



**Business Sectoral Seminar  
Focusing on  
Handicrafts (especially women related)**

**Background:**

Afghan Innovative Consulting Bureau with stakeholders support is dedicated towards economic development and is therefore conducting various initiatives towards capacity building, private sector development, creating better linkages and promoting local investment opportunities.

AICB with cooperation of Department of Women Affairs DOWA is planning to host an open seminar that will focus on exploring potential handicrafts and related businesses, its key challenges and recommendations and solution. The seminar will be a consulting process with the professional and related women involved in handicrafts production and businesses. This will provide basis for developing a longer term and result oriented strategy toward developing this business sector for women.

Handicrafts are so far the only earning opportunity available for women in Kandahar, through which they are contributing toward total family income. The current restricted situation and environment in Kandahar women leave the handicrafts as only earning opportunity. The cultural restrictions and insecurity does not allow women to do work outside the four walls of the houses. Beside the importance of handicrafts for women income, they are facing lack of innovations, lack of proper marketing and lack of proper workplaces etc.

On the other hand many men are busy with various handicraft and semi-mechanical productions such as fruits/vegetable processing, tailoring, embroidery, carpentry and many others. Large number of readymade garments are imported from various countries which can simply be produced locally in Kandahar. Therefore this sector needs attentions towards its growth in Kandahar.

By bringing the key players of handicrafts related businesses will result in coming up with practical solutions to mitigate the potential challenges. The result of the seminar will provide recommendations to the policy makers and other stakeholders for focusing on more result oriented initiatives towards developing this business sector.

The seminar besides discussing the potential issues related handicrafts and its related business will also assist in creating better awareness towards local handicrafts potentials.

**Expected results:**

- Potential of handicrafts related businesses will be explored
- key challenges hindering development of this business sector be identified
- Solutions mitigating challenges identified
- Gaps in the policy environment identified

**Expected Date and venue:**

May 25<sup>th</sup> 2009, DOWA meeting hall

**Participants:**

The expected participants are up to 70 including the followings:

*Government:*

- Governor Office(1)
- Economy Department(1)
- DOWA (5 officials)

*Businesses:*

- Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2)
- Kandahar Islamic investment company(1)
- Women associations 35
- Tailoring and embroidery association 4
- Jewelry association (1)
- Carpentry association (1)
- Women owned businesses (4)
- Various handicraftsmen (5)

*Other Stakeholders (if available):*

- CIDA (1)
- CIMIC (1)
- USAID (1)
- AISA (1)
- EPPA(1)
- UNAMA(1)
- CNAT(1)
- UNODC(1)
- MRRD/AREDP
- DWC
- Mercy Corps
- FAO
- ASMED
- PDT
- DAI
- SERVE
- etc

### Draft Agenda

No	Topics	Who	Time
1	Recital		9:00-9:15
2	Opening speech and Agenda	AICB project Manager	9:15-9:30
3	Remarks by Governor's Office	Deputy Governor	9:30-9:50
4	Dept. of Economy	Director	9:50-10:10
5	Director of DOWA presentation	Director	10:10-10:20
6	Tea Break		10:20-10:40
7	Focus Groups work on available potential	Participants	10:40-11:40
8	Group Presentations	Group rep	11:40-12:30
9	Lunch and pray		12:30-1:30
10	Review of morning session	AICB PM	1:30-2:00
11	Focus Groups on Main constraints and available solutions	Participants	2:00-3:00
12	Group Presentations	Group rep	3:00-3:50
13	Closing remarks	Various	3:50-4:30