

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mehmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



First Analysis of Supply and Demand for Business Sector in Afghanistan Presented

Nov 18, 2004: Today, the UNDP presented the first training needs assessment for Business Development Services (BDS) in Afghanistan to a gathering of donors, consultants and some local businesses at the Intercontinental Hotel. The report was commissioned under the Ministry of Commerce and UNDP project "Partnership for Private Sector Development" (PPSD).

The assessment identifies market gaps for BDS in Afghanistan and helps to lay the foundation for a sustainable delivery of BDS through a network of Afghan Business Advice Centres. A few weeks ago, the Ministry of Commerce and UNDP held a ceremony to commemorate their partnership to establish Business Advice Centres throughout Afghanistan. The Business Advice Centres will deliver a range of business education and development services to Afghan businesses, from assisting in the identification and access of financing to providing market oriented training. The first such centre is currently operational in Kabul.

The report was produced by the Center for International Private Enterprise, a Washington DC-based not-for-profit organization that has initiated 700 projects in over 100 countries around the world. It established an office in Afghanistan in October 2003.

In the course of the assessment, surveys were conducted with over 1000 business owners and entrepreneurs nationwide and interviews were conducted with over 300 company owners.

Detailed information and the executive summary of the training needs assessment are available at: www.afghanistanbusinesscentre.com

Where / when:
18 November 2004
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Pamir Room
Intercontinental Hotel
Kabul, Afghanistan

For more information, please contact:
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