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**Rising Afghan Political Stars to Kick Off U.S. Study Tour in the District  
Delegates to Study U.S. Political System, Discuss Bi-lateral, Regional & International Issues**

WASHINGTON, February 14, 2008 – On Saturday, February 23, 2008, [The American Council of Young Political Leaders \(ACYPL\)](#) will welcome a delegation of seven young Afghan political and policy leaders to Washington, D.C. as they begin a twelve day political study tour of the United States that will also take them to Chicago and Phoenix.

The program is designed to promote mutual understanding and expose the delegates to the American political system at all levels - national, state and local. It will also provide them with perspective on American culture and allow them to engage in dialogue on international issues and forge professional relationships with their American counterparts.

The delegates participating in the exchange are between the ages of twenty-five and forty and have been selected based on their potential to assume offices of higher responsibility in Afghanistan. Already on the front lines of reforming the Afghan government and civil society, the delegates include members of Afghan provincial councils, National Assembly staff members and international relief and development experts. **[Please see below for a delegate list.]**

While in Washington, DC, the delegation will meet with [Anita McBride](#), Chief of Staff to First Lady Laura Bush, Congressman [Ed Pastor](#) (D-AZ), Majority Chief Deputy Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Congresswoman [Marsha Blackburn](#) (R-TN), a member of the ACYPL Board of Trustees, all of whom are alumni of ACYPL exchanges. They will also have discussions with Republican National Committee Chairman [Mike Duncan](#), an Ex-Officio ACYPL Trustee, and Counsel [Tom Josefiak](#), as well as senior officials from the Democratic National Committee.

The delegates will also attend a reception hosted by the [Embassy of Afghanistan](#). In addition, they, along with American ACYPL alumni, will participate in a roundtable at the [Center for American Progress \(CAP\)](#). The discussion will feature [Lawrence J. Korb](#), a senior fellow at CAP and a senior advisor at the Center for Defense Information, and will allow for frank dialogue regarding the U.S. - Afghan bilateral relationship and prospects for the future.

“Across the United States this election year, people are engaged in debate and discussion about major policy issues like the war in Iraq and U.S. involvement in Afghanistan,” said ACYPL CEO [Linda Rotunno](#). “We look forward to providing opportunities for Americans to hear first hand the Afghan perspective on these issues and sharing with the delegates the American political system at work.”

Recognized by the U.S. Congress as a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other, [The American Council of Young Political Leaders \(ACYPL\)](#) is a bi-partisan, not-for-profit international exchange organization based in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1966, ACYPL has, with generous support from the U.S. Department of State, corporations and individuals, conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni. Former ACYPL participants include 38 sitting members of the U.S. Congress, 6 sitting U.S. governors and ambassadors, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit <http://www.acypl.org>.



## ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEBRUARY 23 – MARCH 4, 2008

### DELEGATE LIST

Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim <b>AMAN</b>	Special Assistant to the Speaker House of the People (National Assembly)
Ms. Anita <b>ASKARYAR</b>	UNHCR Capacity Development Advisor Protection Department, Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development
Mr. Abdullh <b>AHMADZI</b>	Member and Assistant to the President Logar Provincial Council
Ms. Nabilla <b>HADARY</b>	Staff Member, Committee of Women's Affairs, Human Rights and Civil Society House of the People (National Assembly)
Mr. Qari Dowlat <b>MOHAMMAD</b>	Member Badghis Provincial Council
Mr. Abdul <b>QAHAR</b>	Office Manager Global Partners (Ghor Province)
Mr. Rahmatullah <b>RASHADI</b>	President Nuristan Provincial Council

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