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## Editor Special Note

Welcome to another Issue of Afghanistan UK Bridge Magazine. October is here and as we approach the darker and shorter days of the year we are reminded that the end of 2017 is around the corner and we must balance what we did during this year and what we could have done better.

The Afghanistan Summit on Supply Chain and Construction that took place in June 2012 was the beginning of the country's private sector wave of actively promoting international logistics solutions to Afghanistan producers but there is still a long way to go – what means more than anything else, more opportunities to make money.

Conceiving new ways of promoting the production, storage and transportation of services and goods is a money-making business that can be yours or from which you can explore the potential.

This money-making business is a natural stage of economic development of all societies and Afghanistan producers need Afghan Expats and Foreign Investors willing to assist them in exporting their products out of the country and into Europe's shops at the lowest cost possible and in the most efficient way.

We listed the main sources of funding for setting up Foundations, Micro Credit Groups, Loan Companies, Merchant Banks and much more. The earliest you apply the better. We remit you to previous issues where we listed the Merchant Banking and Business Licenses Rules and Authorities in Afghanistan, mainly Da Afghanistan Central Bank.

The Gurus presented in this Issue are a must and all literature mentioned in relation to them is available free online. They are so good you might want to consider following them on LinkedIn.

The Afghan Sikh Journey is revised candidly by two fantastic journalists who unveil a generational journey of discovery of the Past and expansion into the Present.

Learn from Gundara the most well-kept secrets for success. Their story is truly inspiring so if you are looking for inspiration and motivation to get into Business in Afghanistan – look no further!

Stay tuned!

Ariane Brito

Editor in Chief



Transforming  
supply chains  
using **blockchain**  
**technology**

#ibmblockchain









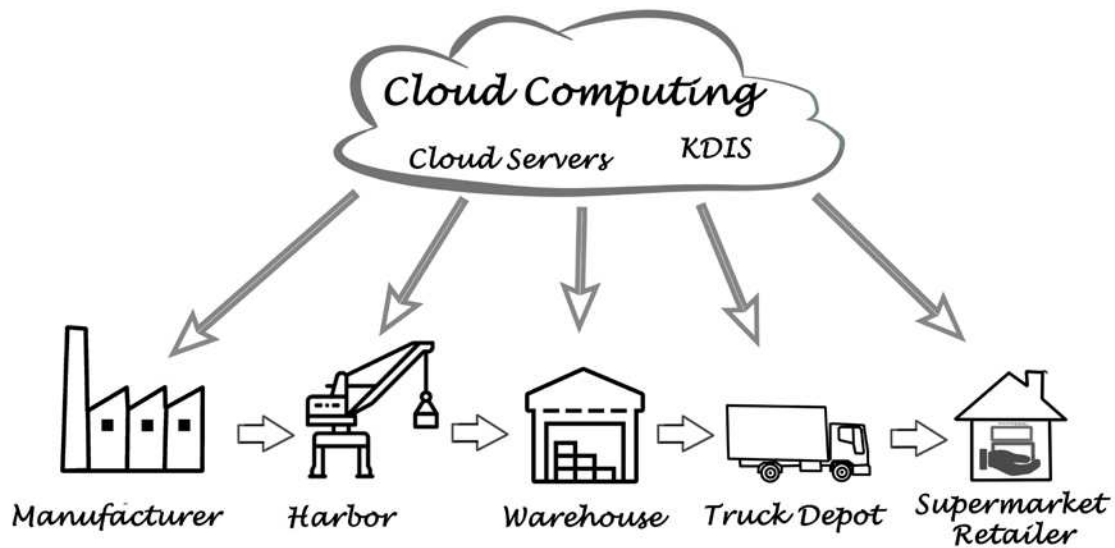
*Could you come up with a business solution to men transporting wood  
the women in rural provinces? What about weekly distribution of food to  
families in isolated communities? How would you bring investors and  
workers together?*

## *SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT*

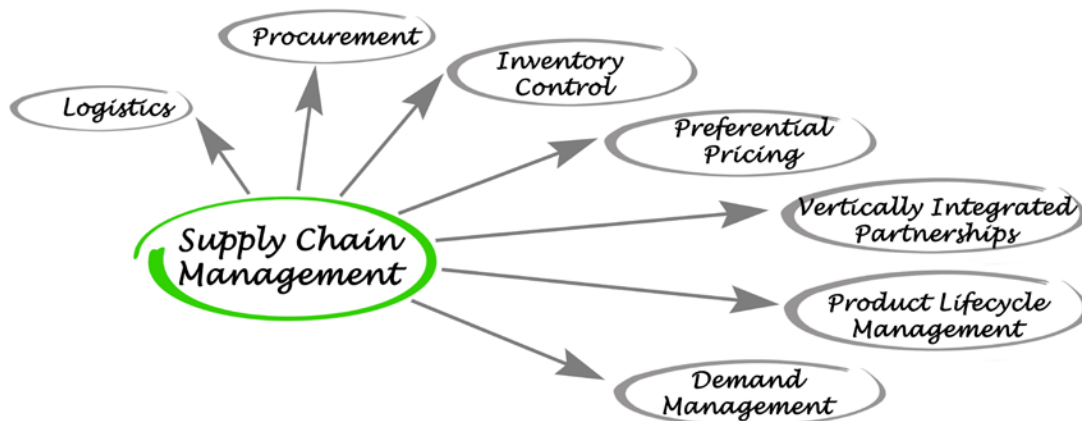
The following Schemes are skeletal presentations of models suitable for developed economies where all infrastructures are already established and war is not a key factor in the Logistics Agents mobilization.



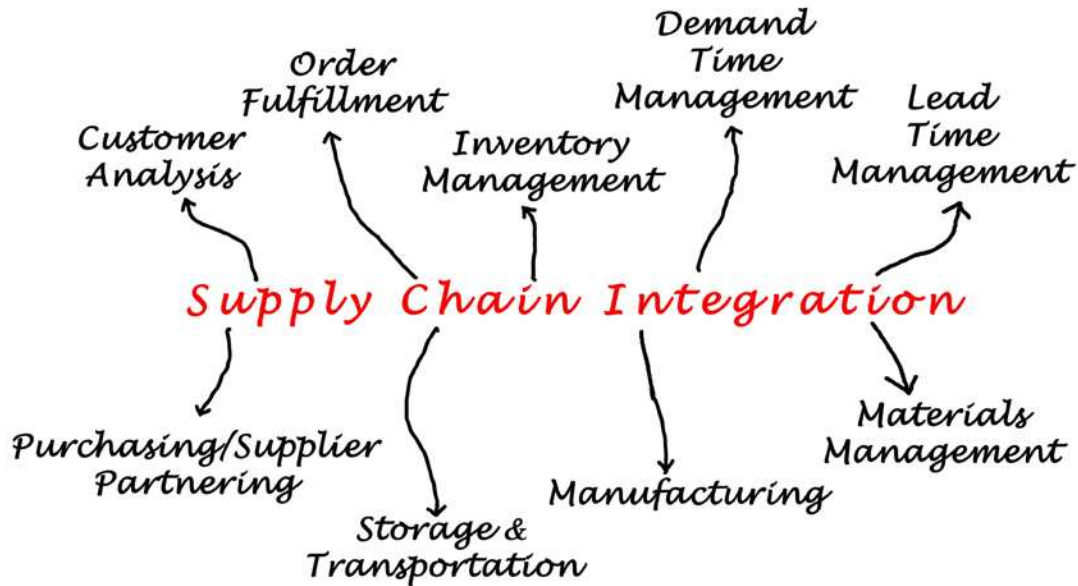




In the United Kingdom we seem to take for granted the block chain services and cloud platform facilities Banks offer to international businesses.



If I was to elaborate a Supply Chain Management model linking Afghanistan producers with International Traders , most likely I would create my own channels and routes. Buy land from one end to the other of Afghanistan , build a massive National highway road and charge users for security and access. Processing and tranformative industries between point A and B would be a must. Does this sound megalomaniac or just Futuristic in essence?



**But what would you take in account if you were planning to develop a supply chain route of goods from Afghanistan to the UK and what would you require to secure high standards production , storage and distribution of goods?** Who would you partner with and how would you negotiate with your suppliers for higher profits for your company? How would you keep the producers safe? Rural producers in Afghanistan are exploited by foreign producers of near by countries who rely on cheap pistachios, nuts and cotton to meet their export demands. If you are to bring a social enterprise or business into these rural areas you have to expect gang related activities like sabotage of transport vehicles, intimidation and blackmail of your workers. What security firm would you hire to ensure your business safety and would you use formal American soldiers as employees or you would hire locally?

Our Magazine does not hold all the answers for the potential contingency problems you can face in Afghanistan rural provinces but we can recommend the best at the level of conception and prevention of supply chain failures and successes in developing countries. And the best recommendation and advice we can give you is to read **Khalid Zidan book ‘ Supply Chain Management – Case Studies of International Supply Chain Organizations’**.The book is sold via amazon but is also available online for free download.

Khalid Zidan is a Procurement Manager at AECOM, Amplex Emirates LLC. You can follow him on social media or establish a professional relationship with him via LinkedIn.

His book ‘Supply Chain Management – Case Studies of International Supply Chain Organizations’ is accessible at all levels , so either you know nothing or everything about

Supply Chain you still find the book a useful tool, respectively as an introduction to or a guide to elaborating a successful Supply Chain Management Business Model coherent with the reality of Developing Countries like Afghanistan.

Khalid Zidan defined Supply Management as management focused on 'the fulfillment of customer demands by using the resources efficiently'. In this context he defined Logistics as 'a term that is applied to activities within an organization or company that are related to the distribution of the product, whereas the supply chain itself also includes procurement and management'.



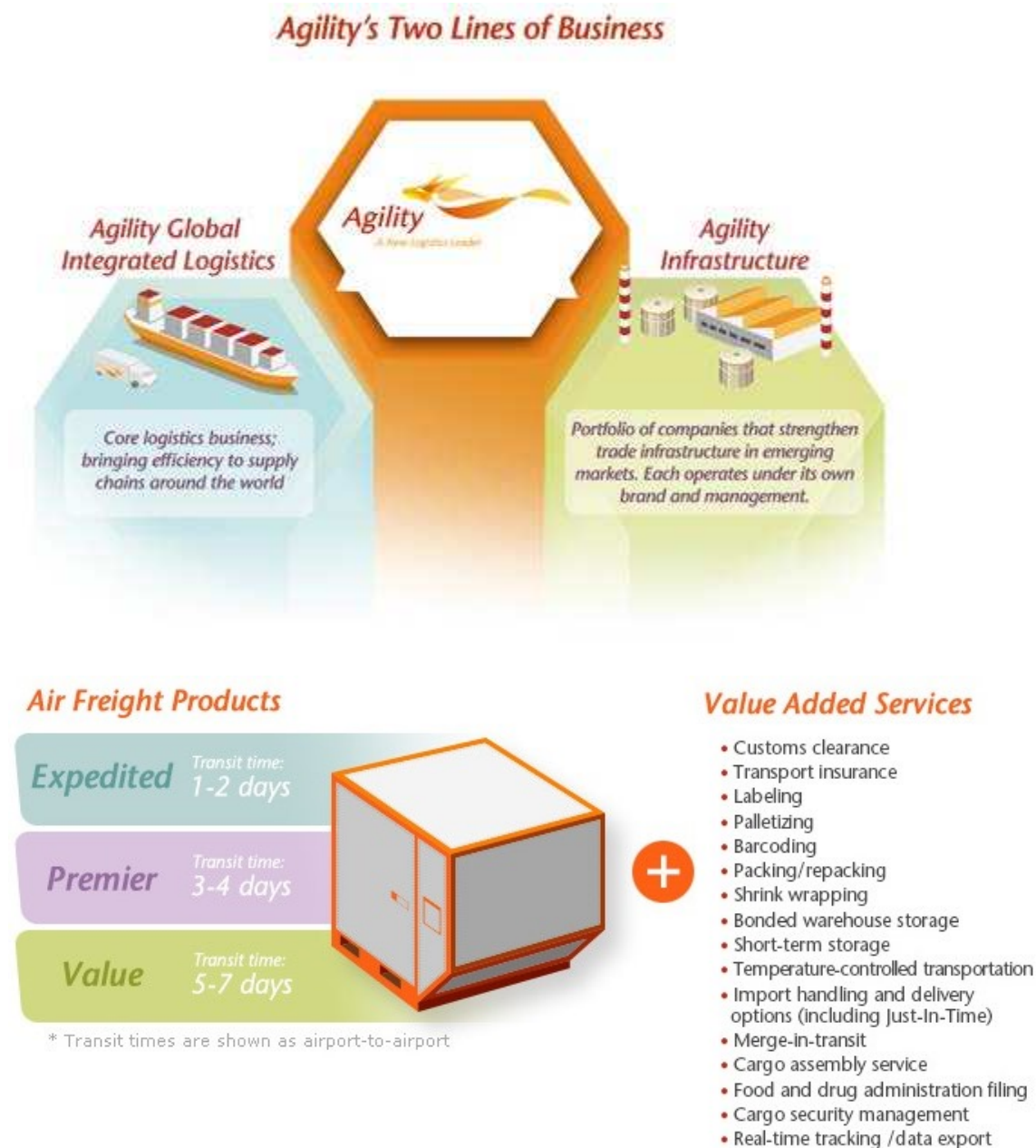
**Drawing your Logistics Operational Business Model requires security awareness, coherent case studies but also inclusive software.** And what do we mean by Inclusive software? We would define inclusive software as a software capable of catering and including users with different levels of expertise and with limited access to modern communication infrastructures. Here we remit you to our previous magazine 'Fintech Special Issue' where we brought to light how Fintech could solve most of Afghanistan's producers communication and financial services problems.

**The integration and coexistence of telecomms users and internet users in the same Logistics cloud is vital in securing Afghanistan producers access to international logistics.**

You might feel that setting up such a financially demanding project is something that will prove very cost inefficient. However, the International Logistics Ecosystem is expanding in a very competitive Imperialistic aggressive way and this movement is relying in entrepreneurs in search of financing and partnerships.

Agility is one of these International Logistics Companies with a multi billion portfolio successfully expanding internationally at the expenses of successful partnerships with small local companies and Entrepreneurs.





What started as a Kuwait Government initiative decades ago turned into a private international logistics business surviving everything possible and imaginable going wrong : Terrorism, Iraq military invasion, geopolitical sudden changes and setbacks . Agility survived to rise into an International successful and powerful Company constantly invading and succeeding in the most volatile industries as aviation and Real Estate.

It's not a most that you partner with Big International names as Agility Logistics. Other companies in Afghanistan pursue the same policy of welcoming proposals for partnerships.





Afghan AS Logistics, Cargo and Transportation Company is a successful privately owned Company represented worldwide. Their services provide complete solutions to Afghan suppliers and to Western importers and traders. This Company based in Kabul welcomes business partnerships from all over the world regardless of their size and capital. They privilege operability, commerciality and professionalism over anything else.

These core values are Universal but in Developing countries they are bent over unforeseen contingencies . For example, a silly mistake as buying seeds that cause soil erosion can bring a harvest season of hell to the entire province rural economy relying on exporters credit and good faith micro loans. Difficulty there are softwares that can anticipate the most unpredictable disasters and man made pure evil incidents but Supply Chain software producers are rapidly approaching that point where the most unbelievable prediction can be made by weather forecasting, elections pools and international companies stock performances.

IBM sells different types of Logistics and Supply Chain softwares and provides warehousing and business networking solutions compatible with other cloud platforms as Santander Bank cloud. Whatever you prioritise during the market research for your Business projects always bear in mind that contracts can be good and bad to your business and that most sellers today will give you a shorter version of their extended contracts and often -what is really what you might need if you are new in the sector -a trial period.

If during the trial period you decide you don't need all the services you are paying for, than is more than wise to keep the costs down and cancel your business subscription to the services. The business network of your ecosystem might prove quite all you need to establish a solid team of key players in a game where there are no permanent team members unless you are monopolising the sector.

AB



Academic selection has become increasingly competitive and most parents trying to put their children in Medical School are faced with the option , not always easy, of relocating or sending their children abroad. Afghanistan remains a top location for Afghan Expats in Europe and the US.

The reason is obvious: the quality of the Academic Education . Of over twenty Higher Education Institutions in the country, Kabul Medical University remains in the lead and the pride and joy of Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health.



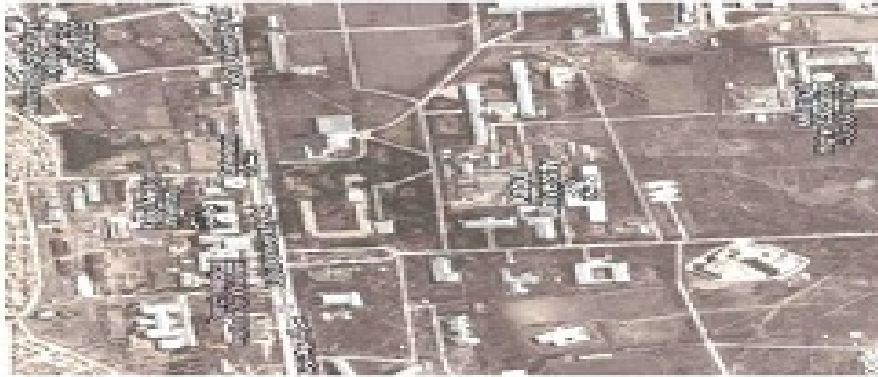
Kabul is a vibrant capital where top Academics and Medical staff are regularly brought to the International Media Arena because of the high standards of Academic and Medical practice. The latest example is the Kabul Surgeon Dr Habib Ur Rahman Qasim , recipient of the 2017 Zora Janzokovic Prize awarded by the European Club for Pediatric Burns.

Please contact the University directly by phone to enquire further about Student Admissions and Accommodation. We share the University leaflets with you so you can make the prospective enquiries if interested. If considering other areas of study please visit the Ministry of Education website [www.mohe.gov.af](http://www.mohe.gov.af) for complete list of Universities, Courses, Scholarships and Research Programs. Presently only Medical Courses are under the ambit of the Ministry of Health.

Finally, if you wish to order your child house or flat construction enquire with Bilal Adil Construction Company in Kabul.

**Email us with the University of your Choice and we will do our best to publish in our next Issue due in November.**

Kabul Medical University  
دانشگاه پزشکی کابل  
Kabul Medical University  
UNIVERSITY  
THE ROUTE TO  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
IN AFGHANISTAN



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Jamal Mena  
Kabul, Afghanistan

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Website: www.kmu.edu.af

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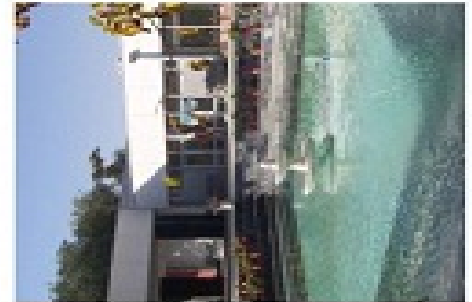
پوهنتون طبي کابل  
کابل طبي پوهنتون  
KABUL MEDICAL  
UNIVERSITY

#### Vision

provide quality medical facilities based on global standards to service health needs in Afghanistan.

#### Mission

- To provide systematic, efficient, comprehensive and low medical services.
- Providing specializations in different fields of medicine and health for students.
- Train our students according to different medical and health issues.
- Capacity building of staff and students.
- To provide specialty residency opportunities for young medical practitioners.





# KABUL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

# UNIVERSITY

## Brief History



As the first institution of higher medical education in the country, it was established in 1910 as a faculty within the structure of Kabul University. In 1980, it was upgraded to Abu Ali Ben Sina State Medical Institute that consisted of three faculties of curative, pediatric and Zoonology. In 2004 with the completion of the required standards, it was promoted to Kabul Medical University (KMU). In 2006 the Nursing faculty was established in the Kabul Medical University. In 2010 Faculty of Public Health replaced the former pediatric faculty. In 2012 faculty of Allied Health Sciences in view of the urgent need within the university structure was founded. The faculty has three departments namely the medical technology department, anesthesia and biomedical equipment technology department. It should be mentioned that in KAMU Medical program was established in framework of Nursing faculty. In addition, specialization program and master program of public health was established in 2011.



KAMU has the capacity to collaborate with medical faculties of different provinces of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, medical faculty of Bگرام university is under supervision of KAMU.

## Why Choose Kabul Medical University? Exclusive Services

Kabul Medical University has been the leading in medical education and health service provider in Afghanistan. Also this university was recognized officially by medical board of California in 13 Nov.2013. We are proud to introduce the Services that

- Includes Medicine, Dentistry, Public Health, Nursing & Midwifery and Allied Health Sciences along with six teaching hospitals
- Two general hospitals, Maternity, Male world and four specialized hospitals namely Eye, Obstetrics & gynecology and cardiac disease.



## Faculty Members

Our faculty is composed of high-ranking practitioners and residents who are acclaimed features in their respected fields. They have unique insights into the high-yield contents of medical education and how they are being taught around the world. For more information, please visit [www.kmu.edu.af](http://www.kmu.edu.af)

## High-yield Contents

For standardization of curriculum a committee is working to revise the curriculum. The curriculum of curative and dentistry faculties were revised and accepted formally by ministry of higher education on 3/Dec/2013 and currently is implemented. On Teaching materials are translated from the most up to date medical text books. New teaching methods such as PBL and CBL is being implemented and workshop related to OMR-AC medical was conducted on 4/7 June/2016 and the features are committed to implement it.

Beside these workshops related to research methods was conducted on 2015 for all lecturers of KAMU.

Fortuitously UpToDate an evidence based, peer reviewed information resource available via the web is active all over the university and Institute of heart disease.

## Facts and Figures

The first higher education institute in Afghanistan, founded in 1311 H (1933)

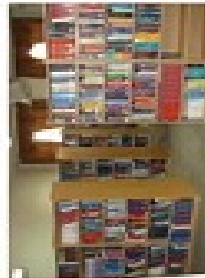
- Credit system is used for studying in the university with student based teaching method. Admission to KAMU is limited to only those High school graduates who acquire the highest marks in nation wide merit based university entrance exam. The lecturers are in both Urdu and English languages with power point presentations.
- Partnership with leading universities globally such as London University, Lyon University (France), and other prominent research universities. Beside this KAMU has partnership with WHO, UNFPA, USAID, GIZ, JICA, etc.
- Adopting Steering Committee for establishment of Global Comprehensive Oncology Center by IAEA.
- Six Teaching Hospitals
- Educational Development Committee
- Cardiac Research Institute
- Publishing Center
- First Incubator
- Phy three Departments
- Eight Bachelor Programs
- One associate degree in Statistical equipment technology
- Two MD Degree Programs
- Master degree Program in Public Health
- Twelve Residency Programs
- One thousand five hundred eighty nine (1589) staff and 25500 students

## Publications

Afghan Medical Journal, research and scientific, journal publishing quarterly. Rahmani Ilami-Sha, monthly publishing organ for University Cultural Center.

## Library

KAMU has a library that contains more than 11794 medical books in English, Dari and Pashto languages. The library is functional each year with a gala of up to one books. The library is equipped with a free wireless internet connection, Computer LAB and Afghanistan Virtual Science Library (AVSL), where students can have access to medical articles and books.



## Extra Curricular Activities

Kabul Medical University has a cultural Center where students and lecturers coordinate all extra curricular activities such as Sports Clubs, Gymnasium, Conferences, Short Courses, Conferences etc.



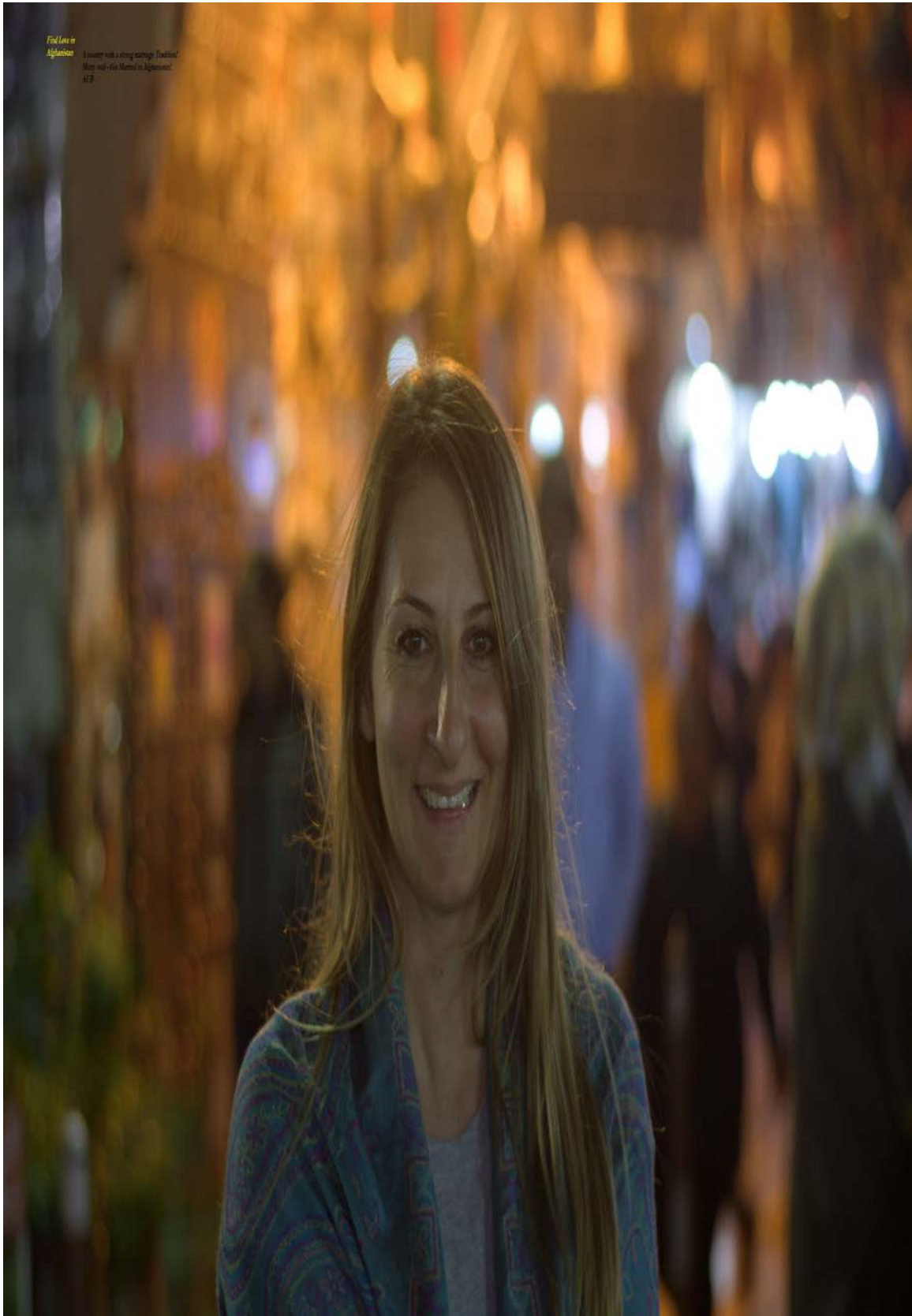


*Afghanistan rich History is illustrated with the Shrine of Ali located in Mazar-i-Sharif. One of Sultan Husayn Mirza Bayqarah legacies, this mosque has survived seven centuries of History and is still surrounded by mysterious Beauty as the Beauty of these veiled ladies conversing.*



*Afghanistan is a country of many mysteries. Rich in Diversity,  
Government, Music and with a vibrant Spiritual and Religious Life.  
Afghanistan is also a country of Beauty. And perhaps this is the reason  
why the World is so in awe: Money and Diamonds are privately valued  
all over the World.  
Find Love in Marjane. Find Love in Afghanistan! AFB*





## ***Funding Sources for Foundations, Projects and Micro Credit Groups: APPLY TODAY!!!!***

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**Could you set up a Financial Institution, Organization or Group financing farms, producers and traders? Who would Fund you?** The International Finance Corporation Global Trade Finance Program financed many projects and institutions in countries like Afghanistan.

You could secure international funding and set up your own Oiko Credit in Afghanistan! Unfortunately, Oiko Credit does not operate in Afghanistan but if you set up an institution like that in Afghanistan you will be doing yourself and Afghanistan a favor – seriously.

If you feel you have what it takes to set up a Foundation, a Micro Credit Organization or to partner with a Bank to offer credit to businesses in Afghanistan you are in the right track as there is no shortage of International Funding. Here are just a few:

1. Islamic Development Bank
2. Asian Development Bank
3. CAREC (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program) Grants, Loans and technical support. Please check if is done via Trusts, Foundations or subcontractors with the Government.
4. International Finance Corporation.
5. USAID.
6. European Union.
7. If you are an Expat please refer to your country Export Credit Agency.
8. The Islamic Corporation.
9. UNDP Sustainable Development Funding bursaries for trade and private sector workforce training.
10. New Kabul Bank Financial Solutions
11. Afghanistan International Bank Business Banking Services



## Hindu Kush to Thames -a journey into the heart of Afghan Sikh and Hindu communities in London

*Harkiran Kaur Sodhi reports*

My first year at UC Berkeley, I enrolled in a course offered once every four years: History and Culture of Afghanistan. From then began a safari of desperately seeking every possible grain of knowledge pertaining to the country. However, I remained deprived on one aspect – the Sikh community of Afghanistan. After doing countless presentations based on whatever I could find, I discovered Pritpal Singh's efforts and depiction from a Sikh perspective. I was elated. Mission Afghanistan finally introduced the Afghan Sikh community to the world. Following up on Mission Afghanistan's coverage of the plight of Sikhs living in Afghanistan, 'From Hindu Kush to Thames' sheds light on those who have emigrated. It is a one-of-a-kind documentary on a non-Punjabi Sikh immigrant population.

Once known for its thriving trade routes and culture, Afghanistan has now become known for its turbulent political history, causing many Afghans to migrate. Thousands of miles away from the homeland however, a small community of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus have preserved the culture and traditions of the dwindling community.



Of Mission Afghanistan (see video) fame, Pritpal Singh focuses again on the Afghan Sikh and Hindu communities, but this time through the lens of Afghan immigrants to the UK, particularly Southall. By carefully juxtaposing the life left behind, with life in their adopted homes, the sacrifices and struggles are masked with vibrant displays of faith, music, food and dance. With touching depictions of the dilapidated Mandirs and Gurdwaras in Kabul, and impressive retention of their roots throughout generations on foreign soil, 'Hindu Kush to Thames' presents the story of immigrants who are rarely covered in Afghan mainstream media, or Sikh media.

Sikhs have been a vital part of the Afghan community. With interjections by historian Harbans Singh Handa, the audience learns of the various political positions held by Sikhs over the years in Afghanistan, even visiting the British home of the 3rd Sikh MP of Afghanistan: Gajender Singh. Other prominent personalities such as Inder Geet Singh are also introduced alongside second generation British-Afghans.

Strongly reflecting Afghan pride and ancestry, the documentary is primarily filmed in Farsi with English narration. 'Hindu Kush to Thames' is filmed and directed by Ariadne Bechthold

with support of the Gharghasht Gharghakht and Afghan Voice Radio, UK. Strongly reflecting the shared sense of nostalgia amongst all the Afghans, the documentary shows their connectedness with home. Often misunderstood to have immigrated from India, this is the story of Afghanistan's religious minorities who have immigrated to London and made a name for themselves.

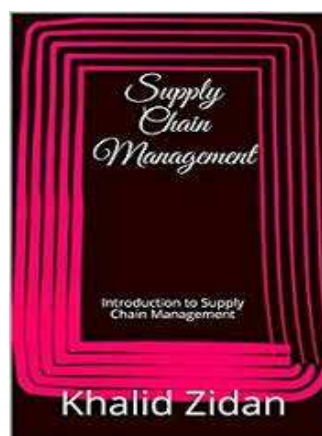
*Harkiran Kaur Sodhi*

## LINKEDIN GURU OF THE MONTH

### OMID GAMMANI

In this era of Social Media takeover of our lives there is no shortage of self-proclaimed Gurus and Personal Coaches.

If you are struggling to find an authority that knows all about Supply Chain, Procurement and Contract Negotiation than look no further. We present you Omid Gammani, MBA, CPSCM. This Adjunct Professor of Purchasing at Folsam Lake College is on You Tube so watch his videos for free and step up your game!



## GUNDARA

### *German International Business Discloses Best Kept Secret: Fair Supply Chain! German Writer Elinette Van De Noort reports*

We bring you Gundara, a well-known brand featured in the most popular German Magazines like Elle , with leather products distributed in Europe's high streets, shopping malls and designer outlets. The fact this Business story started in Afghanistan and that succeeded in such amount of short time is something we could not pass by, so we had to chase Gundara for a story and what we got first was a Love story!

**In your own word Gunda, please tell us how all started for Gundara.**

[Gunda Amos](#) . Hello! My husband Jean and I met in Kabul in 2005. In the beginning of 2006 we discovered the workshop of Master Yaqub. I started designing a few bags for myself. My husband was impressed by the **great quality of the vegetable tanned Afghan leather and Master Yaqub's traditional Afghan craftsmanship**. He then had the idea to create a small catalogue which we started showing to friends and family in Europe. The feedback was extremely positive. Master Yaqub was producing very nice leather bags, but not many people were buying them. We then had the idea to support Master Yaqub, by bringing his products to the international market through better marketing. **The idea was to combine Afghan craftsmanship with European demands for functionality and aesthetics**. The concept worked very well. The Gundara online shop has been running since 2009 and in 2015 my husband and I opened the first **Gundara Concept Store at Schlesische Str. 25 in Berlin-Kreuzberg**.

[Elinette](#): **You mentioned you both met in Afghanistan but your husband is from France and you are from Germany. Give us a biographic summary of your lives and professional profile.**

**Gunda Amos**: My husband is a 41-year-old Geographer from France. He is passionate about Gundara, and currently works full time in our shop. He designed the web shop by himself and runs all operations like Marketing. He is very busy as we now distribute to over 23 shops and networks brands as Superstore in Berlin and we export our products, in the quality of wholesalers, to top capitals of Europe like Scotland, Luxembourg and Switzerland. I am a 38-year-old German Political Scientist who met her husband in Afghanistan and fell in love with the country as well. I share my work in the German Ministry of Development with Gundara shop management.

Yusto Yaqub , is an Afghan Leather Producer, Father of six lovely children and an example of resistance, survival and geniality. He and his family lost everything except their lives when

they found themselves as Refugees in Pakistan. When the family returned to Afghanistan Yaqub decided to provide for his family the best way he knew and started producing leather bags, artefacts in the heart of Kabul. His workshop has seen it all but his heart is faithful to the belief that Afghanistan is a blessed country that will soon find Peace. He is a true inspiration.

Elinette: This month Afghanistan UK Bridge Magazine is introducing Afghanistan Top Players in the sphere of International Supply Chain. If a Procurement Officer was to approach you and offer you a cloud platform, bigger profits, less fairness for Afghan Producers would you take it or your Business has a strong Fair Chain Ethics?

**Gunda Amos:** As we put it in our Business Statement we always **Buy directly from producers**. Gundara aims at keeping the value chain as short as possible. 90% of our products come directly from the producers (small manufactures and social cooperatives) in developing countries. Like this the producers can make the highest possible profit.

Our producers get a **guaranteed minimum price**, independent of fluctuations on the world market. With our public relations we create awareness of unfair trade relations and for the power of changing unfair production and trade conditions through informed choices when shopping. **We sensitize our clients for a more fair world trade.**

**No child labor:** We do not accept kids under 13 to be working and we do not accept forced labor.

**Social standards:** Through its cooperation with partners in developing countries Gundara promotes the voluntary and independent organization of producers (e.g. in trade unions) and fair trade conditions.

**Environmental standards:** Gundara promotes the processing of natural materials such as leather (particularly naturally tanned), wool, silk etc. We care about what happens to the alkalis from the tanning process and check whether they are disposed properly. We use only used packaging and do almost all transports within Berlin by bike. We use electricity from alternative energy sources (hydro, solar and wind) exclusively.

Elinette : Dr Gundara Amos, was a true pleasure to share the story of your International Business with our readers. What an honor!



Gundara – **Concept Store**  
**Schlesische Str. 25,**  
**10997 Berlin (Kreuzberg, métro: Schlesisches Tor)**



**Afghanistan UK Bridge Magazine started a Monthly Feature ‘The Kindest Person I Know’. We received emails from all over the world from our readers and we are quite happy to say that our Editorial decision this month was unanimous. Please keep sending us your friends pictures.**

Hasana Gyan , a military from Iraq is busy fighting for his country security. His friend told us that Hasana always put others first. Afghanistan UK Bridge Magazine couldn't be happier to share Hasan pictures with our readers from all over the world and we take this opportunity to wish all Iraqis a safe journey to Peace. Your country is truly blessed with lovely people and natural resources so Peace will come.





Hasana Gyan with Combat Brothers incessantly working to keep Iraq safe at the expenses of their lives.



Next, we received an email from a lovely lady from the Kurdish Nation. She told us that her friend is a true inspiration and believes in his People right to exist and live in safety. He constantly reminds friends like her that the Kurdish are fighting a right cause and will thrive and survive to rise as a Nation leading the World to a New Chapter in our World History. We present you,

## Rasul Harwti



The sole role of this publication was to connect Afghan Expats and International Investors with Real Estate Opportunities in Afghanistan without any endorsements to a Logistics or Construction Company.

Acknowledgements: Rasul Harwti friends and Rasana Gyan friends. Was truly a pleasure to review their pictures and story.

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