



## **Afghanistan International Marble Conference II**

### ***Afghanistan's Resource Advantage***

**April 12 – 16, 2010 – Herat, Afghanistan**

Hosted by:

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries – ACCI

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USAID/Afghanistan Small & Medium Enterprise Development – ASMED

#### **ACCI's Role in the Conference:**

ACCI is working to establish a new framework for enabling Afghan business and industry to become more productive, profitable, and competitive. As Afghanistan's leading national business organization, ACCI has a responsibility to promote the interests of its member companies and industrial organization members. ACCI plays a crucial role in developing the national economy and has identified the marble sector as being of strategic importance. ACCI has played a key role in cooperating with international organizations and donors in advancing the marble sector and is proud of its association with the USAID/ASMED project in many of these initiatives, including organization development and capacity building. ACCI is also uniquely positioned to assist the marble sector in advocacy with the Government of Afghanistan as the marble sector is emerging as a major player in building a stronger economy, with an increasingly investor-friendly regulatory regime and improvements in environmental practices and technological innovation. ACCI was a co-host of the first annual Afghanistan International Marble Conference in 2009 and is pleased to support the second annual conference in partnership with USAID/ASMED.

#### **ASMED's Role in the Conference:**

USAID/ASMED supports small and medium enterprises in Afghanistan through business development services, grants, Global Development Alliances, association building and industry sector development. ASMED has been working with marble industry stakeholders for more than two years and shares ACCI's conviction that this sector can play a vital role in strengthening the national economy. Through a series of interventions in support of improved extraction, processing, and marketing practices, ASMED has assisted in advancing Afghanistan's marble sector as it prepares to assume an important position among the world's leading suppliers of high quality marble and stone products. ASMED co-hosted the first conference in 2009 and is now preparing a larger, more investor-focused second annual conference. The conference will assist the sector in obtaining recognition for its progress and will secure resources and alliances to further develop the industry. ASMED is proud to continue its partnership with ACCI as conference co-host, and in ongoing development initiatives to build the Afghanistan marble brand.