



Afghanistan International Investment Conference & Exhibition 9-12, May 2006



Overview

The Afghanistan Investment Support Agency, (AISA) organised a conference attended by over 500 people, including over 200 international delegates and investors. The conference was opened by H.E. President Hamid Karzai who pleaded for businesses to come and make money in Afghanistan while acknowledging that there were still problems including red tape and corruption.

"Afghanistan needs investment in every walk of life, Karzai told the opening of the conference, organised by the state-backed Afghanistan Investment Support Agency. Karzai mentioned investment in construction sectors as well as agri-business, communications, mines and industry as prime areas for investment"

<http://today.reuters.com/News/CrisesArticle.aspx?storyId=ISL167390>

The conference was the first international investment conference held in Afghanistan. The conference gave an insight into the overall investment climate and opportunities in Afghanistan, government policies being implemented of relevance to the private sector and potential investments and insurance possibilities. Furthermore it highlighted experiences of representatives from the private sector already doing business in Afghanistan. Finally it proved a fruitful forum for networking for the international as well as the national private sector.

The conference coincided with The Kabul International Exhibition which was inaugurated on May 8th and ran until May 12th. The exhibition was also initiated by AISA in order to attract national as well as foreign investors to Afghanistan. It was inaugurated by H.E. Hedayat Amin Arsala and attended by several senior government officials. Products from 80 companies in the agricultural, construction, energy sectors, from Afghanistan and 17 other countries were displayed in the Loya Jirga Tent where the exhibition took place.

[back to top ^](#)

Objectives

The conference was designed to provide a valuable matchmaking forum and networking opportunity for the private sector and to update the international business community on recent, relevant economic, legal and institutional developments in Afghanistan. The conference's aim was to actively highlight and promote three sectors key to the economic development of Afghanistan: Agro-business and Agro-processing, Infrastructure, Construction & Construction Materials and Energy & Mining.

Key findings

AGRO-BUSINESS AND AGRO-CULTURE: Mr. Ibrahim Mohib of the Afghan Business Council moderated the session, stating that Afghanistan's legendary raisins once supplied 60% of the world market. Over 85% of Afghanistan's population is involved in agriculture and advances in farming techniques are greatly enhancing the ability of farmers to produce quality crops. Presenters shared their experiences from a model farm in Shamali slated for expansion and the successful rehabilitation of a sugar factory in Baghlan.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: Deputy Minister of Urban Development and Housing, H.E. Qiamuddin Jalal Zadah moderated this session. Panellists discussed the urgent need for the construction of residential and commercial buildings in the country. A large number of multi-story buildings have been constructed in Kabul and other urban centres. The ministry estimated USD 2.5 billion has been invested in the country's construction sector during the past few years and it is expected that the sector will continue growing rapidly.

ENERGY AND MINING: Minister of Mines, H.E. Ibrahim Adil, and Eng. M. Amin Munsif moderated this session. The Minister discussed a \$30 million mine reform program initiated by the World Bank and offered his assistance to investors. He also outlined plans for privatisation of SOE's. Energy was also recognised as a major opportunity for investment as it is the backbone for the growing Afghan economy.

(Coming soon: full panel-reports)

[back to top ^](#)

Speakers and Agenda

Session 1:

[Welcoming Remarks by Dr. Omar Zakhilwal](#), President & CEO, Afghanistan Investment Support Agency

H.E. Hamid Karzai, President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

[H.E. Hedayat Amin Arsala](#), Senior Advisor to President & Minister of Commerce

[H.E. Rainald Steck](#), Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany in Afghanistan
Link:


[Dr. Hisham Ashkouri](#), Architect, "Kabul City of Light"
Link:

Session 2:

Moderators: H.E. Noorullah Delawari, Honourable Mustafa Kazimi and Dr. Hamidullah Farooqi

[Mr. Suleman Fatimie](#), Vice President, AISA "Investment Opportunities in Afghanistan"

[Mr. Joseph Silvanus](#), President, Standard Chartered Bank (Afghanistan) "Financial Sector Reforms"

 [Mr. Sharifullah Ibrahim](#), Director, Privatization “Privatization of State Owned Enterprises”

Mr. Adib Farhadi, Director, ANDS/ARDS “Reconstruction Development Services”





[Ms. Mariam Nawabi](#), Senior Advisor, Afghan American Chamber of Commerce/AICC

[Mr. Orjan Helland](#), Investment Officer, World Bank/MIGA “Political Risk Insurance for Investments in Afghanistan”

[Mr. Mustafa Kazem](#), Chief Operational Officer, Afghanistan Finance Company “Leasing in Afghanistan”

[Mr. Sanzar Kakar](#), Investment Associate, Acap Partners “Venture capital financing through the Afghanistan Renewal Fund”

[back to top ^](#)

<p>breakout Session 1.1</p> <p>Agro-business and Agro Processing</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <p>Mr. Ibrahim Mohib, President, Afghan Business Council (ABC)</p>	<p>breakout Session 1.2</p> <p>Infrastructure & Construction Materials</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <p>H.E. Qiamuddin Jalal Zadah, Deputy Minister of Urban Development and Housing</p>	<p> breakout Session 1.3</p> <p>Energy & Mining</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <p>H.E. Ibrahim Adil, Minster of Mines</p> <p>Eng. M. Amin Munsif</p>
<p>Panel Speakers</p>	<p>Panel Speakers</p>	<p>Panel Speakers</p>
<p> Mr. Johannes Giwer, GTZ</p> <p>Dr. Karim Wasiri, General Director, New Baghlan Sugar Company, (NBSC)</p> <p>Mr. Tamim Samee, Shamali Farms</p>	<p> Mr. Abdullah Nadi, President, Afghanistan Builders Association/AICC</p> <p>Mr. Bruce Norlund, OTF</p>	<p> Mr. G. Hassanzadah, President, Siemens Afghanistan</p> <p>Eng. Olomi, Ministry of Mines</p> <p>Mr. Jim Yaeger, Senior Energy Advisor, Ministry Mines</p> <p>Mary Louise Vitell,</p>

		Senior Energy Advisor, Ministry Mines Mr. Ed Smith, Afghanistan Reconstruction Group (ARG)
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[back to top ^](#)

MEDIA ARTICLES

Pajhwok Afghan News: <http://www.pajhwak.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=17747>
<http://www.pajhwak.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=17781>

Afghansite.com:

<http://www.afghansite.com/viewtopic.asp?id=759>

Reuters:

<http://today.reuters.com/News/CrisesArticle.aspx?storyId=ISL167390>

DAWN:

<http://www.dawn.com/2006/05/09/welcome.htm>

Government of Afghanistan:

<http://www.export.gov/afghanistan/>

The Peninsula, Qatar:

http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/Display_news.asp?section=World_News&subsection=Pakistan+%26+Sub-Continent&month=May2006&file=World_News2006051041739.xml