



AFGHANISTAN

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Country Profile

Official Name:	Islamic Republic Of Afghanistan
Official Languages:	Pashto & Dari
Location:	South Asia and Central Asia
Area:	652,000 km² (252,000 sq mi)
Population:	Approximately 31 million people
Capital:	Kabul
Currency:	Afghani
President:	Muhammad Ashraf Ghani
Parliament Members:	249

Afghanistan's Location



Neighboring Countries

It is bordered by Pakistan in the south and east; Iran in the west; Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan in the north; and China in the far northeast.

- Pakistan = 2,430 Km
- Tajikistan = 1,206 Km
- Iran = 936 Km
- Turkmenistan = 744 Km
- Uzbekistan = 137 Km
- China = 76 Km

It is the **41st** largest country in the world.

Afghanistan

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN
USING EVIDENCE BASED TRADE POLICY FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

15-17 June 2016

Thimpu, Bhutan

Trade – key to Economic Development

The vision for the Afghanistan Trade Policy (ATP) reflects a country's overall developmental goals of achieving a strong, balanced, inclusive and sustainable development.

The overall aim is to establish a market driven, development-led, sustainable trade policy capable of catalyzing expanded economic growth, increased employment and incomes, and reduced poverty to attain improved living standards for all Afghan people.

The ATP will encourage the internal and external competitiveness of Afghan goods and services in order to substantially expand trade and through trade contribute to economic growth. It will be fully consistent with the international rules such as established by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and with the Government's regional trade and transit commitments.

The areas of focus are enabling business environment, crossing border trade and creating new trade opportunities.

Successes: Trade Facilitation and -Policy

WTO Accession

- WTO Ministers formally approved the Accession Package of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at the WTO Tenth Ministerial Conference in Nairobi on 17 December 2015.
- The MoCI will complete the steps necessary for the country to realize the full benefits of WTO membership including legislative action plan and ratification of accession package from parliament in June, 2016.
- The membership in the WTO has the potential to significantly expand opportunities for Afghan exporters by granting access as a 'Most Favored Nation' to the markets of more than 162 countries.
- One immediate benefit of membership will be participation in the Working Groups for newly acceding countries, including three neighboring countries, (i.e., Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

Successes: Trade Facilitation and -Policy

- Bilateral ,regional trade and transit agreements are important to Afghan producers as they provide preferential access to new markets.
- MoCI continuously negotiating and implementing trade agreements such as SAFTA, SATIS, ECOTA, APTTA and prefferential trade agreement with India.
- The MoCI will seek to strengthen and expedite the implementation of these existing bilateral, regional and transit trade agreements of

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