

AISA TO AWARD THE BEST AFGHAN INVESTOR OF THE OF YEAR 2006
(ONE MILLION AFGHANI) ZABULI AWARD

News Release

March 21, 2006
Kabul-Afghanistan

The Zabuli Award is an initiative of Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), TOLO TV and the National Radio & Television of Afghanistan intended to recognise best practice, innovative business processes, and overall business success of small and medium businesses in Afghanistan. The Zabuli Award aims to promote a better understanding of the importance of the business community in shaping the future of Afghanistan and this award (s) will continue to be a yearly event, conducted in March of every year. (Amal, the Afghan New Year), the award ceremony will take place at the Hotel Intercontinental on March 23, 2006 from 5pm to 9pm.

The ZABULI AWARD is named after Mr. Abdul Majid Zabuli, who was a pioneer of the modern economy of Afghanistan. Mr. Zabuli was the most influential person who established the finance industry in Afghanistan with the creation of Afghanistan's first bank in 1933 (Bank Millie Afghan). Other banks followed soon thereafter resulting from Mr Zabuli's efforts, including Da Afghanistan Bank (Central Bank). The banking sector was instrumental in the establishment of a number of manufacturing and export driven businesses, many of which are still trading today.

This Award Ceremony will be conducted on March, 2006 in Kabul, the ceremony will be opened H. E Hedayat Amin Arsala, Senior Advisor to the President and Minister of Commerce of Afghanistan, Governor of the Central Bank, President & CEO of AISA.

The winner of the Zabuli Award will receive a cash prize of one million Afghani or equivalent to US\$ 20,000. Furthermore, there are two other prizes - the best female investor and the youngest investor, each will receive a cash prize of US\$ 5,000 (about Afs 250,000).

Notable participants for this event include cabinet ministers, Afghan Parliamentarians, private sector representatives and representatives for Afghan women business associations.

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