

Natural Products of Beyza and Sanandaj Branches

Ali-Asqar Peiro, director of Beyza branch of IAU, says: "In order to realize the knowledge objectives of the university, in addition to cease dependence on tuition fees and to raise the revenue, the plan for an apiary was put on the agenda. The production project of natural honey was launched with 24 bee colonies, and 60 kilogram of natural honey was produced in the first round. We intend to increase the colonies up to 100 in the next round." He claimed that local people and the staff, professors and students of this IAU branch are the target market.

At the same time, Sanandaj branch has also gone through its first attempt at raising revenue through producing kitchen-garden products in research farms of the agriculture faculty. With the efforts of the farming and crops group of Sanandaj's agriculture faculty, part of its research lands were dedicated to cultivating kitchen-garden products for the first time as a way of abiding by non-tuition revenue policy. The first harvest was done last month and the harvested tomatoes amounted to 40 tons. This product has been cultured without exposition to toxic pesticides, as well as receiving clean well water, which ensures its quality.

POINT OF VIEW



Development Projects of Payam Noor University

Dr. Ali-Asqar Rostami, chairman of Payam Noor University, mentioned 500 electronic items as a step towards the development of education, based on information technology. According to Payam Noor University's PR Office, Rostami attended the opening ceremony of 60 development projects of this university and said: "There were 400 similar projects which are currently pursued by the university. Among this, 59 projects were finished in Fajr Decade of the past year, and 60 more will be finished and ready for opening in the Government's Week."

The chairman continued: "Payam Noor University is going to need the government's helping hand for finishing the remaining 270 projects. Considering the spread of Payam Noor University in the country, it is expected that local governors help this academic organization so that it could finish the remaining projects in the deprived localities which would be in line with article 180 in the 5th installment to the development plan of the country, also closely based on the credit that is devoted to these districts for their education and culture."

Dr. Rostami mentioned that improving culture is another priority of the university. He also added: "Payam Noor is going to be the host of the International Conference of the Islamic World's Students."

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FARHEEKHTEGAN

Iran's Pioneer Academic Daily

Mon. | 29 Aug 2016 | Vol.07 | No. 2029 | 16 Pages | www.farheekhtegan.ir

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IAU's Deputy of Research and Technology Announced

Call of Projects for Commercialization



Dr. Ebrahim Vasheqani-Farahani: Deputy of Research and Technology of IAU

Dr. Ebrahim Vasheqani-Farahani, deputy of Research and Technology of the Islamic Azad University, says that a general call of projects will be published next week to invite the registration of all the commercializable projects and proposals. On the sidelines of the tech-market which was hosted by Anzali branch, Vasheqani-Farahani said: "IAU had a considerable share in this market and the governor of Gilan province and head of Free Trade Zone's board of directors, both appreciated the efforts and contribution of IAU. It should be noted that IAU is all for supporting the knowledge companies and pays for all the necessary facilities, such as gas and power, for the companies residing in its numerous incubator centers. Besides this, it financially backs these companies in issues concerning research consultation and business coaching."

Azad Fund of Research and Technology

Vasheqani-Farahani explained: "It is quite usual that faculty members or students in a certain

university form and register a company, but besides IAU, there are no other university in the country that attempts direct investing in such enterprises. IAU does this up to 35-percent in the provincial level and in special cases, where the project is massive in scale and it is in need of more investment, IAU's Strategic Council of Investment and Knowledge Economy could permit the investment of more than 35-percent. In some cases, the contribution of IAU goes as high as 70-percent of the initial capital in some of the knowledge companies."

He announced the establishment of the Azad Fund of Research and Technology, adding: "We are consulting with the Innovation Fund to do this. Our proposed deposit was 5 billion Rials, but the central council of this fund believes that, considering IAU's activity in numerous fields of science and technology and its number of active branches, faculty members and students, this amount should increase. Currently, we are negotiating over the final amount. It was decided that all the supports offered to the knowledge companies and incubator centers,

in physical form such as space and facilities or financial backing, should be accounted as part of IAU's capital put in this fund. This, from credits to immovable assets, would go through the valuation process so that the least feasible capital for this fund could be accumulated." Referring to IAU's support of technologic projects, the deputy said: "Based on the regulation issued in the last year, IAU would grant awards up to 50 ml. Rials to researchers registering domestic inventions. Also, university would cover all the registration expenses. On the other hand, researchers with international registration of inventions could receive up to 100 million Rials."

Vasheqani-Farahani maintained: "Next week, a public call of ideas would be published and all the people believing in the commercializing potential of the findings or results of their research could register their work. Through this, we are going to focus on identifying the best projects and products right from the start and support them through registration and commercialization processes."

Iran's News

Ceramic Nano-particles Made of Lemon Juice and Sugar



Dr. Davar, faculty member of Isfahan University of Technology, gave details regarding the research project conducted by the researchers of Isfahan and Tehran Universities, saying: "Zirconia nano-particles undergo phase change in various temperatures, which causes tension and cracking in their structure. Thus, the purpose of this project was to synthesize zirconia nano-particles with stable structure, through natural ingredients and applying a green method." She continued: "This method is based on a simple process and using natural ingredients, such as lemon juice and sugar, con-

sequently making it affordable. Moreover, this method is considered as an eco-friendly process, since organic toxic solutions have been replaced by green and non-toxic substitutes."

Davar referred to the synthesizing process, and the final evaluation, saying: "First, the synthesizing method of zirconia nano-particles was optimized through the essence of lemon juice. Next, for the purpose of optimizing the particles' separation and better evenness, the sucrose (sugar) effect was examined. The synthesized nano-particles were characterized and the best in terms of size and distribution were chosen."

Elites Club Focused on Commercialization of Knowledge



Dr. Karim Zare, manager of the Young Researchers and Elites Clubs of the Islamic Azad University, says: "IAU has great assets for doing great regarding science and research. We should trust the students and use their potentials, and in this way turn every challenge into a strong point."

Dr. Zare, in a meeting with the club's authorities in Gilan's IAU, stated: "Young Researchers and Elites Clubs of IAU have prioritized the decree of the Supreme Leader; he has expressed hope that this club could become a means to the end which is a stronger science basis as the prerequisite of

research. In the past 35 months, we have worked day and night, changing directives and advising new ones; everything was for the sake of encouraging the talented students within the university to focus on commercialization of their ideas and concepts and turn them into tangible products." He further added: "In order to achieve the goals of the university, we passed directives for the sake of funding researchers and experts. This directive was also passed by the director of the university's board of trustees. We are hoping that such directives could pave the way towards further development."



SHAHIN-SHAHR BRANCH WAS HOST TO OFFICIALS FROM THE HEAD OFFICE OF IAU WHO INAUGURATED ITS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

IANA

IRAN UPDATES

New Era in Iran-Venezuela Ties



Venezuela and Iran have agreed to increase their economic cooperation, signing agreements between the two countries' central banks and announcing a new dynamic era in bilateral relations. Venezuelan President, Nicolas Maduro, met Iranian FM, Mohammad-Javad Zarif, who was in Caracas on the last leg of a Latin America tour also taking him to Cuba, Bolivia, Chile, Nicaragua and Ecuador. «We are advancing in our bilateral cooperation as well as in matters of mutual interest for economic development... we are going to create a new dynamism in Venezuela-Iran relations.» Maduro said in a ceremony broadcast on state television. Maduro announced the creation of a special commission to follow up on their bilateral deals. Iran and Venezuela have forged friendly relations based on their aversion to colonial US policies and determination to preserve their independence.

Iraq Mulls Selling Oil through Iran

The Iraqi government says it may consider shipping crude through Iran if talks with the local Kurdish administration on oil revenue sharing fall apart. The autonomous Kurdish region is demanding a bigger share of the oil proceeds at a time when the Iraqi government is buckling under the pressure of lower oil prices and the costs of war on ISIS militants. Officials of Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO) and the Kurdish Regional Government are about to meet, possibly next week, in a last-ditch effort to patch up differences. «If the negotiations come to a close without an agreement, we will start to find a way in order to sell our oil because we need money, either to Iran or other countries.» Iraq's Deputy Oil Minister, Fayadh al-Nema, told Reuters. Under the scenario, the Iraqi government would be shipping about 150,000 barrels per day of oil through Iran that is being produced from the fields in Kirkuk.

Iran Vows to Restore Rights of Mina Victims



An Iranian official says the country will spare no effort to restore the rights of the victims of a deadly crush during last year's Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. Head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, Saeed Ohadi, that a session was held with the deputy FM, Hassan Qashqavi, and a number of other officials, to study the legal and judicial aspects of the crush, which took place during the Hajj rituals in Mina, near the holy city of Mecca in 2015. He added that Iran's Foreign Ministry is in charge of pursuing the legal aspects of the Mina tragedy or any other incidents involving Iranian nationals abroad. More than 2,400 people, including at least 460 Iranian pilgrims, lost their lives in a stampede in Saudi Arabia on September 24, 2015.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Inside IAU

Anzali Branch: Monument of Unknown Martyrs



Director of Bandar-e Anzali branch of the Islamic Azad University, who had attended the 23rd meeting of the Specialized Council of Research and Technology of IAU branches in Gilan province, explained: "In this meeting, subjects regarding research and efficient strategies were discussed, and the branch directors reported on the activities of their branches during this year." Dr. Alireza Eqdami referred to the tech-market held at Anzali branch, adding: "Over 10 academic branches participated in this event, presenting their inventions and achievements to the public. This tech-market is the result of the efforts done by Anzali's Organization of Trade-Industrial Free Zone and the Technology Park, and one of its advantages was claimed as raising revenue for IAU." He also noted the start of construction process for the martyrs' memorial site in this academic branch and continued: "IAU of Bandar-e Anzali has had the honor to be the resting place for two unknown martyrs of the country and through this project, their monument would be prepared as a part of the cultural programs at the university level."

Eqdami went on: "There are over 4,000 students enrolled in this branch who enjoy the services of 88 faculty members. This establishment offers 57 courses from associate to doctorate level. There are no limitations imposed on conducting research projects and publishing articles and we have spent around 4 bl. Rials on the new equipment so far. Anzali branch is cooperating with the local Organization of Free Trade Zone and have received around 1 bl. Rials for constructing a mosque; the free zone has also offered its financial support for cultural projects such as the monument of the unknown martyrs. It should be mentioned that Dr. Vasheqani-Farahani, deputy of Research and Technology of IAU, broke the ground for this project."