

Envoys urged to ease returning visits of Iranian researchers abroad

Social Desk

Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Mohammad-Ali Zolfi-Gol, on Sunday called on Iranian ambassadors to facilitate the visits of Iranian researchers living overseas to the country. Addressing a meeting of Iranian ambassadors in Tehran, Zolfi-Gol said many distinguished Iranian researchers, who work in universities and research centers worldwide, were keen to contribute to their homeland, IRNA reported. He called on the envoys to "maintain communication channels" between Iranian scientists residing abroad and their home country. The minister pointed to the multifaceted nature

of diplomacy, encompassing political, economic, cultural, and scientific spheres, saying "scientific diplomacy" could be a cost-effective approach to foster robust international relations. Zolfi-Gol said his ministry stood prepared to collaborate with Iranian ambassadors to expand Iran's scientific diplomacy on a global scale. "Scientific diplomacy plays a crucial role in enhancing the bonds between nations and governments." Citing Iran's impressive standing as the 15th highest producer of scientific research worldwide and the leading nation in the region, Zolfi-Gol said 35% of scientific articles authored by Iranian researchers have been



published through collaboration with international counterparts, thus exemplifying the capacity for developing diplomatic ties through scientific endeavors.

He further announced that the Ministry of Science would host a meeting of science ministers from allied, Muslim, and neighboring countries in November.

Zolfi-Gol urged Iranian ambassadors to help invite foreign scholars to attend the gathering, aimed at further bolstering scientific collaboration.

● IRNA

Health officials warn about tobacco ads in Iranian media



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Iranian health officials on Sunday sounded the alarm about the prevalence of tobacco advertisements in the media. Behzad Valizadeh, the head of the Health Ministry's Tobacco Control Center, voiced his worries during the Tobacco-Free University Conference held in Tehran. Valizadeh said regulations had been passed to restrict tobacco advertising; however, he expressed dissatisfaction with the extent of such advertisements, ISNA reported.

"Iran's efforts have positioned it among the leading nations in terms of tobacco legislation. Nevertheless, the effective enforcement of our laws has fallen short of expectations. Without these laws and conventions, smoking rates could have been significantly higher," he added.

Valizadeh emphasized that although tobacco consumption in Iran remained lower than in certain other countries, decisive action was necessary to prevent a potential increase in the coming years.

"The Ministry of Health is actively working to ban tobacco advertising, particularly on domestic television networks," he said. According to Valizadeh, global research indicates that one-third of adolescents and young individuals take up smoking solely due to exposure to advertisements.

Mansour Ranjbar, an Iranian World Health Organization official based in Tehran, also addressed the conference, highlighting the link between smoking and drug use. He pointed to the illegality of promoting tobacco in any environment and warned about rising smoking rates among teenagers and young people.

"According to WHO studies, Iran is projected to rank among the top three countries with the highest tobacco consumption in the next 18 years. Unfortunately, Iran is poised to become the regional hub of tobacco with the increase in cultivation, production, and smuggling." Ranjbar further revealed that the use of hookah had witnessed a significant increase between 2011 and 2021, with a 57% rise among women and a 17% increase among men.

Iran gov't backs firms, elites engaged in population growth



● IRNA

Social Desk

An Iranian presidential deputy expressed support on Sunday for companies and intellectuals actively engaged in the country's population growth. Ruohollah Dehqani, who serves as the vice president for science, technol-

ogy and knowledge-based economy, made the remarks after opening "Plus Five," a center focused on population growth, health, and family. Dehqani said that achieving the goals outlined in the strategy of population growth requires meeting various criteria, with in-

novation being a particularly vital factor, ISNA reported. "Innovation becomes indispensable when conventional methods fail to resolve societal challenges," he said, adding that "innovation centers," therefore, serve as platforms for coming up with solutions

and tackling problems that cannot be effectively addressed through customary means.

"These centers provide an avenue for... finding innovative solutions in addressing the pressing issue of the population growth."

Dehqani stressed the importance of strategic planning for the future, given Iran's fortunate abundance of young individuals.

"The multifaceted nature of this complex issue (population growth) needs diverse approaches to be adopted."

He highlighted the significance of incorporating the population issue into macro-level dimensions and governance considerations and called for substantial attention and innovative strategies to effectively address the challenges associated with population growth.

While acknowledging that the establishment of Plus

Five alone may not yield immediate and rapid changes, the presidential aide expressed confidence that, with proper functioning, the center would help bring about substantial progress.

He noted that Plus Five reflects the concept of Iranian families with a minimum of three children.

With a focus on providing knowledge-based and creative services and products to families, the center aims to create an enabling environment and motivations for raising children. It offers counseling services in the areas of family health, hygiene, and nutrition. Currently, 20 innovative teams have been set up to operate within the center.

One of the primary objectives behind establishing the center is to foster a synergistic platform that leverages the potential of the technological and innovation ecosystem to help boom the Iranian population.

PIC OF THE DAY

The images depict the vibrant ambiance of the fourth Kurdistan strawberry festival held in Shian, a village nestled within the picturesque western Iranian province of Kurdistan. Notably, the fertile lands of Kurdistan annually yield an impressive bounty of 65,000 tons of strawberries, solidifying its reputation as a prominent hub for strawberry cultivation. Given its remarkable ability in strawberry production, Shian proudly earns the distinguished title of Iran's capital of strawberries.



● MOHAMMAD-LATIF HOSSEINI-NASAB/ILNA