



Afghan Marble and Stone Conference*

March 23-26, 2009

Serena Hotel - Kabul, Afghanistan



Hidden in the rugged mountains of the Panjshir Valley, the Hindu Kush, and Chest-e-Sharif, Afghan marble and stone is an emerging sector that can bring value to global investors, income to Afghan communities, and treasures to discerning consumers worldwide.



The **Afghanistan Marble and Granite Processors Association** and **U.S. Agency for International Development** invite U.S. investors and exporters to attend the Marble and Stone Conference to learn more about the opportunities in Afghanistan.

Contact the Afghanistan Investment and Reconstruction Task Force (AIRTF) of the U.S. Department of Commerce to learn more about this breakthrough event bringing together a broad partnership of private sector firms, international financiers, marble and stone industry experts, government agencies, and marble industry associations from around the world – all prepared to uncover this valuable resource.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Monday, March 23	Herat/Panjshir/ Khogiani	Regional tours of quarry and processing operations
Tuesday, March 24	Kabul	Kabul region tour, VIP Networking Event
Wednesday, March 25	Kabul	Afghan Marble and Stone Conference
Thursday, March 26	Kabul	Technical Training & Equipment Workshop (targeting Afghan marble/stone firms)

U.S. EXPORTERS AND INVESTORS

U.S. companies with demonstrated experience in mining and/or related industry investment as well as equipment manufacturers with an interest in export opportunities in Afghanistan should contact Ariana Monti at (202) 482-3754 or ariana.monti@mail.doc.gov by March 6, 2009 to learn more about the conference.

* Conference sponsored by the Afghanistan Marble and Granite Processors Association



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FACT SHEET

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Conference participants will gain first-hand market information on the opportunities in the marble and in the broader mining sector in Afghanistan, meeting key industry and government contacts at the Afghanistan Marble and Stone Conference.

Upon request, tours of quarry sites and existing finishing operations in the Herat and Panjshir regions will be arranged and security will be provided through the US government mission in Afghanistan.

FACTS

Afghanistan has significant existing deposits, but the emerging mining sector is not currently meeting domestic demand or taking advantage of the significant medium- and long-term opportunities in the regional and global market.

- ✓ 60 known deposits of dimensional stone, potential to support multiple quarries
- ✓ Conservative potential production estimate of 2,500m³ yearly per quarry
- ✓ 35 known types of marble, 40 colors
- ✓ Modern extraction methods could allow these quarries to begin producing higher quantity and quality from known deposits
- ✓ With higher quality material and high-tech processing plants, export quality material can be finished locally
- ✓ Significant market potential for finished Afghan marble in the Gulf Region, Middle East and Asia
- ✓ Very fine-grained Afghan White marble (compared favorably to Carrara marble) has commanded strong prices from buyers in Dubai, Kuwait and Lebanon
- ✓ International donors and the Afghan government stand ready to support increased investment