

THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

Kabul, Afghanistan

Private Sector Development in Afghanistan

Kabul, 1 June 2007 -- The Government of Afghanistan and the Aga Khan Development Network, in partnership with The World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Asian Development Bank, are hosting an “Enabling Environment” conference in Kabul in the beginning of June.

The Conference intends to spotlight the private sector – inclusive of business and civil society – with a focus on how this sector can become an important catalyst for the development of the country.

The underlying premise of the conference is that Afghanistan’s long-term development is dependant not just on the Government or international aid organisations, but on a lot of smaller actors -- entrepreneurs, village organisations, guilds, business associations, the media, and small- and medium-sized companies.

The Conference therefore aims to:

- Encourage a greater shared understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities amongst the various players in the development process, especially where roles and responsibilities overlap and interface;
- Build a shared perspective of the factors that impede or encourage the contribution of local and international private initiative to Afghanistan’s development;
- Discuss the possibilities for partnership between government, the private (commercial and non-commercial) sector, and civil society in Afghanistan’s development; and
- Identify approaches, make recommendations and reach consensus on a roadmap for creating the enabling environment and on immediate actions to increase the private sector’s participation in the country’s economic and social development.

For more information, please contact:

Sam Pickens
Information Officer
Aga Khan Development Network
P.O. Box 2049
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Afghan Mobile: +93 (0) 79 7000614
Website: <http://www.akdn.org/eec>