



Jolfa Branch to Cooperate with Aras Free Trade Zone

Supervisor of the international branch of Jolfa of the Islamic Azad University says: "The emphasis of the chairman of the university, Dr. Hamid Mirzadeh, in the 70th general meeting of IAU's Central Council, on the importance of admitting foreign students could open up new horizons in the activities pursued by the international branches of this university."

Dr. Mohammad-Hossein Sadeghi said: "International branch of Jolfa started its work around 10 years ago with only 2 courses; but today, this branch offers more than 70 associate, undergraduate and postgraduate programs. This branch is located in Aras Free Trade Zone and has a decent amount of cooperation with the industries resided within this zone. This is why we are working on an agreement with the authorities of Aras Free Trade Zone to boost the cooperation in the field of knowledge economy."

He continued: "So far, we have carried out a research on the Aluminum fuel tanks that cost and weigh less than the current in-use models. Fortunately, Iran's neighboring countries know the potentials and capabilities of the Islamic Azad University. As such, there are many foreigners interested in studying in Iran and we are determined to seize this opportunity."

POINT OF VIEW



Bardsir Branch to Participate in Regional Development

Governor of Bardsir, in a meeting with the board of directors of Bardsir branch of the Islamic Azad University for Norooz Greetings, mentioned the great potentials of this region for scientific and research projects and demanded for customized developmental projects with the participation of this academic center. Javad Sadeghi, relating great value to the efforts of the Bardsir branch in the past year, said: "Authorities of Bardsir, on their part, would put more effort in the coming year to collaborate with this educational organization with the aim of benefiting the region. It is a known fact that the local authorities have always favored the presence of the Islamic Azad University as it leads to faster development rates. A prime example of this is Bardsir branch which plays an important role in directing the young minds in the area." Dr. Vahid Khatibi, director of Bardsir branch of the Islamic Azad University, reported the important achievements of this institution in the past year and, appreciating the favors shown by the local authorities, promised a better collaboration between the sides in the coming year.

CONTACT US

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

Commencement of Iran's International Robocup

Determination to Become a Scientific Authority



Dr. Ebrahim Vasheghani-Farahani, deputy of research and technology of the Islamic Azad University, in the opening ceremony of Iran's 11th round of international competitions of Robocup, said: "IAU is determined to turn the decree of Iran's Supreme Leader into practice by improving the country's scientific base and becoming a scientific authority in the area."

Iran's 11th Azad International Competitions of Robocup started its activity through the opening ceremony held in Tehran's permanent fairgrounds with the presence of Dr. Sourena Sattari, President's deputy of science and technology, Dr. Ebrahim Vasheghani-Farahani, IAU's deputy of research and technology, Morteza Mousakhani, head of Robocup Committee, a number of IAU's officials, ambassadors of South Korea and Philippines, and students and professors participating in this round of Robocup.

Vasheghani-Farahani, emphasizing that hosting such competitions could have great scientific value for the country's academic

circle, said: "Competitiveness, in general, is a nice trait to have, and the best competition is the one over science and knowledge. Hosting such events will help our youngsters, especially students of high school to university, to free their creativity. The very fact that younger ones are participating in these competitions, through which their confidence would grow, shows a great determination in line with the decree of Iran's Supreme Leader regarding the importance of improving the country's scientific base and becoming a scientific authority."

Promotion of Knowledge Products in National Media

Dr. Sourena Sattari, President's deputy of science and technology, also said: "Currently, the country's atmosphere of entrepreneurship is dominated by petroleum's exports; a nation with such a significant background of novelty and commerce is losing its creativity due to the false ease of exports' income. We do not have the confidence to invest on entrepreneurship, while in reality the potential exists within the country to make substantial

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change for the better. Therefore, I am glad that the universities are pioneer in the march towards entrepreneurship."

He claimed that universities are the field where change in the society is realized and turned into reality; he stated: "Our priority is to increase the country's GDP.

Instead of a situation in which university graduates seek governmental employment with the hope of taking part in the income of petroleum's export, we should take advantage of our country's potential for efficient and valuable human resources with the aim of promoting successful entrepreneurship. For the same reason, the national media has decided on a 40% discount for the promotion of knowledge products."

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Iran's News

Increase of Short-term Courses in Foreign Universities



Director of Iran's Organization of Student Affairs and also the deputy of ministry of Science, Research, and Technology, says that universities should increase the post-doc capacities by furthering the scientific and cultural interactions with other countries, with the hope that they could use the scientific international capacities. Dr. Mojtaba Sedighi added: "The road should be paved diligently so that Iranian students could use Iran's academic facilities more efficiently and do not feel the need to go abroad in pursuit of furthering their studies. In order for this to be realized, we should improve quality and quantity-wise. As far as quantity is concerned, different institutions of higher education have developed significantly, creating decent capacities within the country. But the quality of the courses and programs offered, in

the shape of facilities such as labs, still needs improvement." He went on: "It is decided that starting from the next year, more budgets be devoted for the sake of equipping laboratories and workshops. Regarding the international relations, we saw to it that the number of Ph.D. students who can spend a part of their studies abroad in the form of short-term courses, could be increased. Such programs could help the students to get familiar with a new academic atmosphere, thus improving the quality of Ph.D. programs. We would have more post-doc courses compared to 1394. We are hoping that with the assistance of the universities, the ministry of science, and the deputy of science in the presidential office, we could train our graduates better and at the same time, use our international opportunities more efficiently."

New Doctorate Program of Industrial Design



Dr. Majid Sarsangi, head of arts workgroup in the Council for Promoting Humanities and Liberal Arts, says: "This council was founded in 2011 with the main objective of preparing and reviewing the curriculum and the rubric of the related academic courses. For this purpose, the council established 15 workgroups, one of which was the arts workgroup." He continued: "The arts workgroup is responsible for reviewing the academic rubrics of the arts major, and to also organize the new courses set to be inaugurated in the near future. After passing the new devised courses, several conventions and seminars would be held in line with their subjects in the country and the sources required for the course would be published officially. In 2015, we considered 3 new courses, one of which was the master level of the arts economy. Mashhad's Univer-

sity of Imam Reza and Isfahan's University of Arts have been offering this course as a trial program for the past 2 years. The finalized rubrics of this major have been approved and would be submitted to the ministry of Science in the near future. We intend to admit students interested in this course in both faculties of economy and arts." Sarsangi mentioned the popularity of the industrial design as an academic course and went on: "Another academic course considered by the arts workgroup is the industrial design. This course has been offered in bachelor and master levels in various universities for around 40 years, but all the professors of this major have received their doctorate from foreign universities. Fortunately, faculty of fine arts in Tehran University has designed the doctorate program of this course and has established its rubrics."



OPENING OF IRAN'S ROBOCUP 2016

11TH ROUND OF IRAN'S INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS OF ROBOCUP WAS COMMENCED IN A CEREMONY ATTENDED BY DR. SOURENA SATTARI, DEPUTY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE PRESIDENT, AND DR. VASHEGHANI-FARAHANI, DEPUTY OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY.

NEWS PHOTOS

IRAN UPDATES

Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkey FM's Sign Documents for Cooperation

Foreign ministers of Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkey have signed two documents to strengthen trilateral cooperation and improve peace and security in the region. Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad-Javad Zarif, and his Turkish and Azeri counterparts, Mevlut Cavusoglu and Elmar Mammadyarov respectively, signed the documents and issued a statement at the end of the fourth session of trilateral talks in the Iranian city of Ramsar in the northern province of Mazandaran. Zarif said foreign ministers of the three countries agreed that their deputies would set up a steering committee to follow up on decisions adopted during the trilateral meeting in Ramsar.

1st S-300 Shipment to Head to Iran in Coming Days

A senior Russian official says Moscow is to deliver the first shipment of its S-300 air defense systems to Iran in the coming days as part of a long-running contract between Tehran and Moscow. "I don't know if this will happen today, but they (the consignments) will be loaded [for shipment to Iran]," Zamir Kabulov, a department chief at the Russian Foreign Ministry, was quoted by Russia's Interfax news agency. In mid-February, the official had said that Moscow would deliver the surface-to-air missile systems to the Islamic Republic in "the nearest time". Russia committed to delivering the systems to Iran under a USD 800-million deal in 2007. Moscow, however, refused to deliver the systems to Tehran in 2010 under the pretext of the sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program.

Arabia Attempting to Slow Iran Oil Surge

A new report points to Saudi Arabia's attempts to hinder Iran's efforts to regain its market share of the global oil trade. The Financial Times report said Saudi Arabia has been banning vessels that transport Iranian crude from entering their waters. The report citing traders and shipbrokers said Iranian oil tankers are restricted from entering ports in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The FT added that a circular by a shipping insurance company to its members in February said vessels that have called to Iran as one of its last three ports of entry would also require approval from Saudi and Bahraini authorities before entering their waters. Shipbrokers and traders have relayed the same messages ever since.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Collaborations between Parliament and IAU to Increase this Year



Ojrat ol'Isam Ali Askari, representative of the Islamic Azad University in the parliament, says: "Last year, IAU conducted fruitful collaborations with the parliament which led to gaining the support of 242, or over 83-percent of the parliamentary members. The next parliament is also composed of a great line-up, with women playing a more prominent role and Dr. Larjani as the moderate fundamentalist and Dr. Aref as the moderate reformist, both of whom are well liked by the public. Last year has been a successful one in terms of foreign policy, international relations, and the national affairs. The public's participation in the elections of the Assembly of Experts and the Islamic Parliament added to these achievements. Indeed, these all have been victorious events for the country, but the important task is to keep on the same path. The members and representatives of the parliament need to work with each other so they could lead Iran to its bright future." Parliamentary representative of IAU went on: "Around 40 people from IAU's boards of trustees, scientific boards and the branch directors have been elected as the parliament members. We intend to make use of this capacity for establishing the parliamentary group of IAU in the near future."

He further noted: "Since the serving time of the several members of the boards of trustees has ended, we intend to employ the services of known and popular figures, who have also received considerable amount of votes. In order to realize the policies devised for the development of the science and technology which has been decreed by the Supreme Leader of Iran, also for the sake of the major policies of the Islamic Azad University -particularly those related to knowledge economy-, we intend to establish an effective and efficient collaborative relationship with the parliament."