

German Committee Visited Tehran University

According to the PR Office of Tehran University, a committee of German authorities from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research visited Tehran University. This committee, headed by Dr. Volker Rieke, Executive Manager of International and European Cooperation in the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, visited the professional laboratories of science branch of Tehran University. Further, they held a meeting with Dr. Mohammad Bagher Qahremani, deputy of International Affairs in Tehran University, and several professors of biology and physics in the university to discuss a number of issues. Representatives from Germany's System of Cultural Transactions (DAAD), Helmholtz Association, and Leibniz Association, were also accompanying the committee. Several issues were raised and discussed in the meeting, such as development of scientific cooperation, joint research projects, using laboratorial equipment, hosting joint courses, exchange of researchers on both sides (Iran and Germany), transfer of knowledge, and hosting joint scientific and international events.

POINT OF VIEW



Non-Resident Professors to Teach in Top Universities

Dr. Hushang Talebi, director of Isfahan University, says that a center is going to be constructed in this university for cooperation with non-resident Iranian professors. Talebi said: "Deputy of Science and Technology in the Presidential Office has provided non-resident Iranians with facilities so that they could easily cooperate with universities of Iran with the aim of improving the professional levels of Iran's universities." He went on: "Following these facilities, the universities have become more active. Students graduated from the world's high-ranked universities or those who are currently working in one of these universities could cooperate with our universities on a contract basis. Universities will grant these students and scholars with special privilege and they will return the favor with certain services. These services include teaching intensive courses, cooperation in guiding student theses and providing consultations for the students, also further educational and research activities." He also added: "One of the universities which have volunteered for participation in this project is Isfahan University. A considerable number of scholars and researchers have registered on the designated website, which was provided by the Deputy of Science and Technology. They have the choice to select their preferred universities on this website."

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Creating Trust between Branch Directors and Student Formations

IAU's Chairman Talks with Heads of Student Formations



Dr. Hamid Mirzadeh, Chairman of IAU

Heads of the political student formations in the Islamic Azad University had a meeting with the chairman of the university, Dr. Hamid Mirzadeh. In this sitting, Dr. Mirzadeh claimed that student formations have close relations with different figures of an academic institute, including lecturers, students and administrative staff, saying: "Considering this, student formations could be worthy advisors to the university officials and offer the most and best feedback that the organization needs." Mirzadeh appreciated the efforts of Hojato'l-Islam Hasan Namazi, General Director of IAU's student formations, in holding regular meetings for discussing the latest issues and said: "The senior management of the university uses your opinions, proposals and the feedback in formulating better programs, guidelines and setting the general scientific, cultural and political direction of the university. I demand from the Graduate Office to cooperate with the student formations with the hope

of recruiting the top members of these groups in the organization of IAU."

Formations to Assist University Officials

Dr. Mirzadeh maintained that based on a decree issued two years ago, branch directors are expected to support student formations and their syndicates. He said: "One of the factors affecting the overall performance of branch directors is the extent of their cooperation with the student formations based on the guidelines of the High Council of the Cultural Revolution. These directors have the responsibility to support free-thinking and criticism. Branch directors should not worry over the criticism, since this in fact is a valuable feedback which helps them solve their problems." He talked about future studies and its role in development of management techniques and better training of IAU's managers, saying that this field is added to the agenda of IAU's deputy of Planning. He went on: "Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani, head of IAU's founding council and its board of trustees, has always emphasized

on better mechanisms for training future managers of the country and accordingly, IAU is pursuing this vision with the utmost attention." Dr. Mirzadeh added that provincial councils consisting of heads to the student formations should be established with the aim of improving the impact of these groups.

According to him, student loans, discounts and being included in various evaluations are among the privileges of student formations. He said: "For example, IAU is going to recruit more fulltime faculty members in place of contract lecturers. It is expected from the student formations to monitor this process and in case of witnessing any flaw or violation report the case alongside enough evidence so that the rights of the students could be protected."

In the end, he concluded: "IAU's student formations should keep in line with the guidelines of the High Council of the Cultural Revolution and it is expected that they assist the university officials in any possible way. Their helping hand would be appreciated."

Iran's News

S&R Branch to Offer Vocational Training Courses



Director of Science and Research branch of IAU says that the gap between the theoretical knowledge and practical skill is one of the problems in the higher education system of the country and this branch has decided to offer vocational training courses with the hope of alleviating a part of this problem. Dr. Ali Abbas-pour, attending the graduation ceremony of the students of S&R branch, said: "Improving the quality of education and keeping in line with the international standards are among the top priorities for this branch. Fortunately, these goals are pursued diligently through equipping facilities

and research labs, promotion of interdisciplinary courses, also recruiting young and skilled faculty members." Dr. Danesh-Fard, deputy of Culture and Student Affairs of S&R branch who also was present in this ceremony, said: "The main national asset is skilled human resources and for this reason, countries invest in betterment of their higher education. Universities and science centers are in charge of training the workforce and S&R branch has been one of the pioneers in this regard. This branch has an alumnus of more than 70,000, a large number of whom are rendering their services as country's senior managers."

Free Education in IAU for Welfare Students



Dr. Hamid Mirzadeh, chairman of IAU, says that this university is providing a discount on tuition fees and free education for specific students. He said: "It is not fair to limit the education for different classes of society. Currently, IAU is providing different classes with considerable facilities for special groups such as war veterans and low-income classes." Mirzadeh further explained the support provided by IAU for the students covered by the Welfare Organization (Behzisti) and Imam Khomeini's Committee, saying: "According to our latest contract with Iran's Welfare Organization, people covered by this organization or Imam

Khomeini's Committee will be able to use a special discount on their tuition fees. IAU has decided on a discount of up to 20-percent on the tuition fees of such students. On the other hand, students who are war veterans do not pay anything and their education in the Islamic Azad University would be free." Previously, Anoushirvan Mohseni-Pasand, Director of Iran's Welfare Organization, had said that 16,000 students covered by this organization are studying in IAU. He said: "Based on the agreement reached with IAU, these students will pay no tuition since the rest of the expenses will be directly paid by this organization."



DR. MIRZADEH, CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY, PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF ISFAHAN PROVINCE'S IAU.

NEWS PHOTOS

IRAN UPDATES

Iran Stresses Better ties with Venezuela

Iran's foreign minister has stressed the Islamic Republic's interest in enhancing mutual relations with Venezuela during a meeting with his counterpart from the Latin American country. The meeting was held between Iran's Mohammad Javad Zarif and Venezuela's Delcy Rodríguez in Tehran on Tuesday. Rodríguez has traveled to the Iranian capital alongside Venezuelan Oil Minister, Eulogio Del Pino. "The potentials for cooperation between the two countries are many," Zarif said at the meeting. The top Iranian diplomat is to travel to Venezuela during a tour of Latin America next week at the head of a high-ranking economic delegation comprising government and private sector officials. He said the trip would have more substance "in terms of quality and quantity" compared to the previous ones made by Iranian officials to Venezuela.

Iran Expects India to Seal Farzad B by Sept.

An Indian delegation will visit Tehran this week to discuss the "financial investment model" for development of the vast Farzad B gas field. Managing Director of Pars Oil and Gas Company, Ali-Akbar Shabanpour, said he hoped negotiations between the two sides will conclude by September. Indian media reports have already said they expected the two countries to seal "development, financial and commercial" terms of the project latest by October. A consortium led by New Delhi-based ONGC Videsh discovered Farzad B in the Farsi offshore block in 2008, but it abandoned its development after the West intensified sanctions on the Islamic Republic in 2012. Last year, ONGC Videsh submitted a \$3 billion field development plan to Iran to develop Farzad B after the West lifted sanctions under a nuclear agreement. The field is estimated to hold gas reserves of 12.5 trillion cubic feet, with a lifetime of 30 years.

Banking Problems Prevent Iran Exports

More indications emerge to show that banking problems remaining from the sanctions against Iran are still obstructing the country's exports. Fariborz Karimaei, deputy head of the Association of Petrochemical Industry Corporation of Iran, was quoted by the media as saying that Iran's petrochemical exports to Europe are facing problems as a result of sanctions-related banking issues that have not been fully settled. Karimaei emphasized that the European banks are still failing to cooperate with the Iranian exporters of petrochemical products even eight months after the removal of the sanctions. In January, a series of economic sanctions that had been imposed against Iran were removed after a deal that the country had last year reached with the P5+1 came into effect. The sanctions restricted banking transactions with the country among other issues.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Inside IAU

Mazandaran Branch to Launch Power Plant



Dr. Kiumars Niaz-Azari, director of Mazandaran's IAU, says that a power plant is going to be established in Mazandaran and this project would help in providing the needed energy of this academic institution and even that of the province. He said that Mazandaran's IAU has created 3,200 job opportunities, saying: "These personnel, who work directly in the branches of this university all over the province, are considered a significant asset and each one of them should collaborate with the effort to realize the university's goals."

He emphasized that the university's activities are based on prior planning and added: "We are not able to conduct extra activities which are not considered in the budget plan already scheduled; thus, all the branches are required to work based on the schedule. In order to keep walking on the path of success, we need to focus on various parts of the schedule in terms of raising revenue, better scientific productions and financial aspects. First, the projects submitted by the academic branches are discussed and evaluated by the expert members of the economy and knowledge commission of the province; several of the projects might not be a true knowledge activity or might not be economically justified. Next, the approved proposals are sent to the permanent commission." He referred to providing for the needs of the university as a priority and continued: "This matter has been relayed to other branches as a regulation; the purchasing process prioritizes the products that are produced by other academic branches of the province or the province." He stated that intensive training courses are not merely aimed at raising revenue, saying: "Majority of students request holding workshops and training classes on writing articles, proposals, English language, specialized software and so on, which in addition to raising revenue, would improve the students skills set and the general educational quality."