



'IAU has had positive influences on different sectors'

Mahmoud Zamani-Ghomi, governor of Markazi province, says that Islamic Azad University has had positive effects on every field related to the management, industry, and research. He said: "IAU has trained numerous students, preparing them as qualified workforce of Markazi province. Those graduated from this university are among the successful managers who are administering industrial atmospheres and different industries and research centers." Zamani went on: "Considering the fact that Dr. Hamid Mirzadeh, chairman of IAU, has acknowledge the scientific relation between this university and other governmental and managerial bodies, it is clear that the research centers and industrial zones should be strengthened so that IAU could play an even better and more prominent role in the development of Markazi province." It should be mentioned that IAU has several branches in Markazi province, the most important of which is located in the capital of this province, Arak. Today this branch, starting with only 600 students, has more than 20,000 students in 201 different fields, 33 of which are offered as Ph.D. programs. Arak branch is only one example of the branches in this province, yet it is enough to show the impact of IAU on Markazi province.

POINT OF VIEW



Minister of Science Visited Lithuania's FM

Iran's minister of Science, Research, and Technology met with Linas Linkevicius, Lithuania's minister of Foreign Affairs, in order to develop the relations between these two countries. According to the ministry's PR, in this visit Dr. Mohammad Farhadi, mentioning the long history of close relations between Iran and Lithuania, also their signed agreements in the past, expressed hope that the relations with other countries in the European Union could also improve. Regarding the development of relations with Lithuania, Farhadi said: "We are interested in developing our scientific relations with Lithuania's centers of higher education, especially now that we have passed the era of sanctions." He referred to Iran's population, 80 million, and the population of the students in higher education system as five million, and said: "Iran has 160 universities and 2,800 institutions of higher education, 38 technology parks, and 167 incubator centers; all of these are active in the field of turning ideas into products, and science into wealth. Iran is the third country in the world with regards to the number of engineers. The researchers of Iran and Lithuania could cooperate in the fields of ICT, IT, genetics, biotechnology, and biochemistry and conduct shared projects."

CONTACT US

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

Council Meeting of IAU in Mazandaran Province

Entrepreneurship and Knowledge Activities Are IAU's Priorities



Yaser Hashemi, Secretariat to IAU's Board of Trustees

Yaser Hashemi, secretariat to the board of trustees in the Islamic Azad University, attended the council meeting of this university in Ramsar branch on Wednesday, June 1. In this sitting, he referred to the range of activities emphasized by Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani, head of the founding council and board of directors of IAU, and said: "Based on his decrees, for now creating an entrepreneur university which is active in the field of knowledge economy is the main mission of IAU." Honoring the anniversary of passing over of Imam Khomeini (RA), he mentioned the supports of this figure shown for IAU group and went on: "This university is one of the prominent achievements of the Islamic Revolution and as such, is a reminder of Imam (RA) and his emphasis on the importance of education and knowledge."

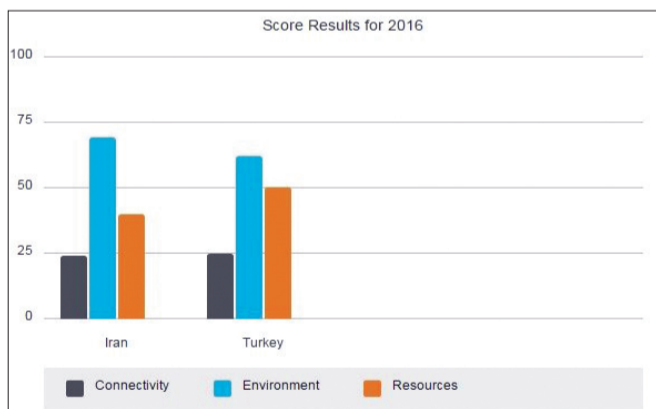
4 Decades of Activity

Hashemi further appreciated the support shown by Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Supreme Leader of Revolution, saying: "A large number of significant figures and statesmen have helped in the formation of IAU, pushing it towards its current standing. In the past 4 decades, IAU was more of a mission-oriented university; in the first decade, we were faced with the holy defense, when the circumstances left no room for thinking about establishing a center of higher education. In such a critical situation, it was the insight of Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani which made IAU possible. Second decade was that of quantitative growth, adding to the assets, faculty members and attracting more students. In the next ten years, IAU focused on the development of quality in the form of better academic programs, research and its related services. Currently we are in the fourth decade, where the emphasis is on en-

trepreneurship and generating income through knowledge activities. Each period has had a certain demand and accordingly, IAU has tried to answer these demands as best as it could." He added: "In 1361, society was in need of more centers of higher education; today, it needs the resistive economy so its reliance on the other countries could be reduced. As we see it, the best way for achieving this is to invest in knowledge activities by the young and qualified university graduates and this has also been approved by the Supreme Leader." Claiming that IAU is a pioneer in the field of knowledge economy of the country, Hashemi maintained: "All of the branches of IAU have been assigned with the task of finding opportunities for better and more knowledge activities. IAU has an impressive set of capacities for entering into this field and our objective is to initiate macro and national projects for the purpose of solving a part of social challenges."

Iran's News

Higher Education of Iran Ranked 47



According to 'Universitas 21', which releases an annual report on the ranking of the higher education systems of the world, the top five of this list are America, Switzerland, Denmark, Britain and Sweden. China has had the most growth, going up 4 ranks to be listed as the 30th country of the list. In the period of 2013 to 2016, China has gone up 12, South Africa 9 and Britain 6 ranks. Turkey, Iran's regional rival, has improved its educational resources and with 5 ranks improvement, is now standing on the 44th place. India has elevated just one rank, from 50 to 49, but it still needs working compared to its Asian rival, China.

This ranking also evaluates the resources, educational spaces, communicability and the output

of the universities. In this regard, Iran has been ranked 47 in 2016. Iran's other ranks are 41 for the resources, 45 for educational spaces, 50 for communicability and 39 for output. Concerning the Government investing on the higher education, Iran ranks at 29. But concerning the ratio of the expenses per student, it is ranked as 46. Iran has been put on the 39th place for the quality of the education among its workforce. The production value of this sector -the relation between revenue (output-communicability) and input (resources and educational spaces)- is higher than the average. Iran is ranked 38 with regards to the higher education's share in GDP which has been dubbed as the knowledge economy in the recent years.

Discounts of SAHA for Researchers



Dr. Alireza Iran-Bakhsh, general manager of SAHA network of the Islamic Azad University, has elaborated on the capacities of this project in relation to the industry and said: "The most important question regarding SAHA is whether it could be of help to the researchers of the country. It is evident that the industry, for the purpose of being up-to-date and appropriately risk taking, should strengthen its research sector. Industries should make use of the country's capacities and facilities. The Islamic Azad University, with 11,000 labs and workshops, is one of the largest assets of the country, unrivaled by any other. On the other hand, this university has established branches all around the country, which gives the indus-

tries the possibility to use these amenities in every part of Iran." Secretariat of SAHA network mentioned the 129,000 lab equipment of IAU, adding: "The industries could make use of this equipment and develop their research sector. Also, the maximum of 15-percent of the revenue would be dedicated to researchers and experts and the remaining 85-percent would be assigned to the labs." Iran-Bakhsh referred to the main objectives of SAHA and went on: "Elevating the educational quality, particularly the graduate studies, and responding to the society's demands are part of our goals, decreed by Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Dr. Mirzadeh, top figures of IAU. The students of IAU and other researchers would receive up to 50-percent discount on SAHA's services."



TUESDAY, MAY 31: DR. HAMID MIRZADEH, CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY, ATTENDED THE MEETING OF HIGH COUNCIL OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

IRANA

IRAN UPDATES

Iran Signs Agreements in Finland, Poland

Iran has struck a number of economic agreements worth some 1.2 billion dollars during an Iranian delegation's trip to Poland and Finland, says an official. Mohsen Jalalpour, head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture said on Wednesday that Iran's economic delegation signed 50 agreements; 30 in Poland and 20 in Finland, in different sectors. The agreements were either in the form of contracts or memorandums of understanding (MoUs), added the official, noting that some \$700 million worth of deals were inked in Poland and the rest were sealed in Finland. Jalalpour said the agreements in Poland mostly involved economic cooperation over power plants (worth \$240mn) and fisheries (worth nearly \$200mn). He said the \$500mn deals in Finland were sealed on information and communications technologies (ICT) as well as industrial machineries.

Norwegian Company after Major Gas Deal with Iran

Norway's oil and gas giant Hemla Vantage seeks to seal a \$600 million energy deal with Iran on the production and export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), a report says. According to The Financial Times report, the contract will be a joint venture between the Norwegian firm and Iran's Kharg Petrochemical Company (KPC), to produce and export LNG and LPG by 2017. "Hemla will secure debt financing and will be 50/50 equity partners with KPC/KGRC [the latter is a sister company of the former]," FT quoted Gerhard Ludvigsen, a founding member of Hemla group and director of Hemla Vantage, as saying. "We are inspired that Iran really wants to shift from a traditional player to a modern player. Nobody would believe that Iran could be the first in the world to produce LNG from a floating production vessel (FLNG) in 2017," he added.

Iran FM Urges US for More Steps over JCPOA

Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, says the US should take more steps toward guaranteeing trade and banking relations with Iran under last year's nuclear agreement between Tehran and the P5+1 group of countries. "Certain measures have been carried out by the US to guarantee that banks will not be penalized for trade ties with Iran given the lifting of sanctions after the nuclear agreement but I believe that the US must take more steps," Zarif said at a joint press conference with his Finnish counterpart Timo Soini in Helsinki on Tuesday. He added that many countries have expressed their keenness to resume trade relations with Iran following the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in January.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Inside IAU

Inaugurating Religious Tourism Center



Deputy of Culture and Student Affairs of the Islamic Azad University says: "Ilam branch of IAU, through inaugurating a complex in the city of Mehran for offering accommodation to the pilgrims of the holy shrines, would become IAU's tourism center in the west of the country."

Dr. Taha Hashemi attended the 3rd meeting of the deputies and managers of culture and student affairs of the western branches of IAU which was held in Ilam and said: "We are going to hold a meeting at the head office and invite all the branches to invest on these projects, which would both generate spiritual value and financial revenue for the investor branches. The religious tourism center of IAU would be inaugurated through the participation of the branches and would consist of a recreational complex, offering accommodation to the stayovers. Ilam province and Mehran city have significant capacity regarding the activation of tourism industry in the west, south, center or even all the country in general, and are a suitable location for traveling to the holy shrines of Iraq." He noted: "At the early stages, the services of these projects would only be limited to the big family of IAU, including 2 million students, professors, staff and their families and 5.5 million alumni of this university, which totals to 7 million. Then we would expand our services to include all the travellers to this province, on their way to the holy shrines. The potentials of Ilam branch in Mehran city include an administrative building, suitable location for parking construction, gas station, convenient location for transferring the pilgrims to the holy shrines, and good quality as a center for temporary accommodation; these enable the center to offer services to the pilgrims going to or returning from Iraq."