



PROGRESS REPORT OCTOBER 2017 - JUNE 2018

The underlined reporting covers program activities by PAJCCI for advocating the issues across the border:

JUNE 2018

- **FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION ON AF-PAK ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY:**

Saferworld (SW), the Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), the Centre for Research and Strategic Studies (CRSS) and the Organization for Economic Studies and Peace (OESP) in order to prioritize key issue areas in Afghanistan-Pakistan economic relations. A range of issues were identified for further discussion with key stakeholders on both sides of the border, participants from various government and private relevant authorities were invited to engage in an interactive focus group discussion forum, which sought consensus to develop strategies to help improve the on-going efforts of the Consortium in addressing challenges in bilateral and transit trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The summarized resolutions were compiled by Saferworld in the form of a document and was circulated accordingly.



- **PROGRESS ON FOLLOW-UP ITEMS AND RELATED RESOLUTIONS**

During the six months, PAJCCI raised several concerns of utmost urgency, out of which following were materialized:

- * PAJCCI was made part of the APAPPS economic working group. A notification was issued by the Ministry of Commerce in this context.
- * Ministry of Commerce issued notification for waiving the regulatory duties imposed on Afghan exports, as announced by H.E. Prime Minister of Pakistan
- * Ministry of Commerce assured capacity building of Department of Plant Protection at borders to facilitate Quarantine Certificate issuance and Directorate of Transit Trade for the time being halted the process of this certification, till systems are in place, to facilitate Afghan exports.
- * Karachi Port Trust responded to issues raised by PAJCCI and referred to the establishment of Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO) by Ministry of Commerce, which is under process, that would help resolve issues of shipping line deposits and detention charges.

- **PAJCCI'S MEETING WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TO HELP RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVE POLICY ADVOCACY**

President PAJCCI, met Honorable Indian High Commissioner and Ambassador Tajikistan to discuss Af-Pak economic connectivity issue in general and overall regional integration in specific.



PAJCCI met Karachi Port Trust (KPT) for presenting its report and discussing matters of mutual interest. Secretary KPT showed greater concern towards the barriers hampering Afghan traders and ensured his support in facilitating the same.

MAY 2018

- **HI-LEVEL GOVERNMENT DELEGATION VISITED PAKISTAN**

The initiatives taken in the last quarter, facilitated breaking the ice and a high ranking Government delegation from Afghanistan visited Islamabad, to represent the concerns of private stakeholders, led by Deputy Minister for Commerce H. E. Ms. Kamila Sidiqi including PAJCCI's Co-Chairman, Khan Jan Alokozai, including PAJCCI's Co-Chairman Khan Jan

Alokozai, Deputy Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and livestock Mr. Hamdullah Hamdard, D.G International Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industries Mr. Mir Saeed Saeedy, Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ahmad Shakir, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Mr. Idrees Raouf, Deputy Director Income - Afghan Customs Department, Ministry of Finance Mr. Najeebullah Wardak.



During their stay, the delegation met PAJCCI Executive Body, H.E. Khurram Dastagir - Minister for Defense and Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Pervaiz Malik – Minister of Commerce, Zaid Mahmood - Chairman FBR, M. Yonass Dagha - Secretary Commerce, Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken – Secretary for Ministry of National Food Security. Chairman PAJCCI also facilitated their meeting with H.E. Nasir Khan Janjua – National Security Adviser of Pakistan, to help strengthen the endeavor of resolving the issues at the earliest.



The meetings focused upon discussing critical items of facilitating APTTCA meeting and solving issues relevant to Quarantine certificate and waiver of regulatory duties from Afghanistan. These matters were raised by PAJCCI during its February and March meetings and were also made part of the comprehensive report prepared by PAJCCI.

- **PAJCCI'S MEETING WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TO HELP RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVE POLICY ADVOCACY**

Subsequent to the Governmental delegation visit to Pakistan, PAJCCI Afghanistan invited the Head of Delegation, H. E. Ms. Kamila Sidiqi (Deputy Minister for Commerce) to the head

office for meeting and updating private stakeholders on the decisions taken during their visit. She lauded the role of PAJCCI on behalf of private stakeholders and informed attendees about major discussions held during various meetings. She also urged PAJCCI to follow-up the matters discussed so that they may also be materialized as discussed.



President PAJCCI, Junaid Makda also met Honorable Miftah Ismail, Finance Minister of Pakistan and deliberated upon issues of mutual interest in light of his meeting with Afghan counterpart in Washington, lately.



- **COMPREHENSIVE DRAFT ON PAK-AFGHAN BILATERAL & TRANSIT TRADE ISSUES AND PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

During several stakeholders' meetings in the first quarter of 2018, PAJCCI across the border compiled the vast dimension of bilateral and transit issues along with proposed resolutions and developed a comprehensive policy advocacy document leading towards enhancement in confidence, rejuvenation of business ties and eradication of common issues hampering growth and connectivity. This policy document was shared with all the relevant ministries, across the border, for deliberations and made readily available for all stakeholders online.

- **PAJCCI URGED INCLUSION IN APAPPS' ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP**

Chairman PAJCCI acknowledged the momentum in the Pakistan Afghanistan relationship subsequent to visit of H.E. Prime Minister of Pakistan to Afghanistan followed by meetings between Finance Ministers and Foreign Ministers of both the countries with the aim of improving the economic & political relationship and security concerns between both the countries. In order to further strengthen the ties, both the sides also agreed that effective and full implementation of APAPPS would contribute towards the common objectives of eliminating terrorism and achieving peace, stability, prosperity and development of the people of the two countries.

As a part of APAPPS working groups, one significant group is pertinent to economics that aims to address trade and transit related issues, hence PAJCCI urged that in order to ensure appropriate strategizing it is vital to include PAJCCI in the economic working group, as under the aegis of PAJCCI's manifesto of "Segregating Economic Aspirations from Political and Security Imperatives", it has undertaken several activities during the first quarter of 2018 that reflected the stakeholders' feedback across the border. The main emphasis was to nurture the environment of trust and facilitate initiation of table talks between the two countries for peace and economic prosperity across the border. The initiatives have recently facilitated breaking the ice and a high ranking Government delegation visited Islamabad led by Deputy Minister for Commerce H. E. Ms. Kamila Sidiqi including PAJCCI's Co-Chairman, Khan Jan Alokozai, to represent the concerns of private stakeholders.

APRIL 2018

- **CHAIRMAN PAJCCI URGED H.E. PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN TO FACILITATE INITIATIVES OF ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY**

Chairman PAJCCI strongly welcomed the announcements of Honorable Shahid Khaqan Abbasi made during the visit, which also satisfies the manifesto of PAJCCI and are in alignment with the PAJCCI's proposals recently presented during Af-Pak Regional Connectivity Forum in Islamabad. The four significant declarations included that economic connectivity between the two countries will not be impacted by the political whims and security imperatives, abrupt border closures would be avoided, initiation of pending table-talks, especially holding of APTTCA and JEC meetings and waiver of the Regulatory Duties only for Afghan exports to Pakistan that were imposed in October 2017. He showed confidence that this initiative of breaking the ice will help revive and strengthen long-standing business ties between both the countries and urged both the Governments to keenly follow-up such concerns and develop measures of a long term nature, for ensuring overall economic stability in the region.



- **PAJCCI'S MEETING WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TO HELP RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVE POLICY ADVOCACY**

SVP Chaman met Afghan Consul General, H.E. Wahidullah Momand to deliberate upon issues of mutual concern specifically with respect to declining trust between Pakistan and Afghanistan traders.



MARCH 2018

- **PAK-AFGHAN ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY MEETING 2018**

In continuation with the chain of efforts pertinent to Af-Pak economic connectivity, PAJCCI conducted a roundtable meeting, whereby the main emphasis was to nurture the environment of trust and facilitate initiation of table talks between the two countries for peace and economic prosperity across the border.

The meeting was conducted under the aegis of PAJCCI's manifesto of "Segregating Economic Aspirations from Political and Security Imperatives" and development of the subsequent policy advocacy document leading towards enhancement in confidence, rejuvenation of business ties and eradication of common issues hampering growth and connectivity.

The meeting was chaired by Zubair Motiwala, Chairman PAJCCI and His Excellency Mr. Zardashat Shams, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Afghanistan. During the meeting, a thorough discussion was done on issues relevant to both transit and trade along with possible resolutions and future advocacy ambitions.

The meeting was attended by representatives from chambers, think tanks, embassies, relevant ministries and the business community.



Subsequent to the meeting both the chapters of PAJCCI are compiling a draft proposal and policy advocacy document which would be submitted to the honorable President of Afghanistan, Prime Minister of Pakistan and Chief of Army Staff for deliberating on the same for incorporating strategic insight and facilitate the issues hampering the historical ties between two brotherly nations.

The initial draft is shared online on PAJCCI's website for further feedback from the stakeholders and additionally has been shared with Government's at both the end to add value to the upcoming meeting between Prime Minister of Pakistan with President Afghanistan.

- **PAJCCI'S MEETING WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TO HELP RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVE POLICY ADVOCACY**

PAJCCI's delegation led by Zubair Motiwala met Alice G. Wells, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs and Martha Patterson, Director of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs' Pakistan Office - US Consulate. Both the meetings were focused upon facilitating the pending table talks and restoring trust between both the countries along with making efforts to enhance regional trade, peace and prosperity.



In line with PAJCCI’s stakeholders’ meeting in February, a significant requirement of preparing a comprehensive draft of issues and proposals for resolutions was originated, or which PAJCCI aimed to bring all relevant stakeholders across the border at one forum. To consolidate this effort, PAJCCI Pakistan Chapter visited chamber of commerce of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar and acquired relevant details from relevant ministries, USAID, SDPI, Afghan chapter and prepared the initial draft.



FEBRUARY 2018

- **PAK-AFGHAN ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY MEETING 2018**

Keeping the current confidence level and business stagnance between Pakistan and Afghanistan, it was vitally important to re-establish confidence building measures, most importantly to bring the stakeholders at one platform for facilitating the process of comprehensive table talks.

PAJCCI in collaboration with Saferworld and CRSS organized a “Cross Border Stakeholders’ Engagement and Advocacy Meeting” in Islamabad on February 22, 2018. The participants included delegation of PAJCCI both from Pakistan and Afghanistan, representatives of CRSS,

representatives of FPCCI and other chambers, officials from Afghan Embassy and Ministry of Foreign affairs, representatives from the British High Commission and USAID.



The deliberations focussed on the following:

- Core issues hampering the effective table-talks between the government of two countries.
- Stakeholders' perspectives with specific reference to economic imperatives, bottlenecks and possible alternatives.
- Identification of pertinent advocacy goals for the upcoming quarter for the enhancement of bilateral and transit trade while ensuring both security and political priorities.
- Futuristic strategies for Pak-Afghan connectivity in specific and overall region in general.

During the meeting, issues of mutual concerns were discussed and the following resolution was passed unanimously by the private business stakeholders across the border to be submitted to the Government of both the countries:

“We support all measures by Governments across the border to adopt measures for ensuring national sanctity and security, however, the same may not be continued at the beset of hurting the economic and social ties across the border that causes massive monetary losses and increase the trust deficit. We urge governments on both the sides to segregate business and trade ties from political and security tensions, and suggest that Pak-Afghan trade, both bilateral and transit, needs rejuvenation and appropriate confidence building measures may be instilled for removing deep-rooted mistrust in Pak-Afghan relationship that is not only hampering political dialogue but also significantly impacting the economic transition between both the countries.

It is, hence, resolved that APTTCA meeting should be held on an immediate basis for facilitating the process of joint discussions in order to revive the economic transition leading to peace and prosperity across the border in specific and in the region in general.”

- **PAJCCI DELEGATION URGED MINISTRY OF COMMERCE TO FACILITATE HOLDING OF THE APTTCA MEETING**

PAJCCI delegation, led by Zubair Motiwala, Chairman & Khan Jan Alokozai, Co-Chairman had meeting with the Secretary Commerce today at the Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad. Motiwala reiterated the significance of economic ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan and Secretary Commerce, Mr. Mohammad Younus Dagha assured the delegation that Pakistan gives immense importance to the relationship with Afghanistan. Pakistan invited the 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 the Pakistan side.

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.

The delegation discussed problems of customs valuation, bonded carriers, regulatory duty, quarantine issues, visa issues faced by businessmen from both sides. It was agreed that Visa regime in both the countries should be improved further by making categories like: business visa and visit visa. For business visa specifically, the PAJCCI recommendation letter should be made mandatory, so that it can authenticate the process and resolve the irritants.

Alokozai acknowledged the support of Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan and resolved to work to arrange 7th meeting of APTTCA and bilateral Ministerial Meeting as soon as possible due to historical brotherly relations between the two countries. Motiwala on behalf of PAJCCI assured support and facilitation for holding APTCCA meeting even in Pakistan, if need be.



- **PAJCCI'S MEETING WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TO HELP RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVE POLICY ADVOCACY**

During the month, PAJCCI met several stakeholders for deliberating upon Af-Pak economic issues and to sought support in convening halted table-talks across the border. PAJCCI

Delegation met H.E. Thomas Drew, British High Commissioner, Team of USAID funded Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA) Project, H.E. John Hoover, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) US Embassy and H.E. Jerry Bisson, USAID/Pakistan Mission Director and Afghan Ambassador, H.E. Dr. Omar Zakhilwal to discuss significant matters of economic importance for both the countries.

PAJCCI was sought to prepare a comprehensive draft of both Transit and Bilateral issues along with proposal for an appropriate course of action for submission to the strategic decision makers across the border.





JANUARY 2018

- **MOU WAS SIGNED BETWEEN PAJCCI AND PIJCCI TO ENHANCE TRILATERAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TIES BETWEEN PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN**

A joint collaboration between Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) and Pakistan Iran Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PIJCCI) was signed understanding that economic development objectives can only be achieved through trade cooperation in the region. As Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan are close neighboring countries, hence they can take ample advantages through the untapped opportunities across the border and this cooperation between Joint chambers can play vital role in creating new business and employment opportunities. A joint coordination committee was also formed between both the chambers comprising of 3 members each along with secretaries of the respective chamber which will suggest and work for the betterment of trade and implement the effective strategies for regional integration. It was also agreed upon to organize an exhibition for the business community of three countries.



- **PAJCCI’S PRESENCE AT “PUBLIC-PRIVATE DIALOGUE FORUM ON PAKISTAN – AFGHANISTAN TRANSIT & TRADE” ORGANIZED BY USAID AND SARHAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

During the forum, Chairman PAJCCI urged governments on both the sides to segregate business and trade ties from political and security tensions, and suggested that Pak-Afghan trade, both bilateral and transit, needs rejuvenation and appropriate confidence building measures may be instilled for removing deep-rooted mistrust in Pak-Afghan relationship that is not only hampering political dialogue but also significantly impacting the economic transition between both the countries. He also elaborated on the manifesto of the Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PAJCCI) to help revive and strengthen long-standing business ties between both the countries and reiterated that APTTCA and JEC meetings will play pivotal role in reviving confidence building measures across the border.

At this forum PAJCCI also presented, unanimously developed short-term and long-term solutions for eradicating the common menace. Several initiatives taken in past that has formally aided policy making and arbitration amongst private sector of both the countries and nourished regional integration for mutual benefits were mentioned. As a long term solution, emphasis was greatly on the dire need of tariff rationalization and fiscal reforms to counter parallel trade between the two countries and urged that in order to protect the rights of trading and business partners across the border, an arbitration clause may be made part of the contractual obligations. The suggestion was put forth to establish Export Houses under PAJCCI’s umbrella, run by professional management with due support from the Governments on both the sides, to eliminate issues related to quality specifications, trust deficit, insurance and payment matters and to build the confidence amongst each other. Additionally, regional integration and common investment opportunities in both countries were referred as a breakthrough initiative to enhance connectivity in the regional business landscape.



- **PAJCCI DELEGATION MET GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS FOR REPRESENTING VOICE OF BUSINESS COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE BORDER**

PAJCCI delegation met Advisor to Prime Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs – Honorable Miftah Ismail, Ambassador Afghanistan - H.E. Dr. Omar Zakhilwal, DG Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Mansoor Ahmad Khan to deliberate matter of utmost concerns.

DG Afghanistan lauded the efforts of PAJCCI and established that PAJCCI's name will be included in the proposal for the development cross-border economic committee under the Government. This would bring stakeholders' feedback from across the border under the notice of concerned that would help them in formulating appropriate strategies.



PAJCCI urged finance ministry to consider the effects of recent political turmoil over bilateral and transit trade whereby Pakistan-Afghanistan trade has dropped significantly in the last 2-3 years. It was established that frequent border closures, heavy demurrages, waiting time, uncertainty and diversion of both bilateral and transit trade to other avenues is causing psychological rift and is resulting in long-run instability in relations with the prime neighbor of Pakistan. PAJCCI also reiterated the request for waiver of any applicable port charges (detention / demurrage) applied to Afghan consignments / containers accruing from the closure of the border to limit the monetary losses of the business community. The issue of regulatory duties imposed was also brought to light. The finance minister acknowledged PAJCCI's proposal and assured due support from the finance ministry to the private sector in expanding the exports and developing fruitful trade ties in the region.



The delegation while meeting the Ambassador Afghanistan urged for facilitating the process of joint discussions and specially aiding in holding the APTTCA and JEC meetings. The Ambassador assured his complete support in ensuring the bilateral ties and also expected PAJCCI to ensure the same as private stakeholders.



- **PAJCCI'S MEETING WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TO HELP RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVE POLICY ADVOCACY**

A meeting was held at Custom House, Karachi on 16th January 2018 to discuss the issues/problems of Afghan Traders whereby matters pertinent to bonded carriers, customs procedures and delays were discussed in length. PAJCCI also presented several suggestions to improve the custom policies for helping business communities across the border.



On 17th January, under SVP PAJCCI, Engr. Daroo Khan, a delegation met FC Officials including Brigadier Sohail Nadeem Sector Commander FC Balochistan, Colonel Usman Commandant FC Chaman Scouts and Colonel Nadeem Commandant FC Friendship Gate Chaman to discuss problems of traders at Chaman border.



Another meeting was held in Chaman with Mr. Masood Ahmed Awan, Regional Head of Bank Al-Falah, Chaman regarding issuance of I-form and E-form and opening of foreign currency accounts.



DECEMBER 2017

- **PAJCCI'S STAKEHOLDER MEETING AT KABUL**

PAJCCI organized a stakeholder meeting at PAJCCI Secretariat, Kabul under the leadership of Khan Jan Alokozai, Co-Chairman PAJCCI in which important issues were discussed regarding Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade. Faiza, Secretary General of PAJCCI convened the said meeting along with her counterpart. She was in Kabul from 14th to 17th December to attend Beyond Boundaries Project. During the meeting, the discussion to hold meeting in Jalalabad was done keeping in view declining confidence and increasing trust deficit across the border. The proposal to hold a meeting in Peshawar and Jalalabad between the business communities to enhance confidence was also discussed.



NOVEMBER 2017

• MEETING WITH AFGHAN DELEGATION IN KARACHI

PAJCCI held a meeting in which the private sector from both the countries unanimously resolved matters of utmost importance regarding Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade. This meeting was held on Friday, 10th November at Expo Centre, Karachi when under the leadership of Mr. Khan Jan Alokozai, Co-Chairman PAJCCI, a hi-level delegation from Afghanistan visited Pakistan.



Zubair Motiwala reiterated the significance of economic ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan and mentioned that the recent figures are showing rise in Afghanistan's trade with Iran and a corresponding decline in business with Pakistan due to disturbing political ties accruing since long. Khan Jan Alokozai added that recent visit of COAS, Pakistan to Kabul has shown light at the end of tunnel and mentioned General Qamar Bajwa's commitment to arrange meeting of business people from Afghanistan with H.E. Prime Minister – Pakistan for resolution of grievances. Zubair Motiwala urged General Bajwa to expedite this initiative and offered services of PAJCCI as a bilateral entity, to act as a joint platform for illustrating the sentiments of business community across the border.

The following unanimous resolutions were agreed by the members for implementation in letter and spirit:

1. Pak-Afghan trade should be segregated from political and military tensions, though, establish strong security measures that are vital for stabilization and sustainability of both the countries without compromising upon the sentiments of the business community across the border.
2. APTTCA meeting should be held immediately and for its efficacy the members from PAJCCI, representing private sector of both the sides, should be given official membership to the forum whereby their inputs should be critically included.
3. Visa regime in both the countries should be improved further by making categories like: business visa and visit visa. For business visa specifically, PAJCCI recommendation

letter should be made mandatory, so that it can authenticate the process and resolve the irritants.

- **IWEC AWARD CEREMONY IN WASHINGTON, USA**

PAJCCI in its endeavors to unveil untapped opportunities has identified the significant role that can be played by women entrepreneurs across the border by their participation in the International Women’s Entrepreneurial Challenge Conference and Awards Program (IWEC) Conference. This year, the event was held in Washington, USA from 12th to 14th November 2017 in which Miss Manizha Paktin, who is a member of PAJCCI – Afghanistan won the IWEC 2017 Award. Miss Nylla Parveen Junejo, Ex-Director from PAJCCI – Pakistan attended the auspicious event as an Ex-Awardee who got an award in 2016 at the same forum. Previous year, following PAJCCI members who got IWEC awards from Pakistan; Miss Syeda Amna Nasir Jamal, Miss Azra Jamshed, Miss Shanza Anwar and Miss Nylla Parveen Junejo.



- **MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF EUROPEAN UNION OF PAKISTAN**

A meeting of PAJCCI’s executive committee with the Ambassador of European Union of Pakistan was held whereby the core agenda was to talk about the current scenario of Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and how global community specifically European Union can facilitate the process of peace and economic prosperity.

Chairman PAJCCI, Zubair Motiwala sought facilitation from Ambassador’s office for holding the pending APTTCA and JEC meetings, as a mutual voice of concern across the border.



- **MEETING WITH THE OFFICIALS FROM NATIONAL LOGISTICS CELL (NLC)**

A meeting was organized with the Officials from National Logistics Cell (NLC) to discuss existing logistics services being offered and how NLC can play its role in Afghan Transit Trade Logistics for the improvement of Pak-Afghan trade as they have the largest infrastructure of logistics in Pakistan.



NLC has sought PAJCCI's facilitation in understanding the multi-dimensional needs of varying target audience for developing customized solutions at reasonable rates.

OCTOBER 2017

- **PARTICIPATED IN THE STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING ORGANIZED BY MINISTRIES FOR RESOLUTION OF ISSUES IN HAND**

PAJCCI has participated in the stakeholder meeting organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Maritime Affairs (Ministry of Ports & Shipping) to discuss issues being faced by the business community in Pakistan-Afghanistan transit trade on 10th October, 2017 at Karachi Port Trust, Karachi. The meeting was co-chaired by PAJCCI's Chairman – Zubair Motiwala with Bilal Pasha, Joint Secretary - Ministry of Commerce and Asad Chandna, Director General, Ministry of Ports and Shipping.



The meeting was attended by representatives from trading and the business community, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Customs, Federal board of Revenue (FBR), Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT), Karachi International Container Terminal (KICT), South Asia Pakistan Terminal (SAPT), Qasim International Container Terminal (QICT), All Pakistan Shipping Association (APSA), Pakistan International Freight Forwarders Association, Shipping agents, bonded carriers and transporters, clearing and forwarding agents, freight forwarders, insurance companies and Transit Trade officials.

The core meeting agenda entailed discussion on detention and demurrages charges by the port authorities and shipping lines as a result of border closure by Pakistan, cost variation in shipping line charges, free demurrage days allowed, time of transit and issues related to custom insurance guarantees.

Zubair Motiwala proposed the following major resolution for the betterment in Pak-Afghan Trade relationship:

- (1) Prepare a comparison chart with the Peer group of neighboring countries to observe what mechanism other countries are following with the landlocked countries, as Afghanistan is not the only land lock country.
- (2) Cost of detention should be compensated by the Government of Pakistan to the business community for the period of Pak-Afghan border closure (16 February 2017 to 21 March 2017) to revive the trust of the business community across the border.

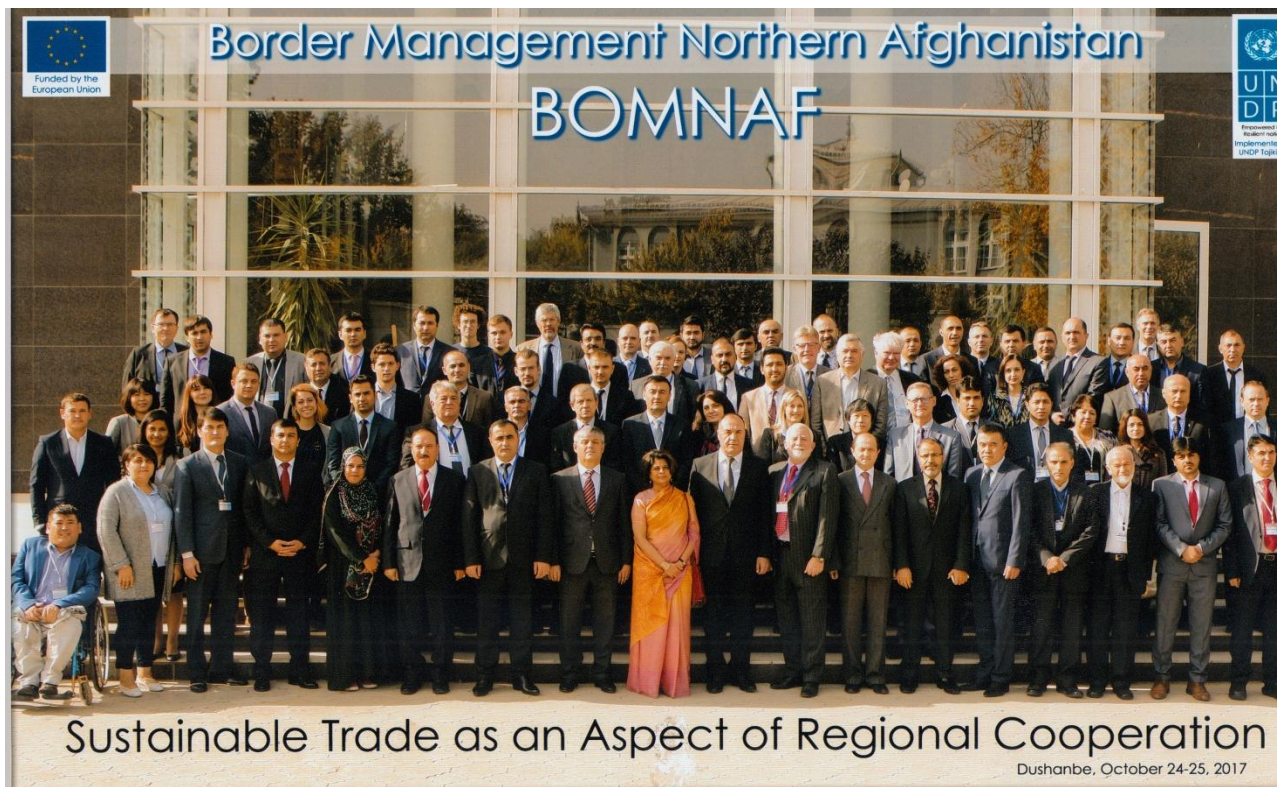
(3) For security deposits with shipping companies an ESCROW account may be established which would significantly boost the confidence of stakeholders.

(4) Pak-Afghan trade should be segregated from political tensions because it is very important for the smooth working relationship with Afghanistan.

Additionally, PAJCCI participated in the “Inter-Ministerial Meeting on Pak-Afghan Joint Economic Commission (JEC)” on 11th October 2017 in Islamabad. The meeting was done for the facilitation in organizing the pending JEC meeting so that table talks may be initiated accordingly.

- **EU – BOMNAF CONFERENCE IN DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN**

UNDP's EU-BOMNAF Project has again organized its “Integrated Border Management for Promotion of Trade and Regional Cooperation Conference” during October 2017. The overall aim of the conference was to develop capacity and strengthen coordination links between Central Asian and Afghanistan Border Management agencies through the initiation of exchange of experiences and shared development of joint good practices. It was fourth time when PAJCCI participated at this majestic forum and was represented by Faiza, Secretary General PAJCCI.



Faiza presented on “Transport & Digital Connectivity for Regional Security & Stability” and welcomed BOMNAF to organize the same level of conference in Pakistan.