Assadullah Zamir Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan			
		18:50	End of the Working Group Session		
		19:30	Dinner • Hosted by President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani (By Invitation for Heads of Delegation + 1. Venue: Presidential Palace) • Dinner hosted by Afghanistan’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Rest of the delegation members and participants of the Academic Forum. Venue: Kabul Serena Hotel)		
	Whole Day	Made in Afghanistan Exhibition			Page 35

NOTE:

- Time of the sessions and speakers are subject to change.
- RECCA Academic and Business Forums and Trade Exhibition will be conducted on September 3rd parallel to the Working Group Meetings in different venues. For more information, please visit www.recca.af

* Heads of Delegations only.

● Arrival & Registration	● Plenary Session
● Opening Session	● Closing Session
● Tea/Coffee/Lunch/Photo Session	● Reception
● Roundtable	● Exhibition
● Working Group	● Side Event

Day II – Ministerial Meeting, Kabul

4 September 2015, Kabul		
Morning	8:00 - 9:00	Arrival & Registration
	9:00 - 9:05	Opening Prayer
	9:05 - 09:15	Welcome Remarks by H.E. Salahuddin Rabbani Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
	9:15 - 9:35	Keynote Speech by H.E. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
	9:35 - 10:15	High-level Statements Statement by H.E. Siroddin Aslov , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Tajikistan Statement by H.E. Dr. Khalid Bin Mohammad Al-Attayah , Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar Statement by H.E. Nihat Zeybekçi , Minister of Economy of Republic of Turkey Statement by H.E. Muhammetguly Muhammedov , Minister of Finance of Turkmenistan Statement by H.E. Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli , Minister of Interior, Islamic Republic of Iran Statement by H.E. Sartaj Aziz , Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Pakistan Statement by H.E. Arjun B. Thapa , Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
	10:15 - 11:00	Photo Session/Opening of the Exhibition/Tea/Coffee/
	11:00 - 12:45	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan • Report by Government of Afghanistan: Progress, Challenges and the New RECCA Process by H.E. Hekmat Khalil Karzai, Deputy Foreign Minister, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan • Statements by Heads of Delegation – 5 minutes each
	12:45 - 14:00	Lunch hosted by Minister of Foreign Affairs, MoFA Dinning Hall
Afternoon	14:00 - 15:30	Plenary Session Continues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by Heads of Delegation continues – 5 minutes each
	15:30 - 15:45	Tea/Coffee Break
	15:45 - 16:45	Closing Session: Future of Regional Economic Cooperation Chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by H.E. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – 15 minutes • Presentation by Rapporteur of the Working Group Meetings – 10 minutes • Presentation by Rapporteur of the Academic Forum – 10 minutes • Presentation of the RECCA Essay Contest Winner – 5 minutes • Adoption of the Final Document of the Conference – 5 minutes • Concluding Statement, Approval of Declaration and Vote of Thanks by H.E. Salahuddin Rabbani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – 10 minutes
	16:45	End of the RECCA Program
	17:00	Press Conference
	18:00	Dinner hosted by H.E. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Venue: Sapidar Palace)
	Whole Day	Made in Afghanistan Exhibition

FIRST WORKING GROUP SESSION

Regional Energy & Natural Resources Cooperation

The First Working Group Session on Regional Energy and Natural Resource Cooperation will pick up a long-standing RECCA emphasis on the shared interests of connecting the energy-rich countries of the north with the energy-poor countries of the south. Several valuable questions will inform the discussion of this Working Group.

First, with regard to energy transfer from Central Asia to South Asia, how do we expect this to occur and what is the likely timetable for its occurrence?

Second, what accounts for the success story behind CASA-1000?

Third, what is the timeline for the implementation of the TAPI pipeline project following the good news of investment from Turkmenistan? What are the specific investments required today (both policy and regulatory “software” inputs and infrastructure “hardware” inputs) to advance each of these projects toward the creation over time of a Central and South Asia regional electric grid? How will the predicted sustained decrease in the global price of oil affect Central and South Asia?



Photo Credit: fpif.org

TIME

09:45 - 12:30 - 03/09/2015

VENUE

MoFA HALL**MODERATOR****Dr. Tom Panella**

Country Director, Afghanistan Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank

SPEAKERS

- 1 Mr. Mir Ahmad Javaid Sadat**
Deputy Minister of Policy, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum of Afghanistan
IPP of Mazar and role of private sector
- 2 Mr. Hameed Quraishi, Operations Officer, Energy and Extractives, The World Bank**
Central Asia-South Asia Power Transmission Project CASA-1000 - 10 min
- 3 Mr. Serdar Periyev**
Director, Ministry of Oil and Gas Industries and Natural Resources of Turkmenistan
The new phase of TAPI - 10 min
- 4 Mr. Abdul Razaq Samadi**
A Retrospective View on Afghanistan's Natural Resource Cooperation - 10 min
- 5 Kazakhstan - Renewable Energy & Green Economy, Ideas for the Region - 10 min**

The outcome of the session will be a one page summary with a set of recommendations to be presented at the end of the Working Group session.

SECOND WORKING GROUP SESSION

Regional Connectivity

The Second Working Group Session on Regional Connectivity will take stock of the key RECCA emphasis on trade and transit linkages between railway, roadway, and port infrastructure projects around the region. Previous RECCAs have examined the necessity and viability of the proposed North-South Corridor and the East-West Corridor.

First, while still important, what is their viability in light of the additional corridor possibilities that are coming into being with the increased commitments China, India, and Iran are making to the region?

Second, what are the major hardware impediments to the completion of both Afghanistan's Ring Road and associated North-South and East-West Corridors, and how can Afghanistan best prepare for associated Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs?

Third, how vital can the Chabahar corridor between India and Afghanistan via Iran be? Fourth, are there any likely impediments to the Five Nations Railway Agreement, and what are the likely impacts of this rail corridor?

Finally, can the proposed Lapis-Lazuli Corridor between Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey prove viable, and what are the most important near-term (both software and hardware) steps that should be prioritized?



TIME

14:00 - 16:00 - 03/09/2015

VENUE

MoFA HALL**MODERATOR**

Dr. Nagesh Kumar
Head, UN-ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office

SPEAKERS

- 1 Mr. Yamma Shams**
Afghanistan
Afghanistan National Railway Plan and the Way Forward - 10 min
- 2 Mr. Baryalai Hassam**
Afghanistan
Digital Silk Road - 10 min
- 3 Mr. Wang Daohao**
Commercial Councilor of the Chinese Embassy in Afghanistan
Five Nations Railway Road & the Future of the Silk Road - 10 min
- 4 Mr. Waliullah Afkhami**
Director of Development Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran
The Importance of Chabahar Port - 10 min
- 5 Pakistan** - *Connecting Gwadar Port to the Central Asia* - 10 min
- 6 Mr. Idibek Kalandarov**
Head of the Department for International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tajikistan
Railway networks connectivity between Tajikistan and Afghanistan as the main prerequisite of the New Silk Road - 10 min
- 7 Ms. L. Savithri**
Director, SAARC Secretariat
Motorway Connectivity - 10 min

The outcome of the session will be a one page summary with a set of recommendations to be presented at the end of the Working Group session.

THIRD WORKING GROUP SESSION

Promoting Regional Trade, Private Sector Development, and Business-to-Business Cooperation across Asia through Afghanistan

The Third Working Group Session on Promoting Regional Trade, Private Sector Development, and Business-to-Business Cooperation across Asia through Afghanistan will examine the key entities that enable cross-border flows of goods throughout the region. Increasing trade throughout the region remains a high priority.

First, how well are current trade agreements (e.g., bilateral Transit & Trade Agreements, Cross-Border Transit Agreements, and regional trade agreements) around the region working, and can they be improved upon?

Second, what are the prospects of a region-wide trade agreement (encompassing Central and South Asia) in light of the strategic shifts referred to earlier?

Third, how viable are multi-modal inland ports (dry ports), and what are the prospects of their being completed in the near future? Finally, what progress is being made on customs harmonization and the creation of Cross Border Economic Zones, and where should the emphasis lie for Afghanistan and its neighbors over the next 18-12 months?



Photo Credit: chinaincentralasia.com

TIME

16:15 – 18:15 – 03/09/2015

VENUE

MoFA HALL**MODERATOR****Mr. Stefan Huber**

Deputy Head of Delegation, Office of the EU Special Representative in Afghanistan

SPEAKERS

- 1** **Dr. Najibullah Wardak**
Director General of Customs, Ministry of Finance
Customs to Customs Cooperation – 8 min
- 2** **Mr. Omer Almeahry**
United Arab Emirates
Dry Ports – 10 min
- 3** **Mr. Rudrendra Tandon**
Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran), Ministry of External Affairs of India
Trade & Customs Harmonization – 8 min
- 4** **Mohammad Qurban Haqjo**
President & CEO, Investment Support Agency
Empowering Investment Initiatives – 8 min
- 5** **Mr. Nadeem Seddiqi**
Senior Manager on Afghanistan and Pakistan, International Financial Corporation
Public Private Partnership – 8 min
- 6** **Mrs. Ece Aksop**
Foreign Trade Expert, Ministry of Economy of Republic of Turkey
Promoting Cross-Border Private Sector Development in the Region – 8 min
- 7** **Mr. Larry Sampler**
Assistant to the Administrator, Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs
USAID Private Sector Development Projects in Afghanistan and in the Region – 8 min
- 8** **Dr. Aynul Hasan**
Director, Macro-economic Policy and Development Division, UNESCAP – 8 min
Doing Business in Afghanistan Report

The outcome of the session will be a one page summary with a set of recommendations to be presented at the end of the Working Group session.



SIDE EVENTS

Economic Integration in the “Heart Of Asia”: Role Of Regional Organizations

BACKGROUND

Afghanistan’s economy has shown considerable resilience and strength in weathering political and economic transition. The year 2014 was marked by severe challenges with presidential elections and withdrawal of international security forces. The protracted political deadlock has finally ended and the newly formed government has moved ahead to pursuing peace, economic development, building infrastructure and strengthening regional cooperation.

The economy was hit hard with growth rate falling from 3.6 percent in 2013 to 3.2 percent in the transitory year of 2014, but signs of recovery are already visible. With expected pick up of industry and services sector in the second half of 2015, the growth rate for the year has been projected by UNESCAP at 4.5 in 2015 rising further to 5.0 in 2016. World Bank’s projections are in line with the UNESCAP’s, forecasting an average yearly growth of 5 percent in the medium- term to 2018.

To secure its sustainable prosperity in the coming years, Afghanistan needs to take full advantage of its natural resource endowments and its strategic geographical location to develop into a “land-bridge” between Central and South Asia. Regional economic integration in other parts of the world has helped to generate incomes, jobs and shared prosperity. The access to large markets in South and Central Asia through regional economic integration may assist in reduction of poverty and lead to improved living standards. Through enhanced trade in goods and services and investments in building its supply capacities, regional integration may assist Afghanistan harness its productive potential to unleash dynamic paths of growth and development. The economics of neighborhood and regional integration are particularly critical for landlocked countries.

Regional economic integration has assumed great importance in what has come to be known as “Heart of Asia” Initiative. It fully recognizes the potential of Afghanistan to become a link connecting South and Central Asia further beyond to Eurasia/Europe and the Middle East.



TIME
12:30 - 14:00 - 03/09/2015

VENUE
SIDE EVENTS HALL, MoFA

The economic integration between Central and South Asia subregions has hardly realized its potential. The economic interaction within and between the two subregions has been minimal with fragmented treatment of trans-boundary issues, such as trade, regulatory frameworks and policies, regional infrastructure and transport connectivity, and management of shared natural resources. RECCA-VI represents an opportune platform to discuss the potential available for Afghanistan through its participation in respective subregional grouping of South and Central Asia.

Strong representation of the regional organizations at RECCA VI (SAARC, ECO, ESCAP, ECE, ADB-CAREC etc.) provides an excellent opportunity to discuss Afghanistan's potential for sustainable development through regional cooperation. Regional organizations have been actively supporting Afghanistan's development through various programmes of building its capacities and strengthen infrastructure harness its strategic location as a "land-bridge" between Central and South

Asia. Afghanistan is a member of ECO, with the majority of the members from Central Asia, and also a member of SAARC, the South Asian regional grouping. It is thus natural that these regional organizations would be involved in contributing to the realization of the "Heart of Asia" Initiative. This luncheon will explore the role of regional institutions in taking Afghanistan to the path of sustainable development and greater regional integration with its Central and South Asian neighbors.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT ARE TO:

- Identify potential opportunities and challenges for strengthening regional economic integration in South and Central Asia;
- Share experiences on the current status and measures in enhancing regional economic integration by countries within the respective subregional organizations;
- Discuss capacity-building needs, policy reforms and institutional mechanisms to deepen regional integration and the role regional organizations could play.

AGENDA

TIME	SESSION
12:30 pm	Opening Remarks by: Dr. Aynul Hasan Director, Macro-economic Policy and Development Division, UNESCAP
12:40 pm	Keynote Address by: H.E. Abdul Satar Murad Minister of Economy, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
12:45 pm	Presentation by regional organizations
13:30 pm	Open Discussion
13:55 pm	Concluding remarks and wrap up by the chair
14:00 pm	End of the Session

PANELISTS:

Presentations will be delivered by representatives from regional organizations, including SCO, SAARC, ECO, ADB (CAREC), UNESCAP and UNECE.

ORGANIZERS:

UNESCAP jointly with the Government of Afghanistan

(Recommendations should be highlighted by the rapporteur of the meeting and presented to the main Working Group Panel)

The outcome of the session will be a one page summary with a set of recommendations to be presented at the end of the Working Group session.

Renewable Energy

BACKGROUND

Renewable energy is energy generated from natural resources which are replenished such as wind, hydro, solar, biomass and geothermal. Governments and companies around the world are investing heavily in developing technologies to harness the power from sustainable and clean energy sources. Renewable Energy technologies have the potential to produce large quantities of energy without generating greenhouse gases and can contribute to the global climate change. Renewable Energy plays an important role in the economic development of the region, especially that of developing countries

Optimal utilization of indigenous resources of Afghanistan needs to be prioritized since it would be ensure and endure energy security and maximize the socio-economic benefits for the people of the country as well as the region. Consequently, interdependence in terms of resources and expertise, and sustained cross border power exchanges are the most viable way out for the South and Central Asia regions like rest of the world.

In the perspective of indigenous resources, the region possess great potential; so far untapped natural energy reserves in Afghanistan and comparatively small local demand thus offering a great opportunity for cross border development and regional power trading.

INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan has lot of potential to generate energy using its own natural and sustainable resources and by harnessing these resources not only we can fulfill the needs of our own people but also we can generate enough electricity to sell it to others. Achieving economic development and developing energy infrastructure are the vital goals of the Afghan government.



Photo Credit: MoEW/GIZ

TIME
14:00 - 16:00 - 03/09/2015

VENUE
SIDE EVENTS HALL, MoFA

OBJECTIVES

Ministry of Energy and Water has especially envisaged this important side event, undertaking the strengthening the Renewable Energy sector of Afghanistan with the following major objectives:

- Sharing scope and viability of Renewable Energy, at regional level, with the experts of the member states so as to be sharing their experience in this field.
- Promote regional renewable energy cooperation through regional Renewable Energy development projects and lessons learned.
- Meet increasing energy demand through exploitation of indigenous resources.
- Improve and sustain energy security of the region.
- Creating opportunity for the member states to enhance their knowledge through interactive discussions based on regional and international experiences.
- Examine ways of improving policy and regulatory challenges in each member states.

- Preparing a commercially viable roadmap for the future through long term regional strategies for maximizing the usage and potential of Renewable Energy in the region.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE SIDE EVENT

Ministries of Energy and Water and Foreign Affairs would seek participation of member states and agencies/organizations that have good experience in Renewable Energy sector. Selected speakers from member states and agencies will be required to give a ten-minute presentation to the participants of the side event on the country prospective and prevailing practices for the development of the Renewable Energy Sector.

VENUE OF THE SIDE EVENT

This Side Event will be organised in Kabul by Ministry of Energy and Water in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan during the RECCA VI event on 3rd September 2015.

AGENDA 3 SEPTEMBER 2015

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER	LOCATION
2:00 pm - 2:05 pm	Arrival & Registration		Side Events Meeting Room, MoFA (Please follow instructions)
2:10 pm - 2:30 pm	Opening by: Mr. Aman Ghalib Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy and Water Chaired by: H.E. Ali Ahmad Osmani Minister of Energy & Water, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan		
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Afghanistan Renewable Energy Sector Development	Amanullah Ghalib Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy & Water	
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Investment Opportunities in Renewable Energy Sector	Kabul Khan CEO, Afghanistan Renewable Energy Union (AREU)	
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Role of Stakeholders in Renewable Energy Development	Zabiullah Tahirzada Deputy Programme Director, GIZ-IDEA	
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Renewable Energy and Climate Change	Adrew Scanlon Country Programme Manager, UNEP	
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Closing Remarks and the Way Forward Dr. Mohammad Humayon Qayoumi Chief Adviser to the President, Infrastructure, Human Capital, & Technology <i>(Recommendations should be highlighted by the rapporteur of the meeting and presented to the main Working Group Panel)</i>		

The outcome of the session will be a one page summary with a set of recommendations to be presented at the end of the Working Group session.



جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان

پارک ملی بند امیر
د بند امیر ملی پارک

Band-e-Amir National Park

تاسیس: اول جوزای ۱۳۸۸ - د تاسیس نیټه: د نمبر کولی لمري ۲۲ ۱۳۸۸ کال

Established: May 22, 2009

ACADEMIC FORUM

ACADEMIC FORUM AGENDA

Academic Forum, Marmarin Palace, Kabul

3 September 2015

Morning	8:45 - 9:00	Arrival & Registration	
	9:00 - 9:10	Opening Prayer	
	9:10 - 9:20	Welcoming Address by Dr. Faramarz Tamanna Director General, Center for Strategic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
	9:20 - 9:35	Opening Remarks by H.E. Dr. Daud Shah Saba Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	
	9:35 - 9:45	Keynote Speech by Mahmoud Saikal International Affairs Advisor to Chief Executive Office, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	
	9:45 - 10:20	Photo Session, Tea/Coffee	
	10:20 - 12:00	Roundtable I on Regional Energy & Natural Resources Cooperation	Page 25
	12:00- 13:15	Lunch	
Afternoon	13:15 - 14:45	Roundtable II on Regional Connectivity	Page 26
	14:45 - 15:00	Tea/Coffee	
	15:00 - 16:30	Roundtable III on Promoting Regional Trade, Private Sector Development, and Business-to-Business Cooperation across Asia through Afghanistan	Page 27
	16:30 - 18:00	Closing Session chaired by H.E. Hekmat Khalil Karzai, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan - Report from Roundtable I on Regional Energy & Natural Resources Cooperation - Report from Roundtable II on Regional Connectivity - Report from Roundtable III on Promoting Regional Trade, Private Sector Development, and Business-to-Business Cooperation across Asia through Afghanistan	
	19:50	Reception	

- Arrival & Registration
- Opening Session
- Tea/Coffee/Lunch/Photo Session
- Roundtable
- Closing Session
- Reception

OPENING SESSION**WELCOMING ADDRESS**

Dr. Faramarz Tamanna
Director General, Center for Strategic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Dr. Daud Shah Saba
Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Mahmoud Saikal
International Affairs Advisor to Chief Executive of Office, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

ROUNDTABLE I

Regional Energy & Natural Resources Cooperation

TIME

10:20 – 12:00 – 03/09/2015

VENUE

Marmarin Palace, Kabul**Presentations will address the following questions:**

1. *What is the current status of the Regional Energy & Natural Resource projects and how the implementation flows?*
2. *How to foster greater coordination between regional organizations seeking to rationalize and improve coherence on regional energy and natural resources between the regional economic policies of Afghanistan and its neighbors?*
3. *What role could the larger economies in the region play in implementation of the RECCA projects?*
4. *How can RECCA projects contribute in the regional economic integration?*

MODERATOR

Prof. Mohammad H. Qayoumi
Chief Adviser to the President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

PANELISTS

Dr. Mehmet Babacan
Advisor to the Office of the Turkish Prime Minister
Political Economy of Turkey's Regional Engagement: The Case of Afghanistan

Mr. Sharofiddin Imom
Ambassador of Tajikistan to Afghanistan
Tajikistan Perspective Towards Trade and Business in Afghanistan

Mr. Khalid Aziz
Chairman Regional Institute of Policy Research & Training, from Pakistan
Apocalypse on the Indus

Dr. Chen Xiaochen
Researcher, Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China (RDCY)
China's Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative and Afghanistan

Dr. Mandana Tishehyar
Acting director, Institute of Iran and Eurasia Studies (IRAS) & Faculty member, ECO Collage, Allameh Tabataba'i University (ATU), Tehran, Iran
Iran's Position in Regional Economic Cooperation in Afghanistan based on Neo-regionalism Theory

ROUNDTABLE II

Regional Connectivity

TIME

13:15 - 14:45 - 03/09/2015

VENUE

Marmarin Palace, Kabul

Presentations will address the following questions:

- 1. What are the most effective mechanisms to modernize and streamline transportation and customs procedures, particularly at the border crossings of Afghanistan's neighboring countries?*
- 2. How can existing road and railways infrastructure in Central Asia facilitate trade with South and Middle-East through Afghanistan?*
- 3. What role IFIs and regional financial institutions could play in greater infrastructure development in Afghanistan and the region?*
- 4. How the regional Silk Road initiatives contribute to improvement of infrastructure and regional connectivity?*

Moderator

Mr. Wais Ahmad Barmak

Former Minister of the Rural Rehabilitation and Development

Panelists

Mr. Aydin Nurhan

Permanent Representative of the OIC to Afghanistan
Tajikistan's Perspective Towards Trade and Energy in Afghanistan

Mr. Shakti Sinha

Senior Researcher, South Asian Institute for Strategic Affairs (SAISA)
Afghanistan as Trans-Regional Hub: Lesson from History and the Way Forward

Mr. Yevgeniy Khon

Head of Department of Economic Studies, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Republic of Kazakhstan
The Silk Road Revival: Prospects of Economic Cooperation

Ms. Wang Lin

Fellow of the Emerging Chinese Economic Think Tank-CBN Research
China's Role in the Connectivity of Pakistan and Afghanistan with the Initiatives of Three Party Cooperation and One Belt One Road: Potentials and Challenges

ROUNDTABLE III

Promoting Regional Trade, Private Sector Development, and Business-to-Business Cooperation across Asia through Afghanistan

TIME

15:00 – 16:30 – 03/09/2015

VENUE

Marmarin Palace, Kabul

Presentations will address the following questions:

1. How to attract and strengthen private sector capabilities of the region and intra-region to work in favor of regional economic cooperation and inclusive development?
2. How to improve coordination for implementation of the trade, commerce and investment Confidence Building Measures' of Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process action plans?
3. How can the private sector of the neighboring countries contribute in development of cross border economic zones?
4. How can the RECCA partner governments collaborate in bringing harmonization, simplification & modernization in the customs procedure and how would it help the Trade and Transit across the region?

Moderator

Dr. Richard Ponzoi

Head of Global Governance, The Hague Institute for Global Justice

Panelists

Mr. Creighton Jr.

Chief Operating Officer of the EastWest Institute

Afghanistan Reconnected: Businesses Take Action to Unlock Trade in the Region

Mr. Talant Sultanov

Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic, a government think tank, *Perspectives of regional Cooperation in the network of Central Asia and Afghanistan.*

Mr. Zou Zihuan

Research Fellow on Foreign Aid in Public Health Sector

How will Health Economy Benefit Afghanistan in Future Development and Economic Growth with One Belt One Road

Dr. Shanthie Mariet Dsouza

Senior Researcher on South Asia, Singapore University

Regional Coordination between Organizations

Mr. Hasibullah Mowahed

Associate Professor at Kabul University and Deputy President General in Professional Affairs in Central Statistics Organization (CSO)

Trade and Investment Opportunities in Afghanistan

CLOSING SESSION

Chaired by H.E. Hekmat Khalil Karzai, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Prof. Mohammad H. Qayoumi – Report from Roundtable I on Regional Energy & Natural Resources Cooperation

Mr. Wais Ahmad Barmak – Report from Roundtable II on Regional Connectivity

Dr. Richard Ponzoi – Report from Roundtable III on Promoting Regional Trade, Private Sector Development, and Business-to-Business Cooperation across Asia through Afghanistan

Academic Forum Participants

Brief Biographies



H.E. Daud Shah Saba
Afghanistan

H.E. Dr. Daud Shah Saba was born on May 10, 1964 in Gozara District of Herat Province. After primary studies in Herat, he continued his secondary studies at Ghazi and Nadirya high schools. He obtained a master degree in economical geology from Kabul Polytechnic University in 1986.

In 2002, he completed his doctorate studies on geological block of Kabul, in Mumbai University. He also received a diploma in Gemology from the same university. Dr. Saba has worked in different governmental organizations, NGOs and private sectors during the last 24 years. He served as a lecturer in Geology and Petrology at Kabul Polytechnic University between years 1976 ñ 1994; he also worked as a researcher and associated professor for the St. Xavier's College of Mumbai University during 1990-1995. From 1996-2002, Dr. Saba worked as editor for Mardomnama-e-Bakhter Research Journal, and as the head of Barg-e-Sabez Publications.

He also served as Research Advisor for the International Center of New York University, and there he conducted a research on geothermal resources of Afghanistan during 2003-2005. He published the first ever research report on this subject in 2005. In 2010, Dr. Daud Saba was appointed as the governor of Herat Province. He is currently the Minister of Mines and Petroleum of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.



Mr. Hekmat Khalil Karzai
Afghanistan

Mr. Hekmat Khalil Karzai is the Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to his current appointment, He was the Founding Director of the Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS). Mr. Karzai has been engaged in various national processes with particular emphasis on the Peace Process and Youth Empowerment. In 2009 he authored a major initiative titled: *Trust Building and Paving the Road for Reconciliation*. Mr. Karzai is considered an authority on Afghanistan and has been invited to address the European Parliament and many think tanks including the International Institute for Strategic Studies (London) and Centre for Strategic and International Studies (Washington, DC). He has lectured in prestigious institutions of higher learning such as Harvard and Tufts University on security and state building. He serves as non-resident Senior Fellow at the East West Institute in Brussels. Mr. Karzai has Masters of Science in Information Technology from American I. University, United States of American and Masters of Science in Strategic Studies from Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, Singapore. Mr. Karzai has written extensively on Afghanistan, security (terrorism and insurgency), peace and reconciliation and his articles have been translated into many languages.



Mr. Mahmoud Saikal
Afghanistan

Mahmoud Saikal was born and raised in Kabul. He completed his secondary education at French Estiqlal High School. He is a graduate of both the University of Sydney and University of Canberra, with a Master in International Development from Deakin University. He served as a Project Architect and Senior Architect with Robert Peck von Hartel, Trethowan, Cox Architects and Planners and Bligh Voller Nield Pty Ltd. In the field of development, since late 2006, he has been serving as Senior Advisor to major development programs/projects in Afghanistan, working with international agencies including JICA, UNDP and the World Bank. He has worked as senior Architect with Australian Government. Mr. Saikal is a political activist campaigning for democratization, rule of law, institutionalization / systemization, quality governance and civil political rights. He is a frequent speaker at national and international forums.

Mahmoud Saikal was a former ambassador to Australia and later Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs. He is currently Senior Advisor to the Chief Executive Office of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Academic Forum Participants

Brief Biographies



Dr. Mehmet Babacan
Turkey

Mehmet Babacan was born in Malatya on October 4, 1981. After graduating from the English-language Economics Department of Marmara University, he completed post-graduate studies at the John E. Walker Department of Economics at Clemson University and earned his Ph.D in economics from Marmara University.

He began his working career as a researcher at Clemson University in the United States. Returning to Turkey, he worked a lecturer, full-time lecturer, department chair and director at Istanbul Commerce University. At the same time, he was working as a researcher in the Economics Department of SETA-Istanbul and in October 2014 was appointed as an advisor to the Office of the Prime Minister.

Dr. Babacan has contributed a range of publications, projects, research documents and conference presentations, primarily on international trade and governance, economic growth, and political economy. He speaks English.

Dr. Babacan has been a member of the Auditing Committee of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey since May 1, 2015.



Dr. Richard Ponzio
United States

Dr. Richard Ponzio joined The Hague Institute for Global Justice in March 2014 as Head of the Global Governance Program, where he serves as Project Director for the Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance.

He is formerly a Senior Adviser in the U.S. State Department's Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, where he conceptualized and coordinated Secretary Hillary Clinton's and later John Kerry's New Silk Road regional economic cooperation initiative.

From 1999-2009, Dr. Ponzio served in senior policy and strategic planning positions for the UN in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands, and New York. Dr. Ponzio has published widely in academic journals, edited volumes, newspapers, UN policy reports, and monographs, including *Democratic Peacebuilding: Aiding Afghanistan* and other Fragile States (OUP, 2011). He completed his doctorate in politics and international relations at the University of Oxford on a Clarendon Scholarship and earlier studies at The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, The Graduate Institute for International Studies-Geneva, and Columbia University.



Mr. Shakti Sinha
India

Shakti Sinha is the Chairperson of an upcoming think tank, South Asian Institute for Strategic Affairs (SAISA), and is also the head of Policy Research Group at the Bureau of Research in Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF), an economic think tank.

He has a master's in public policy from George Mason University, and a master in Indian and Chinese history from Delhi University. He was a member of India's higher civil service - the Indian Administrative Service - from 1979 to 2013.

He has held positions at different levels at the federal, provincial and local levels, including as private secretary to prime minister (Vajpayee), head of Delhi's power utility, finance secretary in Delhi provincial government, chief secretary (chief executive) of the Andaman government and others.

Internationally, he headed the United Nation's governance & development team in Afghanistan (2006-09) coordinating donor support to the Afghan government, and was earlier Senior Advisor to Executive Director on the World Bank board (2000-2004). Presently, he is a consultant on governance and civil service reform projects, including in Afghanistan and does writesand speaks on strategic and policy analysis issues.



**Ambassador
Aydin Nurhan**
Turkey

Ambassador Aydin Nurhan is the Permanent Representative of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to Afghanistan. He has served as the Ambassador of Turkey to Accra, Ghana, Togo and Benin, previously Consul General in Azerbaijan, Austria and Australia. He was the Director General of Science and Technology at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (2000-2004), and has also served in Saudi Arabia, Holland, Germany and the United States in his junior year, and is the acting Chairman of the Center for Strategic Studies of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

His main field of interest is globalization. He was the recipient of Honorary Doctorate of the Private University of Nakhchevan, Commander of the National Order of the Republic of Benin and “The Social Harmony in the Public Services Award 2010” of the Australian Intercultural Society.

His lectures have been published in the USA, Ghana, and Turkish Journals and his recent article on “Culture of Strategic Studies in Developing Countries” is published in Turkish in an edited book on Strategic Studies.



Mr Chen Xiaochen
China

Chen Xiaochen is a researcher and Senior Coordinator at Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China (RDCY). Graduating from Peking University with P.H.D. in International Relations, he once served as a senior journalist at China Business News, a leading financial daily in China, and Editor-in-Chief of Thoughts, a Weekly Supplement to the paper. He co-founded China Institute for Strategy of CBN as its Deputy Executive Secretary, one of the pioneer media-based think tanks in China in Oct. 2010. After it was merged into CBN Institute in Jan. 2012, he served as its Director Assistant. He was appointed as Deputy Director of the institute in Sep. 2014. He joined Chongyang Institute in March 2015 then held the first Silk Road Economic Belt Cities International Forum.

Dr. Chen is the author of two books: U.S. Rebalancing at the Next Stage and This Road for Africa. He is also a frequent columnist in China Business News, China.com and other Chinese media.



Mr Ettore Marchesoni
Italy

Ettore Marchesoni works as a Program Assistant with the EastWest Institute (EWI), focusing on the Institute’s “Afghanistan Reconnected” Program. Mr. Marchesoni joined the Program to assist in the implementation of the upcoming activities of the Program, which include missions to Kabul and major capitals in Central and South Asia. A native Italian, Mr. Marchesoni graduated from the University of Padua (Italy) and earned a Master’s degree in peace and conflict studies from Uppsala University (Sweden). Prior to joining the EastWest Institute, he collaborated with NGOs and research institutions active in the field of conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance in Belgium, The Netherlands and Sweden.

He also worked with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, supporting the coordination of the organization’s projects and programs in the country.

Academic Forum Participants

Brief Biographies



Dr. Faramarz Tamanna
Afghanistan

Dr. Faramarz Tamanna is the Director General of the Center for Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan and, meanwhile, chancellor of University of Afghanistan in Kabul. He holds his PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi, India) in International Studies and also from Tehran University in International Relations. Dr. Tamanna has previously worked as Deputy Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has held other positions in Afghan diplomatic missions abroad. He, also, has taught in several universities.

He is the author of two books (“*Afghanistan’s Foreign Policy*” and “*US Foreign Policy towards Afghanistan*”) and tens of articles covering security and international relations.



Mr. Hasibullah Mowahed
Afghanistan

Mr. Hasibullah Mowahed is an Associate Professor at Kabul University and Deputy President General in Professional Affairs in Central Statistics Organization (CSO). He was born in 1968 in Kabul. He has completed his undergraduate degree at the faculty of Economics of Kabul University and Master Degree in Economics International Relations at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan. He engaged in United Nation Training and Research (UNITAR) program for Afghanistan as a fellow in 2006. He could serve as a coach and resource person at UNITAR in 2011. He could get an honor medal from mentioned program entitled “United Nation Trainer”. He has written a text book Mathematical Economics in 2010.

Mr. Mowahed has 10 scientific paper and more than 30 articles and essays published in international academic journals, websites, magazine, as well as in national journals and newspapers.



Mr. James Creighton, Jr.
United States

James Creighton is the Chief Operating Officer of the EastWest Institute, which is a “think and do” tank dedicated to helping to solve some of the world’s most difficult challenges.

Upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1982, he was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer. He has earned Masters Degrees from Central Michigan University, the Marine Corps University, and the National Defense University. He is a life time member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Creighton is an adjunct professor at Bard College, New York and has lectured and participated in seminars at: Columbia University, New York; Yale University, Connecticut; USMA, West Point, New York; New York University, New York; Korea University, Seoul South Korea; and numerous military leadership courses.

He served as a commissioned officer in the United States Army for thirty years and held key command positions to include: Commander, Combined Team Uruzgan, Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan; Assistant Division Commander for Support, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea; Commander, 10th Mountain Division Artillery, Fort Drum, New York; Commander, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Commander, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.



Mr. Jon Marco Church
United States

Jon Marco Church is Assistant Professor of Regional Development, Sustainability and Governance at the International Research Center on Sustainability (IRCS) and the Institute of Regional Development, Environment and Urban Planning (IATEUR) of the University of Reims. His research focuses on the international ecosystem governance. Since 2011, he has served the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, working on regional economic cooperation with Afghanistan, national policy dialogues on integrated water resources management, as well as water cooperation; from 2009 to 2011, he has been a Ruffolo Fellow in Sustainability Science at the Harvard Kennedy School. Before that, he served as consultant to the Italian Ministry of the Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the field of cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of mountain regions and as project manager for the European Academy (EURAC) of Bolzano, Italy, dealing with the development of regional environmental frameworks, UNESCO World Heritage, as well as ecological networks. He obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science at the Sorbonne *summa cum laude* with a thesis on the Alpine Convention, a regional environmental agreement.



Mr. Khalid Aziz
Pakistan

Khalid Aziz is a former civil servant with more than 30 years' experience. He has remained Political Agent Khyber, Orakzai and North Waziristan agencies. He led economic development of NWFP and tribal areas for six years and later was its Chief Secretary from 1996 to 1997. He led the NWFP as its negotiator in the successful distribution of Indus River System amongst the provinces in 1990. He became Pakistan's first Director General of National Accountability in 1998. He remained an advisor to KP government for the successful 7th National Finance Commission Award in 2010. He has written extensively, and two of his important works are 1) "Need for a Pak-Afghan on Management of Joint Water Courses," (2007); 2) "Conditions for a Successful Transition in Afghanistan Post-2014," (2014).

Khalid Aziz holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Peshawar University and has studied at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. From the latter he holds an M. Phil degree.



Dr. Mandana Tisheyar
Iran

Iranian Ph.D. graduated from school of International Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) located in New Delhi, India. She was a member of Foreign Policy Committee of Iran's Parliament Research Centre during 2001-2006 and a member of Institute of Strategic Studies in Tehran from 2008 to 2010.

She is directing the bi-annual journal of International Politics. She is also a member of Central Eurasia Program (CEP) in International Research Centre of University of Tehran.

She is working as Acting Director of Institute of Iran and Eurasia Studies (IRAS) since March 2013. From November 2013, she began her new work as director of international academic cooperation in Allameh Tabataba'i University (ATU)

As an assistant professor, she is faculty member of ECO collage in Allameh Tabataba'i University and also teaches in Faculty of World Studies, University of Tehran.



**Dr. Shanthie
Mariet D'Souza**
India

Dr. Shanthie Mariet D'Souza is President and Founder, Mantraya; Associate Editor, Journal of Asian Security & International Affairs (Sage Publications); Expert and Contributor to the Middle East-Asia Project (MAP) at the Middle East Institute, Washington DC; Senior Analyst, South Asia desk, Wikistrat Analytic Community, New York; Advisor, Independent Conflict Research & Analysis (ICRA), London. She has conducted field studies in Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Jammu and Kashmir and India's North East. Dr. D'Souza has previously been Research Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore; Associate Fellow, Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses, New Delhi; Fulbright Fellow & Visiting Research Associate at South Asia Studies, The Paul H Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC; Research Associate at Database & Documentation Centre of the Institute for Conflict Management, Guwahati, Assam. She has also been Senior Transition Consultant, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Afghanistan and External Reviewer for the country programme of Action Aid International, Afghanistan. Dr. D'Souza has presented papers at various academic and policy forums and has numerous publications to her credit. Among her most recent published work is an edited book titled Afghanistan in *Transition: Beyond 2014?*, co-edited books, *Perspectives on South Asian Security* (2012) and *Saving Afghanistan* (2009).



Mr. Talant Sultanov
Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Talant Sultanov is the Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic, a government think tank, which provides the offices of the President and the Prime Minister with analytical support on economic, political and social issues. Mr. Sultanov is also the Vice President for Finance of the American University of Central Asia (AUCA), where he manages administrative, financial and security matters, as well as issues related to the new campus and dormitory construction projects.

Mr. Sultanov is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Microcredit Organization "Humo" in Tajikistan (a volunteer position). Prior to his current positions, Mr. Sultanov worked in Project Finance at Kazkommertsbank in Almaty from 2006 to 2010, then at the World Bank Head Office in Washington, D.C., and in the Central Asia Regional Office in Almaty from 2003 to 2006. Mr. Sultanov holds a B.A. in International Relations from San Francisco State University (1999, Summa Cum Laude), where he graduated as the Top Student in the Program, and a M.A. in International Finance from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA, 2006).



**Mr. Wais Ahmad
Barmak**
Afghanistan

Mr. Wais Ahmad Barmak is an MSc graduate (Development Studies) from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London, UK. Prior to holding this post-graduate degree, he obtained a BSc degree, with Honours in Architecture, from the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Kabul University. Mr. Barmak is currently Deputy Minister, Programmes for Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). Before his appointment in this position, he served as the Executive Director of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) executed by the MRRD for more than two years responsible for the programme's overall management and leadership with USD 285 million in annual funding.

Until October 2006, Mr. Barmak was Senior Advisor/Chief Coordinator of the National Rural Access Programme (NRAP), where he was responsible for the programme's management and supervision on behalf of two executing ministries i.e. MRRD and Ministry of Public Works. In particular, he supervised overall programme activities, facilitated the approval of programme resources and funds through the programme Steering Committee, developed the master plan for a national network of village roads, monitored programme implementation, and maintained positive relations with donor organizations such as WB, DFID, EC, JSDF, and USAID.

Academic Forum Participants

Brief Biographies



Miss. Wang Lin

China

Miss. Wang Lin is the Fellow of the emerging Chinese Economic Think Tank-CBN Research. She is also an pioneering journalist of International Relation and Global Economy at China Business News, which is the most influential financial daily in China.

Wang studied China's overseas investments, especially infrastructure investments in Asia, Africa and Latin America in light of China's proposal of One Belt One Road. She has been to Pakistan and completed field-work and research on China Pakistan Economic Corridor in April during President Xi Jinping's historical visit to Pakistan. She is the first Chinese female journalist to arrive and report at Gwadar Port which is regarded as the strategic point of CPEC and Afghanistan's potential access to the sea.



Mr. Yevgeniy Khon

Kazakhstan

Following his graduate studies in public policy at KDI School of Public Policy and Management (Seoul, Korea), Yevgeniy began to work as a researcher at Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of RK. Established in 1993, this Institute is currently one of the most influential think tanks that maintains analytical and research support exclusively for the President of Kazakhstan and senior policy makers. In June 2015 he was promoted to Head of Department of Economic Studies. In addition to his duties as a manager, Yevgeniy continues to conduct research and make policy recommendations on a variety of topics, including Kazakhstan-China economic cooperation, transport corridors, development and economic growth.



Mr. Zou Zihuan

China

Zou Zihuan, research fellow on foreign aid in public health sector. He works at Institute for Global Health, Peking University. Zou studies Health Aids' driving role for economic growth and bilateral investments.

He performs as a Coordinator at 4th and 5th International Symposium on China-Africa cooperation in health. Responsible for joint projects and foreign aid projects with Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Health, China Development Bank, African embassies in China, UNDP, WHO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

He completed reports on Technology Transfer on Sino-African cooperation, China's foreign aid policies in Africa and Latin American.

RECCA Young Scholars and Professionals Essay Contest 2015

The RECCA-VI essay contest welcomed submissions from students, young scholars, and your professionals from Central and South Asia in accordance with the submission criteria below. A team of five international scholars reviewed twenty submissions from XX countries in the region, and each essay was assessed based on the quality of analysis, quality of writing, originality of argument, creativity of policy recommendations, proper citation of sources, and whether other requirements outlined in the submission criteria below were followed. The top three essay authors were recognized with awards in the amounts of US\$1,000, US\$700, and US\$500. The 1st place essay author was also invited to present his essay at the RECCA-VI intergovernmental Conference on September 4 and Academic Forum on September 3.

Winner



SHOAIB A. RAHIM

DATE OF BIRTH
February 12, 1984

PLACE OF BIRTH
Nangarhar, Afghanistan

EDUCATION
MBA - Finance (Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar)
MSc in Development Economics (University of Sussex, England)

Criteria for Judging:

- The contest is open to all young scholars & professionals between ages 21 and 35, who are currently studying or completed their studies (Masters or PhD).
- The essay must be written in English only.
- The maximum word count is 2,500 with minimum of 2,000 words not including citations and bibliography. Essays exceeding 2,500 words will be automatically excluded.
- Only one entry per person is permitted. Co-authored essays will not be accepted.
- Copyright of the essays entered will be assigned to the event organizers.
- No revisions to entries are permitted once submitted.
- Essays must be original and not published elsewhere or submitted to other essay competitions.
- Essays must be submitted in Microsoft Word (doc, docx) format only. PDF and other formats are not acceptable.
- A note must be attached to the essay indicating the author's full name, photo, address, university or workplace (if any), date and place of birth, nationality, gender, native language, e-mail, telephone and fax number(s), a short bio (maximum 100 words) and stating the essay's word length.



MADE IN AFGHANSITAN EXHIBITION

MADE IN AFGHAN

2014 represented a watershed year for Afghanistan. From presidential elections to the completion of the country's security transition and establishment of the National Unity Government, the political and security transition processes have been concluded. A successful economic transition remains the third critical pillar for ensuring that the significant gains achieved since 2001 are irreversible. Situated at the crossroads of Eurasia, Afghanistan can now access some of the world's fastest growing markets, as well as serve as a transit hub for expanding trade between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Besides raising living standards and spreading ideas and culture, increased economic connectivity through Afghanistan builds confidence and trust across the region, defending against the spread of extremism, narcotics, poverty, and hopelessness.

Building on the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) series initiated in 2005 - and held in Kabul, New Delhi, Islamabad, Istanbul, and Dushanbe - RECCA-VI, to be convened on 3-4 September 2015 in Kabul, will:

- Provide a comprehensive review of progress since RECCA-I, including in the areas of trade & transport, energy, minerals extraction, private investment, vocational skills training, and disaster preparedness.
- Build an international consensus around action plans for a select group of regional investment projects and policy priorities, focused on overcoming implementation obstacles and attracting new investment partners.
- Reaffirm through the RECCA-VI Kabul Declaration international support for a sovereign Afghanistan integrated in the regional and global economy.
- Ensure that the Istanbul Process Confidence-Building Measures are achievable and supported by the Tokyo and London Conferences on Afghanistan commitments, as well as coordinated with strategies agreed through SAARC, CAREC, ECO, SCO, UNSPECA, TRACECA and other regional forums.



Nangarhar Industrial Conference and Exhibition 2013

AFGHANISTAN EXHIBITION



Prior to the high-level political segment on 4th September, including presentations from government ministers, business leaders, and scholars, a full-day RECCA-VI “Made in Afghanistan” Exhibition, will be convened on 3rd- 4th September by Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The exhibition will demonstrate the economic growth of Afghanistan, production capacity of the market, and the sectors in which the country holds unique selling proposition. The exhibition will display products from 24 different sectors in which Afghanistan is on the verge of reaching to a maturity level.



INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS



Stor Palace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kabul
Photo Credit: Ahmad Faheem Hunarwar

Situated at the crossroads of Eurasia, Afghanistan can now access some of the world's fastest growing markets, as well as serve as a transit hub for expanding trade between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

CONFERENCE CONCEPT

2014 represented a watershed year for Afghanistan. From presidential elections to the completion of the country's security transition and establishment of the National Unity Government, the political and security transition processes have been concluded. A successful economic transition remains the third critical pillar for ensuring that the significant gains achieved since 2001 are irreversible.

Situated at the crossroads of Eurasia, Afghanistan can now access some of the world's fastest growing markets, as well as serve as a transit hub for expanding trade between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Besides raising living standards and spreading ideas and culture, increased economic connectivity through Afghanistan builds confidence and trust across the region, defending against the spread of extremism, narcotics, poverty, and hopelessness.

Building on the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) series initiated in 2005 – and held in Kabul, New Delhi, Islamabad, Istanbul, and Dushanbe – RECCA-VI, will be convened on 3-4 September 2015 in Kabul.

Consultations on the above goals will occur in advance of RECCA-VI with Afghan Ministries, regional and international counterparts.

The two-day Conference will comprise the following events:

- A high-level Ministerial Meeting will be held at protocol Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 4 September 2015 (See agenda for details)
- Preceding the Ministerial Meeting, 3 working group meetings will be held on 3 September 2015 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- A RECCA-VI Academic Forum, Regional Business Forum and Trade Exhibition, will be held in parallel to the working group meetings in different venues on 3 September 2015 (with the Trade Exhibition to continue on 4 and 5 September).

ORGANIZER

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

TIMING

Unless otherwise advised, all meetings during the RECCA VI will be held from 0900 to 1230 hours and from 1400 to 1800 hours. The tentative agenda for main event is attached and for other side events will be distributed in advance.

REGISTRATION AND BADGES

Participants are requested to register with all requested details so that we can extend the best possible hospitality and services to them during their stay in Kabul. The completed registration forms (a copy is attached with contact details) must be sent to RECCA VI focal points at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs no later than 15 August 2015.

Participants are encouraged to obtain meeting badges prior to the conference events on September 3. Badges will be distributed to their missions in advance through Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Protocol Office) or in the VIP lounge, Kabul International Airport. For identification and security reasons, all participants are requested to wear their meeting badges during meeting times.

VISA

All participants must obtain their entry visa to Afghanistan in advance of traveling, through any Afghan diplomatic or consular Missions in their respective countries or upon their destination. Visa upon arrival will be issued at Kabul International Airport for delegation of those countries where no Afghan diplomatic or consulate missions exist and/or in exceptional cases. The Afghan diplomatic and Consular Missions abroad have already been notified to facilitate visa issuance for RECCA-VI conference participants.

The Nationals of the following countries holding a valid diplomatic passport are exempted from requiring an entry visa to Afghanistan (based on a reciprocal basis): China, Indonesia, Iran, Tajikistan, and Turkey.

WEATHER

The weather in Kabul is warm in early September, usually between 25-27 degrees Celsius.

CURRENCY

The Afghan national currency is Afghani. One US dollar is equivalent to about 61 Afghanis. Currency exchange facilities are available at hotels and at other locations in Kabul.



Taq-e-Zafar, Kabul. Photo by Babak Fakhmzadeh

Afghanistan's national currency (Afghani) exchange rate

As of 30 August 2015

1 USD	= 65.60 Afs.
1 CNY	= 8.23Afs.
1 TRY	= 17.96 Afs.
1 TJS	= 11.81 Afs.
1,000 IDR	= 37.6 Afs.
10,000 IRR	= 22.7 Afs.



Bamyan Buddha. Photo Credit: Aljazeera

Information Note for Participants



Kabul Clock Tower. Photo Credit: AfghanLens



Kabul Serena Hotel. Photo Credit: Wikimedia

TRIP TO KABUL & FLIGHT RESERVATIONS

Many international airlines operate regular services to and from Kabul. There are more than 15 flights from Dubai, Istanbul, New Delhi, Dushanbe and Moscow to Kabul and vice versa. Participants are advised to secure their return booking prior their departure to Kabul. If this is not possible, they should make firm return bookings immediately upon arrival in Kabul. For delegates using chartered flights, information about plane, arrival time, and duration of stay and departure time are required no later than 20 August 2015. Charges are applicable.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

MoFA will extend local hospitality, including room and meals for the participants with the following format:

Minister + 2, Deputy Minister +1, Head of International Organization +1 during the Ministerial Conference for two nights.

Accommodation will be provided in the following hotels:

Kabul Serena Hotel

Froshgah Street (center of the city)

Tel: +93 (0) 79 965 4000

Fax: +93 (0) 79 965 4111

Email: niamat.habib@serena.com.af

Website: www.serenahotels.com

Kabul Star Hotel

Zanbaq Square Ankara Street,

Tel: +93 (0) 20 231 3131

+93 (0) 20 230 4646

Email: info@kabulstarhotel.af

Website: www.kabulstarhotel.af

InterContinental Kabul

Baghe Bala, Suite 600,

Tel: +93 (0) 20-2562765 and

+93 (0) 20-2562767

Email: info@intercontinentalkabul.com

Website: www.intercontinentalkabul.com

Additional officials and participants planning to attend one of the RECCA-VI Forums on September 3 or other side events are requested to make their own accommodation.

Delegations requiring rooms at the Kabul Serena Hotel, InterContinental Kabul and Kabul Star Hotel need to confirm their bookings no later than 15 August 2015. Delegations wishing to stay in private accommodations, including at the embassy residents, are requested to inform the Conference Secretariat.

Note: All Government and International Agency delegations are strongly encouraged to consider identifying and sponsoring relevant non-governmental participants from their respective country at the RECCA-VI Academic Forum, Regional Business Forum and Trade Exhibition, all scheduled for September 3.

TRANSPORTATION

The conference will provide transport to facilitate the movement of all participants from the Hamid Karzai International Airport to the Kabul Serena Hotel, InterContinental Kabul, and Kabul Star Hotel and vice versa (free of charge).

Transport will also be provided to the participants from the aforementioned hotels to and from the Ministerial meeting on September 4 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

BUSINESS CENTER

A business center will be available for participants to the Working Group Meetings and Ministerial Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with free Wi-Fi connection.

CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND TRANSLATION

All conference documents will be available in the conference room and also on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website:
www.mfa.gov.af.

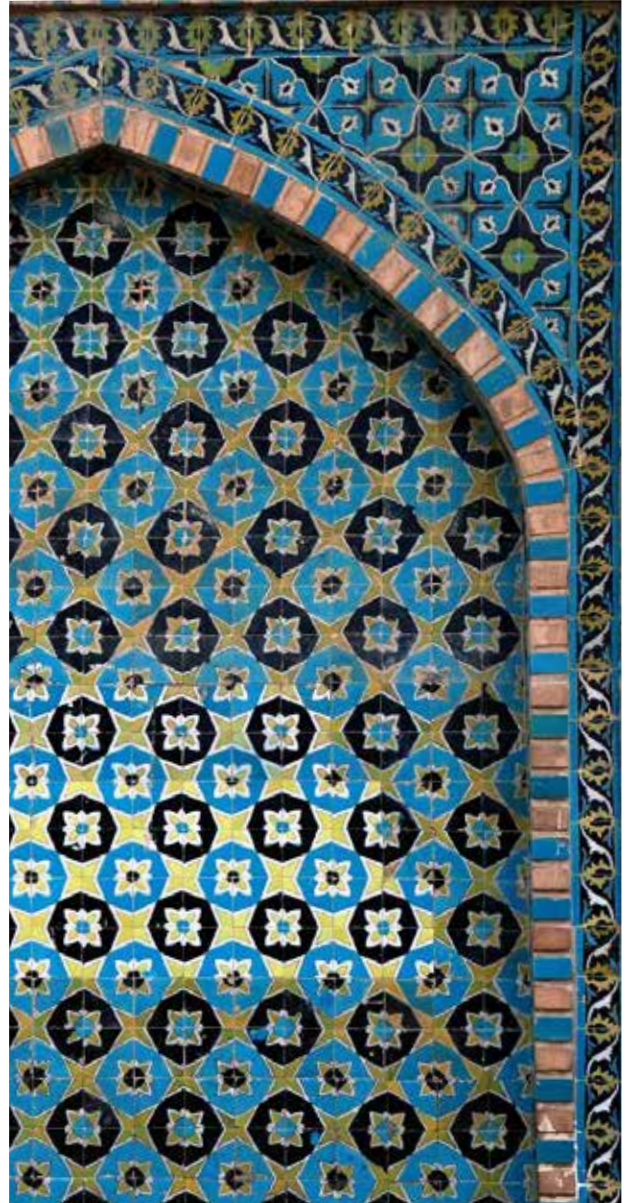
The Conference language will be in English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic and Russian Languages.

SECURITY

There will be a security check for all participants before entering the Conference Hall. Although a cloakroom will be available near the meeting venue, delegations are kindly asked to not bring in any large pieces of luggage.

BILATERAL MEETINGS

Heads of Delegation participating at the RECCA-VI requesting bilateral meetings with Afghan leaders are requested to contact MoFA protocol department.



Blue Mosque, Mazar-e-Sharif. Photo Credit: msn.com

ABOUT AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan has a population of approximately 31 million people, making it the 42nd most populous country in the world; and the most populous country in Central Asia.

It is bordered with Iran in the west; Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan in the north; and China in the far northeast. Its territory covers 652,000 km² (252,000 sq mi), making it the 41st largest country in the world, and 2nd largest in Central Asia.

A landlocked mountainous country with plains in the north and southwest, Afghanistan is located within South Asia and Central Asia.

In 2010, Afghan government officials and US estimated that untapped mineral deposits located in 2007 by the US Geological Survey are worth between \$900 bn and \$3 trillion.

The country's highest point is Nushaq, at 7,492 m (24,580 ft) above sea level. It has a continental climate with harsh winters in the central highlands, the glaciated northeast (around Nuristan), and the Wakhan Corridor, where the average temperature in January is below -15°C, and hot summers in the low-lying areas of the southwest, east, and the plains along the Amu River in the north, where temperatures average over 35°C in July.

The country's natural resources include: coal, copper, iron ore, lithium, uranium, rare earth elements, chromite, gold, zinc, talc, barites, sulfur, lead, marble, precious and semi-precious stones, natural gas, and petroleum, among other things.

In 2010, Afghan government officials and US estimated that untapped mineral deposits located in 2007 by the US Geological Survey are worth between \$900 bn and \$3 trillion.

As of 2013, the nation's GDP stands at about \$45.3 billion with an exchange rate of \$20.65 billion, and the GDP per capita is \$1,100. The country's exports totaled \$2.6 billion in 2010.

The Afghan economy has been growing at about 10% per year in the last decade, which is due to the infusion of over \$50 billion in international aid and remittances from Afghan expats. It is also due to improvements made to the transportation system and agricultural production, which is the backbone of the nation's economy.

The country is known for producing some of the finest pomegranates, grapes, apricots, melons, and several other fresh and dry fruits, including nuts.



Kajaki Dam in the south province of Helmand.
Photo Credit: US Army





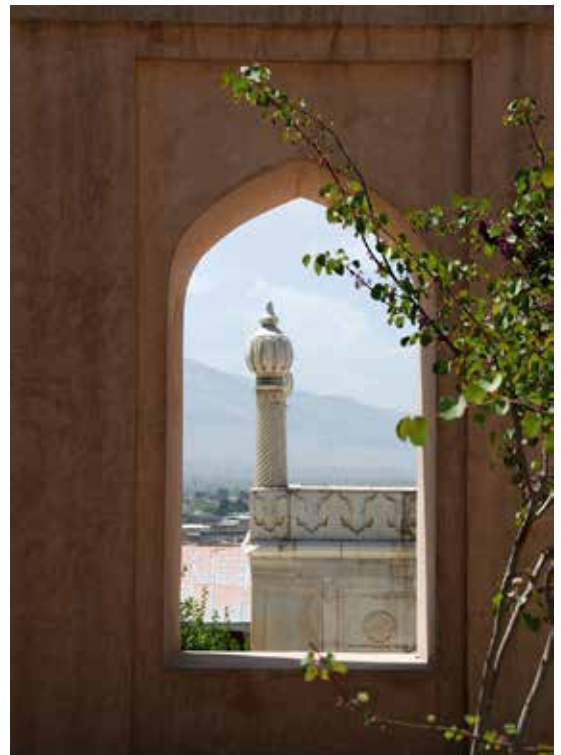
Band-e-Amir National Park, Bamyan
Photo Courtesy: Flickr/Saeid Aghaei

ABOUT KABUL

Kabul is the capital of Afghanistan and the largest scientific-cultural, political, economic, industrial and administrative center of the country.

Kabul is very historic city of the region, that has been built almost 4,000 years ago, which is at a strategic location along the trade routes of South and Central Asia, the city became the capital of Afghanistan in the 1700s. People over here are famous in hospitality.

According to a 2012 estimate, the population of the city was around 3,289,000. It is the 64th largest and the 5th fastest growing city in the world.



Bagh-e-Babur, Kabul
Photo Credit: seeafghanistan.com

RECCA-VI Working Group and Ministerial Meetings (September 3-4, 2015):

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Website: www.mfa.gov.af

RECCA Academic Forum (September 3, 2015):

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Emails: c.s.s@mfa.gov.af, mahdi.munadi@gmail.com
Website: www.css.gov.af

Dinner Gala (September 4, 2015):

Mr. Mohammad Qasem Nasiri

International Affairs Director,
Afghanistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (ACCI)
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Mobile: + 93 79 630 0554
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Made in Afghanistan Exhibition (September 3-4, 2015):

Ahmad Waleed Majidyar

Manager, Investment Promotion Directorate
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Website: www.aisa.org.af



Minaret of Jam, Ghour Province - Photo Credit: pxleyes.com

International Coordination

AMBASSADORS		
N°	Country	Name
1	Embassy of Australia	Mr. Matthew Anderson
2	Embassy Canada	H.E. Deborah Ann Lyons
3	Embassy of China	H.E. Deng Xijun
4	Embassy of Denmark	H.E. Mr. Uffe Wolffhechel
5	Embassy of Egypt	H.E. Mohab Nasr
6	Embassy of Finland	H.E. Ari Pekka Maki
7	Embassy of France	H.E. Jean Michel Marlaud
8	Embassy of Germany	H.E. Markus Potzel
9	Embassy of India	H.E. Amar Sinha
10	Embassy of Iran	H.E. Mohammad Reza Bahrami
11	Embassy of Iraq	H.E. Arshad Omar Esmail
12	Embassy of Italy	H.E. Luciano Pezzotti
13	Embassy of Japan	H.E. Hiroshi Takahashi
14	Embassy of Kazakhstan	H.E. Omirtay Bitimov
15	Embassy of Kyrgyzstan	H.E. Awazbek Abdulrazaqov
16	Embassy of the Netherlands	H.E. Henk Jan Bakker
17	Embassy of Norway	H.E. Erling Skjonsberg
18	Embassy of Pakistan	H.E. Sayed Abrar Hussain
19	Embassy of Russia	H.E. Alexander Mantytskiy
20	Embassy of Saudi Arabia	H.E. Musfer Bin Abdulrahman Aal Ghaseb
21	Embassy of South Korea	
22	Embassy of Spain	H.E. Juan Jose Rubio De Urquia
23	Embassy of Sweden	H.E. Peter Semneby
24	Embassy of Tajikistan	H.E. Sharafuddin Emam
25	Embassy of Turkey	H.E. Ali Akin
26	Embassy of Turkmenistan	H.E. Togonalow
27	Embassy of United Arab Emirates	H.E. Yosouf Saif Al Ali
28	Embassy of United Kingdom	H.E. Richard Stagg CMG
29	Embassy of United States of America	H.E. Peter Michael McKinely
30	Embassy of Uzbekistan	H.E. Yadgarkhoja Shadmanov

HEAD OF MISSIONS AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS		
31	Embassy of Australia	Dr. Londes
32	Embassy of Australia	Mr. Kim Northwood
33	Embassy of Australia	Mr. Edward Wakisson
34	Embassy of Canada	Rovet MeDayall
35	Embassy of Canada	Arlaw Tumees
36	Embassy of Canada	Mr. Reid Sirrs
37	Embassy of Canada	Nancy Bergeron
38	Embassy of China	Wang Daohao

HEAD OF MISSIONS AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

N°	Country	Name
39	Embassy of Denmark	Mr. Henrik Jespersen
40	Embassy of Egypt	Mr. Sameh El Ghamarawi
41	Embassy of Finland	Ms. Sinikka Koski
42	Embassy of Finland	Anna Savolakea
43	Embassy of France	Yves Manville
44	Embassy of Germany	Mr. Erik Kurzweil
45	Embassy of India	Mr. Viraj Singh
46	Embassy of Iran	Gholamreza Najjari
47	Embassy of Iran	Ali Reza Hajizadeh
48	Embassy of Iraq	Mudhafar Khalaf
49	Embassy of Italy	Ms. Alessandra Di Pippo
50	Embassy of Italy	Couns. Giuseppe Papalia
51	Embassy of Japan	Mr. Yasunari Morino
52	Embassy of Japan	Mr. Akifumi Fukuoka
53	Embassy of Kazakhstan	Mr. Zhunns Ergaliev
54	Embassy of Kazakhstan	Mr. Darkhan Seitenov
55	Embassy of Kyrgyzstan	Azamat Abhaev
56	Embassy of The Netherlands	Mr. Bart de Bruijn
57	Embassy of Norway	Mr. Kjell-Gunnar Eriksen
58	Embassy of Russia	Dmitry Medkdrev
59	Embassy of Russia	DjiDD.T Vakhid
60	Embassy of Saudi Arabia	Yousef Gazzar
61	Embassy of Spain	Mr. Oriol Sola Pardell
62	Embassy of Sweden	Mr. Jon Grans
63	Embassy of Turkey	Mr. Sinan Ilhan
64	Embassy of Turkmenistan	Sakhi Rozi
65	Embassy of United Kingdom	Mr. Will Gargent
66	Embassy of United States	Amy Holman
67	Embassy of United States	Susan Kutok
68	Embassy of United States	Mr. Domingo Villaronga
69	Embassy of United States	Christian "Kit" Redmer

National Coordination

MINISTERS

No	Name	Position
1	Abdul Satar Murad	Minister of Economy
2	Eng. Ali Ahmad Osmani	Minister of Energy & Water
3	Assadullah Zamir	Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock
4	Dr. Daud Shah Saba	Minister of Mines & Petroleum
5	Eklil Ahmad Hakimi	Minister of Finance
6	Humayoon Rasaw	Minister of Commerce & Industries
7	Eng. Mahmood Baligh	Minister of Public Works
8	Dr. Mohammadullah Batash	Minister of Transportation
9	Dr. Nasrin Oriakhil	Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled
10	Abdul Razaq Vahidi	Minister of Communication & Information Technology

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

11	Khalil Sediq	Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank
12	Mohammad Qurban Haqjo	General Director of Afghanistan Investment Support Agency
13	Mostapha Zaher	General Director of National Environmental Protection Authority
14	Razique Samadi	General Director of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat

DEPUTY MINISTERS

15	Eng. Abdul Qudos Hamidi	Deputy Minister of Mines & Petroleum
16	Eng. Amruddin Salik	Deputy Minister of Urban Development (Housing)
17	Eng. Baryalai Hassam	Deputy Minister of Communication & Information Technology (Technical)
18	Ghulam Faruq Qazizada	Deputy Minister of Energy & Water (Energy)
19	Gul Maqsood Sabit	Deputy Minister of Finance (Custom)
20	Dr. Hesamuddin Hesam	Deputy Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled (Labor)
21	Jarullah Mansoori	Deputy Minister of Transportation (Policy)
22	Mir Javid Sadat	Deputy Minister of Mines & Petroleum
23	Mir Amanudin Haidari	Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (Technical)
24	Mohammad Isamil Rahimi	Deputy Minister of Economy (Technical)
25	Mohammad Sarwar Azizi	Deputy Minister of Education (Technical)
26	Dr. Mohammad Mustafa Mastoor	Deputy Minister of Finance
27	Mohammad Osman Baburi	Deputy Minister of Higher Education (Technical)
28	Muzammil Shinwari	Deputy Minister of Commerce & Industries (Trade)
29	Eng. Noor Gul Mangal	Deputy Minister of Public Works (Technical)

MINISTERIAL OFFICIALS		
No	Name	Position
30	Abdul Bari Sediqi	Railway Director of Ministry of Public Works
31	Abdul Haleem Sadry	Regional Custom Operational Director of Ministry of Finance
32	Abdul Saboor Nasimzada	Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority
33	Ahmad Shah Atayee	Budget Department, Ministry of Finance
34	Eng. Amanullah Ghalib	Renewable Energy Director, Ministry of Energy and Water
35	Ajmal Ayan	Commissioner, Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority
36	Abdul Wasi Arian	Plan & Evolution Director of Ministry of Education
37	Abdul Wadod Ghorbandi	Plant Protection Director of Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock
38	Ahmad Shakil Hazim	Policy Director of Ministry of Economy
39	Dr. Elham Shihin	Foreign Relations Director of Ministry of Higher Education
40	Fawzia Ehsani	Foreign Relations Director of Ministry of Transport
41	Firoz Khan Masjidi	Plan & Policy Director of Ministry of Commerce & Industries
42	Ghulam Mohammad Malikyar	Deputy Director of National Environmental Protection Authority
43	Ghulam Rabani Haqiqatpal	Statistic & Marketing Director of Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock
44	Hamidullah Faizy	Head of Infrastructure Sector Budget Department, Ministry of Finance
45	Hashim Hekmat	Industrial & Connectivity Director of Ministry of Economy
46	Hassamudin Taluqani	Director, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled
47	Ibrahim Frotan	Director, Protection and Prevention of Pesticides, Ministry of Agriculture
48	Eng. Humayon Kohistani	Energy Program Director of Ministry of Energy & Water
49	Eng. Humayoun Qaem	Director of Planning, Ministry of Urban Development
50	Khair Mohd Niru	HR General Director of Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled
51	Khalilullah Abawi	Air Transportation Law & Pacts Director of Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority
52	Mah Rukh Yousifi	Coordination Director of Ministry of Women Affairs
53	Mirwais Alami	Business Director of Da Afghanistan Brishna Sherkat
54	Mohammad Ali Maher	Housing Development Manager, Ministry of Urban Development
55	Mohammad Qasim Haidari	Deputy Director of Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
56	Mohammad Qasim Nasiri	Foreign Relation Director of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries
57	Mohammad Qasim Wafiezada	Policy & Plan Director Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority
58	Mohammad Rahim Momand	International Trade General Director of Ministry of Commerce & Industries
59	Mohammad Saber Pardis	Policy & Plan Director of Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled
60	Mustafa Aria	Donor Assistance Director of Ministry of Finance
61	Naib Khan Jamal	Policy Monetary Deputy Da Afghanistan Bank
62	Najibullah Amirzai	Policy Director of Ministry of Mines & Petroleum
63	Najibullah Wardak	Customs General Director of Ministry of Finance
64	Nangialai Meiakhil	Planning Manager of Da Afghanistan Brishna Sherkat
65	Neak Mohammad Mohibi	Budget Manager for Infrastructure Sector, Ministry of Finance
66	Numan Tarin	Director of Minerals Development, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum

National Coordination

MINISTERIAL OFFICIALS		
No	Name	Position
67	Salim Bedyá	Policy Director of Ministry of Public Works
68	Sayed Abdul Hussain	CED Director of Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock
69	Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi	Transit Director of Ministry of Commerce & Industries
70	Shukria Kazimi	Program Implementation Manager of Ministry of Finance
71	Ustad Wasifi	Policy Executive Director of Ministry of Finance
72	Waheedullah Popalzai	Insurance Director of Da Afghanistan Brishna Sherkat
73	Mohammad Yamma Shams	Director General and CEO, Afghanistan Railway Authority, Ministry of Public Works
75	Yasin Haidari	Manager of International Organizations, Ministry of Transport
76	Zaki Popal	Air Traffic Control Acting Director Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority
77	Eng. Zia Gul Saljoki	Director General of Planning, Ministry of Energy and Water
78	Zolfiqar Baloch	International Director of National Environment Protection Agency
MINISTRY ADVISORS AND EXPERTS		
79	Abdul Basir Rahmani	Economic Expert to Ministry of Transportation
80	Abdul Kabir Ranjbar	Legal Advisor to Afghanistan Investment Support Agency
81	Ahmad Tariq Matin	Regional Organizations Manager of Ministry of Commerce & Industries
82	Ataullah Asem	Advisor to Deputy Minister of Finance
83	Daud Majeed	Advisor to Ministry of Higher Education
84	Daud Musa	Advisor to Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries
85	Fazlullah Fazli	Renewable Energy Advisor to Ministry of Energy & Water
86	Emal Hakim	Advisor to Ministry of Finance
87	Khatol Sediq	Economic Advisor to Ministry of Women Affairs
88	Mohammad Hanif Sufi Zada	Advisor to Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock
89	Muhsin Amin	ICE Commission Advisor to Ministry of Economy
90	Nabila Moradi	Policy and Program Advisor, Ministry of Mining and Petroleum
91	Nisar Ahmad Masoud	Regional Trade Advisor to Ministry of Commerce & Industries
92	Qiam Mukhtar	M&E Expert
93	Samir Amiri	Advisor to Ministry of Education
94	Shakir Majeedi	Advisor to Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock
95	Shukria Kazimi	Program Implementation Manager of Ministry of Finance
96	Wais Ahmad Taraki	Advisor to Ministry of Communication & Information Technology
PRIVATE SECTOR		
97	Atiqullah Nusrat	Chief Executive Officer, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries
98	Abdul Qadir Bahman	Deputy Director of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries
99	Daud Musa	Advisor to Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries
100	Zia Azizi	International Relations Officer, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries

RECCA ORGANIZING TEAM, DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MOFA		
No	Name	Position
101	Wahidullah Waissi	Director General and RECCA Coordinator
102	Mostainbillah Balagh	Deputy Director General
103	Ahmad Shoaib Habibi	Deputy Director General
104	Asadullah Hamdard	RECCA Organizing Team
105	Ahmad Faheem Hunarwar	RECCA Organizing Team
106	Abdul Basher Raufi	RECCA Organizing Team
107	Farzana Niazi	RECCA Organizing Team
108	Shah Wali Nasiry	RECCA Organizing Team
109	Ahmad Helal Atmar	RECCA Organizing Team
110	Fayeza Sadat	RECCA Organizing Team
111	Mukhtarudeen Nezami	RECCA Organizing Team
112	Ahmad Sadiq Alimyar	RECCA Organizing Team
113	Ahmad Nawid Aryaee	RECCA Organizing Team
114	Ismail Firdous Joya	RECCA Organizing Team
115	Jamal Naser Qayoumi	RECCA Organizing Team
116	Mohammad Ali Joya	RECCA Organizing Team
117	Mina Faizi	RECCA Organizing Team
118	Hasibullah Johar	RECCA Organizing Team
119	Mohammad Siddiq Majidi	RECCA Organizing Team
120	Rishad Amarkhel	RECCA Organizing Team
121	Rohola Rezaei	RECCA Organizing Team
PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT		
122	Wali Monawar	Chief of Protocol
123	Aziz Ahmad Noorzad	Deputy Director
124	Ahmad Shah Nasrati	Protocol Officer
CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES		
125	Dr. Faramarz Tamana	Director General, Center for Strategic Studies
126	Sayed Mahdi Munadi	Head of Research at Center for Strategic Studies
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT		
127	Mohammad Tariq Delawar	Director of Information & Technology Department
128	Obaidullah Hashim	Head of Print & Media Center
129	Hamid Nangialai Kabiri	Head of Network
SPOKESPERSON OFFICE		
130	Ahmad Shekib Mostaghni	Spokesperson and Head of the Public Relations Department
131	Gharanai Khwakhozhi	Deputy Spokesperson
132	Khairullah Azad	Member of Spokesperson's Office

Kabul, 3-4 September 2015

RECCA VI

The Silk Road through Afghanistan

6th Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan



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