

Iran, Russia ink tourism agreement



IRNA – In a significant development, Iran and Russia inked a bilateral agreement aimed at bolstering their tourism cooperation. The agreement, signed on Friday, brought together Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism from Iran, and Dmitry Vakhrukov, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation. The signing took place on the sidelines of the Russia-Islamic World Forum held in Kazan.

The newly formed agreement encourages both nations to expedite the implementation of a previous accord, which focused on waiving visa requirements for group travel between Iran and Russia for their respective citizens. During the discussions, the two sides emphasized the importance of broadening the scope of tourism, including the exploration of opportunities to enhance maritime tourism. Commenting on the agreement, Vakhrukov expressed optimism about the launch of visa-free trips for Iranian tourists to Russia in the upcoming summer. Additionally, starting in July, Iranian citizens will also be eligible to obtain electronic visas for travel to the Russian Federation.

ECO Cultural Institute aims to introduce Persian works



IRNA – Murodjon Buriboev, the head of the ECO Cultural Institute, affirmed the global recognition of Iran's esteemed poets and highlighted the institute's mission to showcase the magnificent works of Persian literature. Buriboev made these remarks during the 34th Tehran International Book Fair, emphasizing the event as a prime opportunity for exchanging ideas and facilitating meetings.

Recognizing the profound impact of books in fostering mutual understanding, Ehsanollah Hojjati, the director of the Center for Organizing Translation and Publication, underscored the crucial role of books in promoting regional cohesion. Hojjati stressed the importance of considering the shared characteristics between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tajikistan to foster greater empathy between their respective nations.

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Iran, Venezuela stand united in fight for freedom, justice



● ABOLFAZL NESAEI/IRAN DAILY

By Hamideh Hosseini
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili emphasized the shared cultural and political bonds between Iran and Venezuela, highlighting their joint commitment to freedom and justice on a global scale. Esmaeili expressed optimism that cultural relations between the two nations would align with their economic and political exchanges. His comments were made during the unveiling ceremony of 'Abril, Golpe Adentro' (translated as 'April, inside the coup'),

a book authored by Venezuelan Minister of Culture Ernesto Villegas, on Friday during the 34th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF). Esmaeili acknowledged that the current level of interaction between the two countries in various political, cultural, and economic aspects fell short of their potentials. He regarded the ongoing collaborative efforts as merely the beginning of a new path for expanding and nurturing future interactions. Expressing gratitude, he specifically thanked the Iran Cultural & Press Institute for swiftly translating and publishing 'Abril, Golpe Adentro,' a 500-page book that was completed through round-the-clock efforts of the institute's translators. Highlighting the enduring

nature of cultural exchanges, Esmaeili revealed that a comprehensive agreement on cultural relations between Iran and Venezuela would be signed in the near future. The agreement would pave the way for joint cultural events, including cultural weeks, as well as collaborative programs in film, music, and theater. Recognizing the significance of the Tehran International Book Fair, which he deemed the largest cultural event in Iran and the region, Esmaeili noted that millions of people had visited the exhibition and familiarized themselves with the cultural productions of the country through its diverse booths. The Venezuelan minister echoed the importance of book translation in foster-

ing mutual understanding between nations. Villegas emphasized that human dignity, a concept inherent to both Iran and Venezuela, required no translation. Expressing surprise at the rapid translation and publication of his book by the Iran Cultural & Press Institute, Villegas provided background information, stating that the book was published in 2009, seven years after the 2002 coup against former Venezuelan president, Hugo Chávez. Notably, the book enjoyed wide distribution throughout Venezuela and became one of the country's best-selling books. Concerning the 2002 coup, Villegas regarded it as a significant historical event in Venezuela's history and warned of potential future coups orchestrated in various forms by imperialist forces. He highlighted imperialism's persistent attempts to undermine Venezuela's anti-imperialist movement, which, he asserted, had continuously thwarted such endeavors. Villegas also criticized the media outlets aligned with imperialism, characterizing them as purveyors of anger and hatred worldwide. Additionally, he accused the U.S.-backed media of fueling Islamophobia against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Emphasizing the need to counter the enemy's media objectives in the pursuit of global peace, Villegas

stressed the importance of strengthening cultural, scientific, security, media, and aerospace relations between Iran and Venezuela. Mohammad Hassan Roozitalab, CEO of the Iran Cultural & Press Institute, provided insight into the book's translation and publication process. Last year, he invited the Venezuelan minister of culture to attend the Tehran International Book Fair and unveil the book in Tehran. Subsequently, the institute's team of translators diligently worked around the clock for two months to complete the translation and preparation of the book. Roozitalab acknowledged that certain political factions in both Iran and Venezuela had sought to disrupt the countries' relations for political gain. However, he expressed hope that the publication of 'Abril, Golpe Adentro' would serve as a starting point for ongoing cultural and publishing collaborations between Iran and Venezuela, aiming to strengthen their ties as much as possible. Regarding the failed coup against Chávez, Roozitalab emphasized the role played by widespread protests and the presence of the Venezuelan people, lamenting the lack of acknowledgment by the country's media and press. Ultimately, the people of Venezuela emerged victorious, defeating both the coup plotters and the biased media.



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

The director of book fairs in Oman emphasized the significant role of translating books from Iran and Oman into Persian and Arabic, in fostering the relationship and interaction between the two nations. In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Khalfan al-Abri disclosed that a panel of experts from both countries has compiled a list of books to be translated. The

forthcoming phase will involve the planning and execution of translation and publication of these books. Al-Abri highlighted the participation of Oman in the 34th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), where representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, as well as other organizations, are present. The Oman booth at the fair is showcasing over 1,200 books in various fields such as culture, religion, tourism, medicine, and sports, presented in the English, Arabic, and Persian languages. Discussing a recently trans-

lated book in Oman, Al-Abri provided insight into the book titled, 'A Reformer on the Throne,' which delves into the life and significant events associated with Sultan Qaboos. Also known as Qaboos bin Said Al-e Said, Sultan Qaboos serves as the 14th Sultan of Oman in the direct line of the Al-e Said Dynasty. Al-Abri emphasized Sultan Qaboos' distinguished reign, which stands as the longest among Arab rulers. The book has been translated into five languages, with a Persian translation currently in preparation and

Translation of Iranian, Omani books promotes cultural exchange

slated for future release. Commenting on the close and amicable relations between Iran and Oman, Al-Abri acknowledged the geographical proximity of the two countries and their enduring positive relations throughout history. The participation of both nations in each other's book fairs serves to fortify cultural and political ties. When evaluating the Tehran International Book Fair, Al-Abri expressed his professional perspective, stating, "Due to my responsibilities, I have attended numerous book fairs worldwide. However, I firmly believe that TIBF is unquestionably among the finest of its kind globally." Al-Abri further noted the overwhelming response from the public and the considerable number of visitors

at the International Book Section's booths, attesting to the immense interest in books and reading. Extending an invitation, he urged publishers, organizers, and all book enthusiasts in Iran to attend the Muscat International Book Fair in Oman. He concluded that the presence of both countries in each other's book fairs facilitates a deeper understanding of their respective cultures and countries,

while also providing a foundation for closer relations between the two nations. The 34th edition of the book fair, which commenced on May 10, will run until May 20, offering an expansive platform for literary exchange and collaboration.

