



**Mosque of Semnan Branch**

atemeh al-Zahra (S) mosque on the center of Semnan branch of the Islamic Azad University is neighbor to the tomb of anonymous martyrs. This building with a large area of 2,000 square meters, has two separate floors for male and female worshippers. According to the local designs, the interior and exterior are mostly decorated with bricks.

## Iran, Top Middle Eastern Country regarding Essay Reference



Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) announces that a survey through all the essays submitted to Scopus and ISI data banks in 2014 has proved that Iran has raised its status to be the first country in the Middle East. Dr. Mohammad Javad Dehghani, director of ISC, said: "A survey through all the essays submitted proves that Iran has raised its status. Although our scientific achievements are less than Turkey, our quality is much better. A review of Iran and Turkey's essays submitted to the most authentic international journals, indexed in Thomson Reuters' Master List, proves it." Dehaghni also mentioned: "Iran's contribution to essays submitted in 2010 was 0.9-percent of the total submissions in the world, but it has reached 1.4-percent in 2014. However, it is a different case for Turkey. Their scientific productions have been losing its quality; their contribution was around 1-percent in 2010 and this has not changed since." He also added: "During the last five years, Iran's contribution to the world's scientific productions has been constantly increased, which is a result of submitting essays to the most authentic journals around the world. Iran's contribution to scientific productions was 1.1-percent in 2010 and 1.5 in 2014." The quality of any scientific production, which is evaluated by the number of references made to them, is one of the most important factors in being recognized as a credible scientific production in the world. This scientific and technological recognition is the first clause in the scientific and technological policies stated by the Supreme Leader. Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) is a citation index established by Iran's ministry of Science, Research and Technology. It only indexed academic journals from the Islamic countries.

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

Shahr-e Kord Branch of Islamic Azad University

## Establishment of Research and Study Center of Futurism



*we are planning to work with Kuwait's higher education centers in the fields of Nursing, Islamic Architecture, and Traditional and Herbal Medicine*



Director of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari branch says: "In line with Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani's decree in the central council's meeting of the previous year and his emphasis on the topic of future studies, Shahr-e Kord branch of the Islamic Azad University will establish the Research and Study Center of Futurism." Dr. Abdullah Pirbalouti, referred to this branch's activities in the fields of knowledge, economics, and culture -which were the main motto of the 69th general meeting of IAU's central council- and stated: "In the field of culture, we held four memorial programs in the province, two of which finished and one is still going on. Also, the initial phase of martyrs' monument in Shahr-e Kord branch has also been carried out." Deputy of IAU's board of trustees in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari mentioned that half of the memorial programs in this province are in their final phase and that an art-culture camp

will be constructed near Zayanderud River, along with the symbol of the university, and the construction of it will start in late February or early March.

### Constant Growth

Regarding the educational activities, Dr. Pirbalouti explained: "Thanks to the efforts of IAU's managers, we experienced a substantial development in our graduate programs. Since IAU has a large number of educational centers, we were lacking in comparison to their average quota; fortunately, we found the chance to develop the graduate studies from one Ph.D. program in 2013 to current 22 and this seems an acceptable development." He continued: "Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari branch of the Islamic Azad University had only 20 M.A. programs in 2013, but today it is offering 60 programs. Also, according to Scimago index, Shahr-e Kord branch has been amongst top 100 universities of Iran

in 2015. Pursuing IAU's policy of lowering over-reliance on tuitions, this year 16-percent of university's income was earned through knowledge companies and economic investments. Some of the university's knowledge activities were: Namad art group, pasteurized dairy factory, processing herbal medicine, pisciculture (trout), and producing organic meat." He mentioned the Research and Study Center of Futurism and said: "A few research programs of this field related to the province's issues, especially economic ones, will be carried out there by the faculty members of the university." Ghasemi also informed about university's international communications and relation with foreign universities and said: "Considering the fact that some people from Shahr-e Kord are currently residing in Kuwait, we are planning to work with Kuwait's higher education centers in the fields of Nursing, Islamic Architecture, and Traditional and Herbal Medicine."

### Iran's News

## IAU Has More than 670 Technological Units



Director of technological development and industry liaison of the Islamic Azad University says that more than 70 incubator centers of this university have been established so far which are themselves hosting more than 670 technological units. According to him, IAU would have another 150 units in the next two years. Dr. Davod Samari, attending the first Conference of University Entrepreneurs held in Gilan branch of the Islamic Azad University, said that university branches have certain capacities which pave the way towards a better relationship between the academic and technologic sides in the society and based on this, sustainable entrepreneurship in line with technology has turned into one of the most important priorities of the university. He said: "The general policy of the

Islamic Azad University in the field of research and technology is promotion of practical researches in accordance with the needs and demands identified in the country and currently, certain specialized commissions are working on this." Referring to the goals of a conference such as University Entrepreneurs, Dr. Samari maintained: "One of the aims is to recognize the top faculty members, students and graduates active in the field of entrepreneurship. Their efforts and contributions would be appreciated in this conference and next, they could continue their work in IAU's incubator centers. If we are committed to creating an entrepreneur university, we need such people helping us and such conferences would be a great opportunity for recognizing and realizing their potentials."

## Production of Polymer Solar Cells in Central Tehran Branch



isagh Bahrami, graduate student of electronics in Central Tehran branch of the Islamic Azad University, has succeeded in producing polymer solar cells. He says: "Polymer solar cells are capable of converting solar to electrical energy. These newly designed cells have significant advantages compared to the common ones, a few of which are flexibility, low production cost and light weight. Two main concerns regarding polymer solar cells are their low efficiency and stability. One way to resolve these problems is to use reverse structures in their production. We have produced two normal and reversed structure cells in this project and measured their stability. The results indicated that reversed polymer solar cells are more stable and also, by increasing the fill factor and open-circuit voltage, their

efficiency would also become higher than the normal ones. This means that the efficiency of these polymer solar cells would have a slower reduction rate which implies its longevity." According to Bahrami, these solar cells could be used in any place and situation which is in need of an energy source; but due to their flexibility and easy installation, the main use would be in military industries. This project is the result of Misagh Bahrami's efforts alongside Dr. Sabaghi, member of scientific board of engineering faculty in Central Tehran branch, Dr. Bashirian, member of scientific board of basic sciences faculty in the same branch, Dr. Arabpor, post-doctorate researcher of polymer engineering in Tarbiat Modares University, and Mahnaz Khavari, graduate student of electronics in Central Tehran branch.

### Iran Oil Exports to Rise by 500K Barrels

An official at the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) says Iran will increase its crude oil exports by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) during the current month. Mohsen Qamsari, NIOC's international affairs director, noted that Iran had already promised to boost its oil exports by 500,000 bpd when international sanctions imposed on the country's energy and economic sanctions are removed. "This promise will be fulfilled during the current month ... and most of the added volume will go to European countries," Qamsari said. Elsewhere in his interview, the official stated that Iran is bent on making further increases to its crude oil exports, adding, "We are now in talks to make a further boost to oil exports."

### Iran-Oman Firm to Boost All-out Relations

Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, has described Iran-Oman relations as exemplary, saying Tehran and Muscat are keen to expand relations in various fields to contribute to regional and international peace and security. Speaking at a joint press conference with Omani Foreign Minister, Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, in Tehran on Saturday, Zarif added that Iran considers no limits to the expansion of relations with Oman in all sectors. He added that the current visit by the Omani foreign minister to Tehran shows that the two sides attach significance to promotion of cooperation, particularly in trade, commercial and economic fields as well as joint investment.

### Iran Discussing Investments with US Firms

Iran said on Saturday that it has started preliminary talks with some American companies over certain investment projects in the country. Iran's Minister of Mine, Industries and Trade, Mohammad-Reza Nematzadeh, said that the target sectors over which discussions are underway include the construction of power plants and investments in production of medical equipment. Nematzadeh did not name the American companies but emphasized that they among "the most advanced and the most renowned" US enterprises. He added that the Americans are negotiating with Iran through their European offshoots.

### Inside IAU

## Najaf-abad Branch: Inauguration of 8 Knowledge Companies



Seyyed-Mohammad Amiri, director of Najaf-abad branch of the Islamic Azad University, explaining this branch's activities in way of expanding knowledge companies, said: "These companies have designed products like LED drivers, colored concrete and a fully automatic cleansing device for patients, which are at their final stages and ready to be mass produced. Several of Najaf-abad branch's activities like joining SHAFA project would have a significant effect on reducing reliance on tuition. Also, we have estimated a 30-percent reduction for the coming year; this has been made possible due to selling the products and services of knowledge companies, optimizing the administrative procedures and assigning some of the university's services to the private sector."

Amiri referred to the cultural activities of this branch and said: "Empowering culture is one of the Najaf-abad branch's policies. In the near future, the project of equipping and inaugurating the culture and art complex with a budget of 47 billion Rials would be completed. We have also established 20 student journals, 20 scientific and 13 cultural student associations in this branch. Hosting IAU's Futsal, Wushu and Taekwondo matches, is another one of this branch's recreational activities." He noted the recent activities regarding publication of journals and books in Najaf-abad branch and went on: "This branch is one of the few establishments owning a publication center authorized by the ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance; publishing 27 titles in the current year has made us one of the forerunners of this field. Also, we are planning to publish English language journals as a top priority. We are in pursuit of recruiting foreign students and exchanging professors and students with the credible universities of the neighboring countries. Following this decision, head of Synergy University of Russia just recently visited IAU's Najaf-abad branch and we are working on signing a collaboration agreement between these two institutions."



### QOM BRANCH OF ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY

DR. HAMID MIRZADEH, CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY, ACCOMPANIED BY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS VISITED AND SURVEYED QOM BRANCH.