



The Embassy of Afghanistan
WASHINGTON, DC

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Contact:
M. Ashraf Haidari
(202) 483-6410 X-811

Embassy Hosts “Afghanistan: Open for Business”

Washington, D.C. -- Ambassador Said Tayeb Jawad and Commercial and Trade Counselor Mariam Nawabi hosted a private sector reception at the Embassy of Afghanistan on May 25, 2004, entitled “Afghanistan: Open for Business.” The reception’s purpose was three fold: 1) to allow business leaders to learn more about the direct investment and trade opportunities available in Afghanistan; 2) to create a forum where individuals from the private sector can meet, network, and discuss ideas about doing business in Afghanistan; 3) to facilitate discussion and interest in starting a “US-Afghanistan Business Council” within the US Chamber of Commerce.

Attendees included individuals from more than 50 international private sector firms and organizations ready to facilitate business such as lobbying groups, law firms, accounting firms and consulting companies. Embassy guests included representatives from the telecommunications, construction, agriculture, manufacturing, energy and mining industries. Officials from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Overseas Private Investment Corporation and United States Agency for International Development also attended, exchanging ideas and contact information with potential investors for further collaboration.

In his remarks, Ambassador Jawad highlighted achievements that have been made by the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan in the area of investment and trade. The Ambassador noted that Afghanistan’s economy experienced a growth of 20% last year and encouraged participants to consider Afghanistan as a highly profitable emerging market. He noted, “The people of Afghanistan adopted principles of a free market economy in the new Constitution and the Government has taken concrete steps to implement that vision.”

Mariam Nawabi gave a presentation on the business environment in Afghanistan and outlined the seminal role the private sector can play as an investor to help Afghanistan move from dependency to economic self-sustainability. Dr. Herbert Davis of the US Chamber of Commerce spoke about his organization’s interest in supporting U.S. business involvement in Afghanistan and Nitin Madhav from USAID discussed ways that the private sector can do business through USAID in Afghanistan.

The Embassy of Afghanistan plans on organizing future events to promote trade and investment between the United States and Afghanistan and welcomes private sector participation in the reconstruction process. Individuals who have interest in a “US-Afghanistan Business Council” should contact Tariq Hanif at (202) 483-6410 x 813 or hanif@embassyofafghanistan.org.

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