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Today date: **Dec 05, 2007**

## Ottawa to host Afghan peace conference next week

**Date :** Dec 05, 2007  
**Category :** General  
**Sources :** BNA

NEW YORK: In order to take stock of the current situation in Afghanistan, leading analysts will be gathering in Ottawa, the Canadian Capital, for a two-day international conference on the war-devastated country next week.

Organised by the University of Ottawa, nearly 30 noted Afghan experts are expected to brainstorm on December 10 and 11 in an effort to find answers to three questions that have been bothering not only the people of Afghanistan, but all those caring for the country.

The three questions are: Is the international effort in Afghanistan making progress? What are the conditions that would define a success for the international effort in Afghanistan? And what are the key trends in the fields of security, governance reform, counter-narcotics, reconstruction and development?

Another objective behind the conference is to contribute to public understanding of the international campaign in Afghanistan. Since it is being held in Canada, the moot would also deliberate on Ottawas role in bringing peace and reconstruction to the Central Asian country.

Former Afghan foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah, Samina Ahmed of the International Crisis Group, David Bercuson (University of Calgary), William Byrd (World Bank), Sarah Chayes (Afghans for Civil Society), Anthony Cordesman (Centre for Strategic and International Studies) and Jean-Pierre Derriennic (Universit Laval) will be taking part in the event.

Other important participants include Ali Jalali (National Defence University), Jonathan Goodhand (University of London), Fen Osler Hampson (Carleton University), Seth Jones (RAND Corporation) Nader Naderi (Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission), Sultana Parvanta (Afghani Ministry of Commerce and Industry), Barnett Rubin (New York University), Andrew Wilder (Tufts University), Susan Woodward (City University of New York), Omar Zakhilwal (Afghanistan Investment Support Agency) and Christoph Zrcher (Free University Berlin).

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 <b>Mazar</b>	<b>26c/6c</b>

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