

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND TEXTILE
(COMMERCE DIVISION)

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Islamabad, the 5th March, 2018

Subject: - MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION OF
PAKISTAN AFGHANISTAN JOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY ON 23RD FEBRUARY, 2018 AT 1500 HOURS

Dear Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith minutes of the meeting of delegation of Pakistan -Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry with Secretary Commerce and officials of Ministry of Commerce and Textiles held at the Ministry of Commerce & Textile on 23rd February, 2018 at 1500 hours for information and further necessary action under intimation to this Ministry.

Encl : As above

(Muhammad Asad)

Section Officer (CARs & ECO)

Ph: - 051-9201308

Secretary,
Pakistan - Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry,
Karachi

MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION OF PAKISTAN
AFGHANISTAN JOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ON
23RD FEBRUARY, 2018 AT 1500 HOURS

Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PAJCCI) delegation, led by Zubair Motiwala, Chairman & Khan Jan Alokozai, Co-Chairman held meeting in the Committee Room of Ministry of Commerce on 23rd February, 2018 with Mr. Mohammad Younus Dagha, Secretary Commerce and the officials of Ministry of Commerce. List of participants is at Annex-I.

2. In his opening remarks Secretary Commerce welcomed the delegation of PAJCCI. Mr. Mohammad Younus Dagha assured the delegation that Pakistan gives immense importance to the relationship with Afghanistan. Pakistan invited Afghan Minister for Commerce for meeting in Islamabad in January 2018, although Afghanistan has postponed 7th APTTCA meeting indefinitely. The Ministry of Commerce desires to discuss all outstanding issues in bilateral and transit trade and have been working vigorously to resolve the impediments from Pakistan side. Mr. Motiwala reiterated the significance of economic ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

3. It was pointed out that, a draft text of the proposed PTA has been shared with Afghanistan through diplomatic channels in 2014. During the 10th Session of Pak-Afghan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting held in Islamabad on 23rd November, 2015, the Afghan side assured to convey their response on the draft text of the PTA by January, 2016, which is still awaited. Pakistan is willing to have PTA with Afghanistan. On queries about inclusion of India and Tajikistan in the APTTA, 2010, the Secretary Commerce said that APTTA, 2010 is a bilateral arrangement and we can talk at bilateral level only.

4. The delegation discussed problems of customs valuation, bonded carriers, regulatory duty, quarantine issues, visa issues faced by businessmen from both sides. Taking a review of the decisions taken in the Inter-Ministerial Meeting held on 3rd January, 2018 at Ministry of Commerce and Textiles, PAJCCI delegation members lauded the Secretary Commerce's role for directing the Director General Transit Trade, Customs for rationalizing and notifying bonded carrier service charges and once done, it will be big leap forward. The Secretary Commerce gave assurance to them that it will be pursued vociferously. Regarding removal of RDs from Afghanistan, the Secretary

Commerce said that they can negotiate product-specific duties and not country-specific as being a member of the WTO no discrimination could be made between trading partners.

5. The Joint Secretary (FT-II) quipped while responding to a comment of the PAJCCI delegation about the difficulties being faced by the Afghan truckers in Pakistani territory that Afghan President had issued a decree on 21st October, 2017 banning entry of Pakistani commercial trucks to Afghanistan and such things are proving counter-productive.

6. It was agreed that Visa regime in both the countries should be improved further by making categories like: business visa and visit visa. Mr. Junaid Makda suggested that, for business visa specifically, PAJCCI recommendation letter should be made mandatory, so that it can authenticate the process and resolve the irritants.

7. It was also agreed that in the wake of emergency situations like border closures, imposition of new regulations or border fencing etc. different treatment should be given to perishable goods being traded between the two countries from non- perishable goods. PAJCCI also suggested that both sides should rationalize tariffs and take confidence building measures to restore confidence of the private sector.

8. The following decisions were taken:

- Ministry of Commerce will arrange meeting with Ministry of Ports and Shipping to resolve the issue of high charges by shipping lines on transit trade cargo through Karachi port when compared to Bandar Abbas and Chabahar.
- Mr. Alokozai acknowledged support of Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan and resolved to work for arranging 7th meeting of APTTCA and bilateral Ministerial Meeting as soon as possible.
- Mr. Motiwala on behalf of PAJCCI assured support and facilitation for holding APTTCA meeting even in Pakistan, if need be.

9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

ANNEXURE-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| S. No. | Name | Designation |
|--------|------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Mr. Mohammad Younus Dagha | Secretary Commerce |
| 2. | Mr. Muhammad Zubair Motiwala | Chairman, PAJCCI |
| 3. | Mrs. Maira Kazi, | Joint Secretary (FT-II), Ministry of Commerce |
| 4. | Mr. Muhammad Zubair Motiwala | Chairman, PAJCCI |
| 5. | Mr. Khan Jan Alokozai | Co-Chairman, PAJCCI and Vice Chairman Afghan CCI |
| 6. | Mr. Junaid Ismail Makda | President, PAJCCI - Pakistan Chapter |
| 7. | Mr. Muhammad Yonass Hussain | Vice President, PAJCCI and Vice President Trade Affairs Afghan CCI |
| 8. | Engr. Daroo Khan Achakzai | Senior Vice President, PAJCCI |
| 9. | Mr. Baz Muhammad Asfarzai | Vice President Industrial Affairs Afghan CCI |
| 10. | Mr. Naqib Ullah Safi | Executive Director PAJCCI- Afghan Chapter |
| 11. | Mr. Muhammad Pervez | Managing Partner Lala Textile- Pakistan Chapter |
| 12. | Mr. Jawed Akhtar Bhatti | Director, PAJCCI-Pakistan Chapter |
| 13. | Ms. Faiza | Secretary General PAJCCI- Pakistan Chapter |
| 14. | Mr. Zia ul Haq Sarhadi | Director, PAJCCI- Pakistan Chapter |
| 15. | Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed | Director, PAJCCI- Pakistan Chapter |
| 16. | Mr. Haji Abdul Qayyum Kakar | Director, PAJCCI- Pakistan Chapter |
| 17. | Mr. Imtiaz Gul | Executive Director Centre for Research and Security Studies |
| 18. | Mr. Aized Ali | Project Director, Centre for Research and Security Studies |
| 19. | Mr. Muzammil Shinwari | Advisor/ Consultant - Advisor to CEO- Afghan |
| 20. | Mr. Muhammad Asad | Section Officer (CARs & ECO) Ministry of Commerce |