The International Trade Centre (ITC) launched a trade-related assistance initiative funded by the European Union called Advancing Afghan Trade (AAT). Set in motion on 29 November 2016 in Kabul, the initiative intends to contribute to the strengthening of the country’s trade capacities, with the long-term goal of helping to transform Afghanistan and its regional partners into a vibrant regional economic hub. The project will be implemented over a three-year period.

Funded by the EU, implementation of the initiative is now under way and is led by ITC in close collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. In this forth newsletter, we invite you to read the articles below to discover further progress made.

We look forward to sharing regular updates with all our stakeholders and garnering as much support from the community as possible, so please feel free to share this newsletter. It is our belief that the AAT will contribute to how trade can be used as a lever for economic growth, job creation, poverty reduction and enhanced regional cooperation.

**STEPS TOWARDS NATIONAL EXPORT STRATEGY (NES)**

To learn more about Afghanistan’s journey towards developing a NES watch the film *Peace through Prosperity, Prosperity through Trade* and read the *Timeline of Key Events.*
AAT PROJECT ONE YEAR ON
Recently we undertook a series of film interviews with five key figures willing to tell of their experiences under the AAT project so far and more so about the opportunities and challenges for export development in their country...

BUILDING TRADE POLICY CAPACITY
Afghan trade officials and business representatives are expanding their skills to foster trade-led growth in the country, through a training programme that is part of a project implemented by ITC ...

UZBEK-AFGHAN TRADE TALKS SET TO COMMENCE
The Government of Afghanistan has recently confirmed its commitment to an initiative under the AAT project, which aims to further deepen trading relations with Uzbekistan ...

IN THE PRESS
Since the last newsletter, a lot of progress has been made and the project has attracted significant media attention ...
WHAT'S NEXT?

See here for a brief overview of upcoming project activities in the next quarter…

Read more >