



6 Universities of Iran Cooperate with European Ones

Dr. Mandana Tisbeh-Yar, general manager of the Scientific and International Cooperation Office of Tabatabaei University, says that six of Iran's universities will cooperate with European universities in the field of scientific activities.

Tisbeh-Yar said: "This scientific, international cooperation, charge of which is delegated to Alameh Tabatabaei University, was initiated in the past January. A party of universities has also been formed for further cooperation. The six Iranian universities taking part in this project are Alameh Tabatabaei University, Mashhad's Ferdowsi University, Shiraz University, Ahvaz Shahr Chamran University, and Kordestan University. The European universities in this cooperation are from Scotland, Austria, and Spain. We have had several meetings in this regard and further meetings will be held in the spring. The ministry of Science, Research, and Technology is the supervisor of this academic project." General manager of the Scientific Cooperation Office went on: "This cooperation will be pursued in different forms such as holding joint meetings, exchange of the professors and students, and carrying out shared projects. We want to develop these relations with other countries in our next steps. But we need to have relations and cooperation with Iran's universities so that we could garner more experiences before developing our international cooperation."

Iranian Researcher Converts Agricultural Wastes to Biofuels

An Iranian researcher has devised a method to convert agricultural wastes into biofuels, and won the 29th Khwarizmi International Award (KIA). Project manager, Mohammad-Jafar Taher-zadeh, who has won the second place of the Khwarizmi Award in basic research, told one of the problems in the agricultural sector is the production of waste which is ultimately useless. He added that the waste and debris are utilized as the most abundant renewable resources to produce valuable products, including organic fertilizers, biofuels, green and organic solvents and Amino Acids. Taher-zadeh underlined however that the production of valuable materials from the waste is very costly and time-consuming due to its complex structure. He went on to say that the process requires complex, multi-step methods that include pretreatment, enzymatic hydrolysis, fermentation and purification. Taher-zadeh, who is a professor in the University of Borås in Sweden, added that the facilitation of these processes is very important since it could produce biofuels from agricultural waste. He said: "The research mainly deals with the design of an efficient and inexpensive process for the production of valuable products such as bioethanol, biogas, amino acids, green solvents and polyesters in the laboratory, pilot and industry levels."

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

Increasing Budget for Research Activities

IAU Supports Student-based Conferences to Solve Social Issues



Specialized and trained workforces in the universities and educational institutions should believe that they can bring about scientific changes in the society



Director of Markazi branch of the Islamic Azad University says: "Islamic Azad University supports student-based conferences, under supervision of professors and specialist and also abiding by the university's regulations, in order to reduce and solve the most pressing social issues and problems. The university will do so through an increase in the budgets and its directives." In the second student conference of "Effects of Drugs and Sedative Medicines", director of Arak branch of the Islamic Azad University, emphasized on the significance of a skilled workforce in human societies and said: "If we analyze the human societies scientifically and discuss them thoroughly, we will see that having specialist human resources is the main factor in achieving success in these societies." Dr. Alireza Nezam-abadi claimed that specialized human resources are able to make difference between an advanced, progressing society, and a passive, non-progressing one.

He further added: "Specialized and trained workforces in the universities and educational institutions should believe that they can bring about scientific changes in the society."

Better Impact of Student Conferences

Dr. Nezam-abadi, mentioning the great civilization and history of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its value both in national and international levels, said: "The enemies of the country, after having been defeated in the holy war, are now trying to conspire in new ways in order to prevent Iran from its proper scientific progress. Fortunately, the insight of the authorities, especially academic ones such as Dr. Mirzadeh, is helping in improving the knowledge and research quality. Accordingly, Islamic Azad University will support student-based conferences which are held with the purpose of solving social problems and would do so by increasing the budget devoted to research activities and passing of directives regarding this subject." He further added that these conferences

should be observed and supervised by the universities' professors and specialists, also they should abide by the rules of the universities. Dr. Nezam-abadi maintained that such conferences hosted by the students could have a better impact on the younger generations. He went on: "If our academics, cultural experts, and authorities do not show a diligent response to the issue of addiction, it will leave its scorching mark on the society, especially the youngsters." He further mentioned that universities could be a suitable source in generating convenient and scientific solutions to these problems. He said: "We hope that with the help of the authorities and experts, the opportunities could be utilized properly and that we could make great progress in the way of strengthening the ties of families." In this conference, different articles were presented on the subject of different drugs, the importance of families and friends in the rehabilitation process, etc. At the end of the conference, authors of the top articles were appreciated.

Iran's News

Measuring Medicine Dosage in Cancer Patients



Researchers of the University of Tabriz, in collaboration with the researchers of Urmia and Tabriz, have succeeded in producing a sensor capable of measuring the amount of the anticancer medicine taken by the patients. This sensor, which has been optimized through graphene oxide, could be used in production of medical and pharmacy equipment. Dr. Mohammad Hasan-zadeh named doxorubicin as one of the most efficient drugs used in chemotherapy, saying: "We have introduced a new polymer sensor for measuring the exact amount of doxorubicin in biological samples." Hasan-zadeh elaborated on the structure and functionality of the said sensor and continued: "In this project, for the purpose of detecting and measuring the amount of doxorubicin, a polymer-graphene nano-composite has been used as

the effective compound in making the electrochemical nano-sensor. The electrochemical method resolves the need to derive the drug. The obtained electrode in this project detects and measures the concentration of the drug through oxidizing it. Also, this nano-sensor is capable of measuring the amount of the drug in bodily fluids such as the cerebrospinal fluid, plasma and urine." The first stage of this process includes synthesizing the graphene oxide, functionalizing it, and producing the functionalized and magnetic polystyrene-graphene oxide. In the next stage, the synthesized nano-composite is fixed upon the glassy carbon electrode; then it is time for evaluating the functionality of the electrode in measuring the amount of the anticancer drug. Finally, the obtained results are validated through the criteria of FDA.

Iran's Scientific Cooperation with Kurdistan Regional Government



Dr. Hossein Salar-Amoli, deputy of international affairs in the ministry of Science, Research and Technology, met with Dr. Yousef Gouran, KRG's minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research to consider possible cooperation in the field of science and technology between the two countries. In this meeting, Salar-Amoli mentioned his recent trip to Kurdistan Regional Government and enumerated this trip's goals as exchange of KRG's students and professors to Iran's science institutions, cooperation between the faculty members, establishing the chair of Persian Language, establishing branches of Iran's universities in Kurdistan Regional Government, and developing a joint university of engineering. He also added: "We are hoping that the cooperation is put into practice as soon as possible. There is also a committee pursu-

ing this goal. One of these goals is attracting KRG's students and professors to Iran's universities. It is decided that 25% of all the students in KRG be submitted to Iran's universities. The universities of Iran, that have declared readiness in admissions, are: Kurdistan's University, Urmia University, Tehran University's Medical faculty, Al-Zahra University, Iran University of Science and Technology, Amirkabir University of Technology, and Payam Noor University." He elaborated the details of establishing a joint engineering university, pursued by Isfahan University of Technology and Sulaimaniyah University, adding: "If proper location is found for this university, we will start admitting students from the coming October. Also, Tehran University's Medical faculty has declared readiness for exchange of the students in this field."

Iran Prepared to Attract Foreign Investment

President Hassan Rouhani says there is suitable ground for foreign investment in Iran as he receives his South Korean counterpart Park Geun-hye in Tehran. President Park was accorded an official welcome in Tehran on Monday on the first day of her three-day visit, heading South Korea's biggest-ever traveling business delegation of over 230 executives. The two presidents then sat for their first meeting since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1962. They were expected to discuss a wide array of issues, ranging from energy, banking, and infrastructure to challenges in the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula. The two sides are also expected to seal deals worth over €10 billion. South Korea has said it is eager to participate in Iran's development projects and expand economic cooperation on communication technology, information, healthcare and culture.

Parliament Vote Boosting Defensive Capacity

The Iranian parliament has voted in favor of a bill to boost the missile capabilities of the country's armed forces to strengthen the country's defensive capacity and deterrence. Iranian parliamentarians on Sunday approved an additional article to Iran's next five-year development plan, which allows the country to expand its defensive abilities, including the production of missiles, reinforcing the air defense at short, medium and long ranges and developing the electronic war strength. The article also requires the government to conduct research and planning to produce weapons needed in the fight against terrorism. On April 4, Iranian lawmakers also reiterated their support for the country's missile program and condemned any measures that would undermine national security.

Iran Cancels Flights to Baghdad over Turmoil

Iran cancels all flights to the Iraqi capital after demonstrators broke into the heavily-fortified government complex in the Green Zone in Baghdad. Head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, Saeed Ohadi, said massive demonstrations in Baghdad on Saturday would certainly cause problems for pilgrimage flights to Baghdad. "In coordination with [Iranian] airlines, we decided to transfer flights to holy shrines, which were scheduled to be made to the Baghdad airport, to the city of Najaf since today (Sunday) so that the pilgrims will face no problem," Ohadi added.

Inside IAU

Sarvestan Branch: Inauguration of Medicine Research Center



Deputy of education and research in Sarvestan branch of the Islamic Azad University says that the medicine research center of this branch is going to be inaugurated; he said: "In order to recruit investors for this center, we have submitted the project plan to the chamber of investment of Sarvestan." Dr. Mohammad-Mehdi Ghanbari presented a report on the activities of his deputy and added: "One of the priorities of the deputy of education and research in Sarvestan branch is to inaugurate the medicine research center which operates in line with the courses offered in this branch. The inauguration of this center needs financing, hence our calling for investors submitted to the chamber of investment." He mentioned the advantages of this university, such as professional professors, diligent staff and equipped labs and workshops, adding: "This academic branch owns over 30 workshops and labs with the latest equipment in various courses such as foodstuff industry, power and electronics, mechanic and welding, computer, chemistry, physics and civil engineering, which provide the situation for offering the best educational services to the students." This official pointed to increase in the number of courses in accordance with Sarvestan branch's capacities, particularly in the field of graduate studies, as one of the plans of this branch and stated: "Considering the fact that Sarvestan is the only region in Fars province with oil reserves, also due to its status in the agriculture sector such as pistachio and olive gardens, the expansion of courses related to these fields could attract more students and also contribute to the development of the area." He noted the importance of reducing reliance on tuition and the role of the research field regarding this matter. He said: "Standardization of labs and workshops could be of help in increasing the relations between the university and industries, which in turn would lead to raising the revenue for the branch."



CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL TEACHERS' DAY
DR. HAMID MIRZADEH, CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY, ATTENDED THE CELEBRATION HONORING THE NATIONAL TEACHERS' DAY, HELD IN NORTH TEHRAN BRANCH.