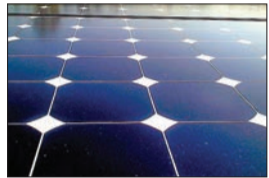




**Mosque of Sabzevar Branch**

ayambar (S) mosque of Sabzevar branch of the Islamic Azad University, opened officially in 2010, is located in the center of the campus and its design is a mixture of traditional and modern styles with an inclination towards Islamic architecture. The exterior is decorated with marble, tiles and mirror works showing calligraphic Quran verses.

**A Step towards Affordable Solar Cells**



Researchers in Science and Industry University of Iran are working on the concept of using nanocompounds for production of affordable solar cells. The aim is to choose the raw materials of the nanocompounds from those found abundantly inside the country. This project, pursued in cooperation with Sharif Solar Company, could have a significant impact on the development of clean and environment-friendly energies.

Today, 80-percent of world's demand for the energy is answered by fossil fuels. This has caused certain problems such as atmospheric and ecologic pollution due to the diffusion of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, methane and nitrogen oxide. These gases are the main culprit in the issue of global warming. For this reason, clean energies such as solar rays could be an efficient countermeasure in the way of solving this problem.

Saeed Shahbazi, coordinator of this project, referred to the convenient geography of Iran and its great share of solar rays and said: "One of the devices transforming the solar rays into electricity is solar cell. Of these, the enhanced cells by the use of pigments have received much attention in the past two decades. These cells have different parts such as pigments and electrolytes; the common substance used in producing the pigments is ruthenium which is quite costly. If we could substitute a more affordable material, solar cells would be more desirable for use in large scales." According to him, this project is trying to use affordable nanocompounds in place of ruthenium and a proposed alternative is proskit with a better index of absorbing visible sun rays. The special point in this project is to produce proskit with the minimum expenses which in the long run results in reducing the cost of solar cells. As Shahbazi mentioned, due to abundance and low cost of needed material in the country, his team is hoping to reach the level of market production in the near future. In the case of mass production of solar cells, they could be used in industries with the aim of more efficiency and less environmental pollution.

We welcome your views and memos on the related topics. You can contact us through: [english@fdn.ir](mailto:english@fdn.ir).

**IAU's Board of Trustees in Alborz and Qom Provinces**

## Ratio of Lecturer to Student in Alborz Province: 40 to 1



The development plan of the university branches in these two provinces, based on Amayesh document and the 6th installment of the province's development plan was approved with slight modifications. It was decided that these modifications be reported to the permanent commission of the two provinces' boards

In the 7th meeting of IAU's board of trustees in Alborz province, Dr. Behrooz Mirza, director of Alborz branch, presented a report regarding the activities of branches in this province, saying: "The number of students in Alborz province in branches such as Karaj, Nazar-abad, Hashtgerd and Taleghan, goes beyond 39,000; this amounts to more than 34-percent of this province's whole student populace."

He noted that 620 faculty members are currently collaborating with the four branches of Alborz province and said: "In Alborz's Islamic Azad University, the ratio of faculty members to students is 40 to 1."

He also talked about SHAFa project and claimed: "The plans for the first and second phases of Alborz's SHAFa project have already been approved by the head office of the university and we are in the stage of choosing a suitable consultant. This province also has an operational incubator center which adds to

its academic weight." Dr. Salar Kasraei, director of Qom branch, reported the activities of this branch in 2014 and said: "IAU has one established branch in the city which offers 146 courses to 13,000 students enrolled in different levels; also there are 190 faculty members working in this academic establishment."

**Development Plan of University**

Kasraei also announced that five technical branches have been established for the purpose of promoting IAU's knowledge companies and continued: "SHAFa project of Qom province is being considered by the professional committee of the province at the moment. Also, this branch has an active incubator center and around 290 articles produced in this branch have been indexed on ISI's databases, 40 of which have been registered in the current year." Budget of Alborz province, approved by the board of trustees, was fixed on 142 billion as the income and 175 billion

Toman as the allowed expenditure. Also, budget of Qom province was set on 47 and 60 billion, respectively.

The development plan of the university branches in these two provinces, based on Amayesh document and the 6th installment of the province's development plan was approved with slight modifications. It was decided that these modifications be reported to the permanent commission of the two provinces' boards. This commission has the authority to decide on behalf of the board of trustees and only inform them of its decisions.

Deciding on the increase of tuition in non-medical courses were left to the discretion of Qom and Alborz provinces. Thus, these branches could decide whether to increase the tuition to a maximum of 15-percent or leave it unchanged in competition with other universities over students. However, both board of trustees emphasized that the base tuition for current students of the university would not change.

**Iran's News**

## National Science Foundation of Iran to Collaborate with Research Foundation of Germany

In a meeting between the National Science Foundation of Iran and the Research Foundation of Germany, two sides signed an agreement for future collaborations. The DFG of Germany supports researches done in basic sciences, engineering and the humanities through a large variety of grant programs, prizes and funding infrastructure. This independent organization is based in Bonn and receives its finances from the German states and the federal government. This organization only accepts Germany's leading research universities as its members.

Dr. Nosratollah Zargham, head of Iran's National Science Foundation accompanied by a special committee, visited DFG and discussed various matters with Professor Frank Allgöwer, vice-president of DFG, and Dr. Jörg Schneider, head of division of international affairs. DFG is a member of the International Council for Science and has numerous counterparts around the globe such as the National Foundation of Natural Sciences of China, the National Foundation of Sciences of the U.S.A. and the Royal Society of the Great Britain. DFG has several representative offices in Asia, North America and Europe and also runs



the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion, jointly founded by the DFG and the National Foundation of Natural Sciences of China. On 9 June 2012, the DFG established a centre in Hyderabad to expand its presence in India. Today, the German-based research foundation and India's Department of Science and Technology are together working on 40 bilateral research projects in different fields of science and engineering. In the meeting between Iranian and German officials, they signed a collaboration agreement with the purpose of conducting joint projects, exchanging researchers in diverse research activities and holding joint scientific events such as special conferences, seminars, workshops and so on.

## IAU's Elite Incubators Announced Top Honors

The finishing ceremony of the fifth IAU's inventions' exhibition and the seventh's elite incubators' exhibition, alongside announcing the top participants and designs, was held in Karaj branch of the Islamic Azad University. In this ceremony, eight projects were recognized as the top submissions by the jurors.

Director of this branch said: "Evaluation of the submitted projects and overall performance of the participants were done in the fields of electronics and control, development and urbanism, mechanics, medicine and medical devices, metallurgy, agriculture and chemistry."

Dr. Behroz Mirza continued: "Anthropomorphic robot 'Sourena 3' by Aghil Yusefi, dented dampers able to reduce the severity of construction damages caused by earthquakes by Sadeq Garivani, design and control of a medical aid robot for patients suffering from spinal cord disorders by Ismael Mohammadi, bathing device suitable for bedridden patients by Rasoul Mokhtari, sampling cover for self-exam of breast by Meysam Akhlagh-doust, special fertilizers containing endophytic bacteria for paddy fields by Hossein-ali Alikhani, design for increasing the critical break toughness in carbon composites by Kaveh Kolahgar, and generator of electromagnetic waves preventing electronic sediments by Arash Sadeghi were the top projects introduced for duly honoring."

Over 400 projects from 31 provinces were submitted to the secretary of these exhibitions, from which 163 were accepted as fit for participation. According to Dr. Mirza, the aim of holding such events is creating an opportunity for identifying and supporting the top talents, also preparing the circumstances for a move towards commercialization of studies and research findings.

He said: "Authority of the country is dependent on science and knowledge economy and Iran has enough talent and potentials to without any need to resources such as oil, be among the major global powers."

**IRAN UPDATES**

### No Talks of Russia Returning to Azar Oil Field

Managing Director of Iran's Petroleum Engineering and Development Company Abdolreza Hosseinejad said there are no negotiations being held regarding Russians returning to Azar oil field. Answering a question by IRNA, he said the Russian contractors could sign deals to develop Changouleh oil field. He further said that no contracts have been signed with Chinese firms to develop the second phase of west Karoun oil fields because they demanded an unusually big amount for the task.

### Chabahar-Oman Direct Passenger Shipping Line Due within Days

An Iranian official said here on Saturday that Iran and Oman plan to launch a direct passenger shipping line between the two Persian Gulf states within the next days. Talking to IRNA, Managing Director of Chabahar Free Trade Zone Hamed-Ali Mobaraki said the passenger shipping line could have a positive impact on expansion of relations between the two countries.

He added the move would pave the ground for development and prosperity of the region. Mobaraki reiterated that all the infrastructures are prepared for the entire infrastructure for air, sea and land travels in Chabahar.

### Iran, French Credit Insurer Ink Agreement

Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and French credit insurer Coface inked a cooperation agreement on Saturday. The agreement was inked during the visit of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to France. The agreement would pave the ground for expansion of mutual trade cooperation. Meanwhile, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Valiollah Seif in a meeting with his Italian counterpart Ignazio Visco in Rome last week said that facilitation of banking agent interaction between the two countries led to signing MoU on increasing insurance coverage of SACE to more than 6 billion euros to CBI.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Inside IAU**

## Bandar-abbas Branch: Top University of Hormozgan



Ehdi Bagheri, secretariat of IAU's board of trustees in Hormozgan province, took part in a meeting with the officials and staff of Sobhe Emrooz newspaper, which has helped the Islamic Azad University thus far in keeping touch with the people and informing them of its various activities. In this meeting, Bagheri reported on the operations of 12 knowledge companies in Hormozgan province and said: "Three products of these companies have reached the stage of mass production; the rest are in different stages of development and are working on their marketing campaigns."

He mentioned to the share of the Islamic Azad University in country's higher education, announcing it as 46-percent, and claimed this alone turns this university into one of the largest establishments of higher education in the world. He said: "The Islamic Azad University is the result of a committed answer to social demand and want and as such, is obligated to take up its share of responsibility through realizing various needs of the scientific community and answering them accordingly."

Director of Hormozgan's IAU added: "Around half of the populace of the students in higher education programs of the country is attending IAU. We have been able to provide for a significant amount of the society's scientific needs through establishing practical and required courses. The number of alumni of IAU's branches located in Hormozgan alone is around 66,270. Since the beginning of the current year, 8,500 students have finished their studies and graduated and it is estimated that by the end of the year, this will increase up to 10,000 graduates."

Bagheri referred to Bandar-abbas branch with 20,500 students as the biggest IAU's branch in Hormozgan province and also announced that the Islamic Azad University in this province, in terms of the student and faculty population is ranked at the top of the list of Hormozgan's institutions of higher education. He added: "There are a total of 570 faculty members in this province, 297 or 53-percent of which are cooperating with IAU."



**MEETING OF IAU'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SAMA COUNCIL OF THE ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY HELD THEIR MEETINGS WITH THE PRESENCE OF DR. MIRZADEH.