



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Kabul, 3-4 September 2015
RECCA VI
The Silk Road through Afghanistan
6th Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan

The Sixth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan
“The Silk Road through Afghanistan”

RECCA Academic Forum, 3 September 2015, Kabul

2014 represented a watershed year for Afghanistan. From presidential elections to the completion of the country’s security transition and establishment of the National Unity Government, the political and security transition processes have been concluded. A successful economic transition remains the third critical pillar for ensuring that the significant gains achieved since 2001 are irreversible. Situated at the crossroads of Eurasia, Afghanistan can now access some of the world’s fastest growing markets, as well as serve as a transit hub for expanding trade between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Besides raising living standards and spreading ideas and culture, increased economic connectivity through Afghanistan builds confidence and trust across the region, defending against the spread of extremism, narcotics, poverty, and hopelessness.

Building on the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) series initiated in 2005 – *and held in Kabul, New Delhi, Islamabad, Istanbul, and Dushanbe* – RECCA-VI, to be convened on 3-4 September 2015 in Kabul, will:

- Provide a **comprehensive review of progress** since RECCA-I, including in the areas of trade & transport, energy, minerals extraction, private investment, vocational skills training, and disaster preparedness.
- Build an international consensus around **action plans for a select group of regional investment projects and policy priorities**, focused on overcoming implementation obstacles and attracting new investment partners.
- Reaffirm through the **RECCA VI Kabul Declaration** international support for a sovereign Afghanistan integrated in the regional and global economy.
- Ensure that the **Istanbul Process Confidence-Building Measures are achievable and supported by the Tokyo and London Conferences on Afghanistan commitments**, as well as coordinated with strategies agreed through SAARC, CAREC, ECO, SCO, UNSPECA, TRACECA and other regional forums.

Prior to high-level political segment on 4th September, including presentations from government ministers, scholars, and business leaders, a full-day **RECCA-VI Academic Forum** will be convened on 3rd September at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs with scholars and policy analysts from across Afghanistan, the region, and beyond, including the leaders of “Track 1.5 and 2.0” policy discussions on the future of Afghanistan and its region. In connection with the above RECCA-VI agenda, academic participants are requested to deliver brief (8-10 minute) presentations during the following roundtable discussions: I. Regional Trade & Transit; II. Regional Energy & Natural Resources Cooperation; and III. Promoting Private Sector Development, Investment, Communications, and Business-to-Business Cooperation across Asia through Afghanistan.

To confirm your participation, please contact: *Dr. Faramarz Tamanna, Director-General, Center for Strategic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mobile: +93(0)797134071, Emails: c.s.s@mfa.gov.af and fz.tamanna@gmail.com*

For more details on RECCA-VI please visit our website: www.mfa.gov.af or contact by email: recca@mfa.gov.af