

Iran, Russia ink agreement to expand cinematic cooperation



Arts & Culture Desk

ILNA - Farabi Cinema Foundation signed a joint cooperation agreement with Red Square Media, one of the largest content producers in Russia.

The CEO of the Iranian foundation, at the invitation of Anton Kubikov Advisor to the President of Russia and Executive Secretary of St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, signed the agreement during his visit to the country and participation in the SPIEF 2023. According to the report, this agreement has been signed in five areas of content expansion, joint production, networking of professionals, distribution and marketing, and organizing training courses.

Documentary on Persian lang. professors in India



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IBNA - In collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Office in India and the Saadi Foundation's Persian Language Research Center in Delhi, the biography of distinguished Persian language professors in India will be depicted in the form of a documentary film.

Qahreman Soleimani, the head of the Saadi Foundation's Persian Language Research Center in India stated, "To honor the continuous efforts of this intellectual community, a television documentary has been prepared. The lives of several of Persian language luminaries in India will be depicted in 12 episodes."

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Iran selected as president of Ordinary Governing Council

Iran firmly adheres to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage convention: deputy minister



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Iran firmly adheres to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Ali Darabi, the deputy tourism minister, said on Monday. In the 5th Ordinary Governing Council Meeting of the Regional Research Center for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Iran has been elected as the president of the council for a period of three years, with a majority of votes. Additionally, Atousa Momeni has been appointed as the president of the Tehran International Cultural Heritage (ICH) Center for a duration of four years. The meeting, organized by the Regional Research Center for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, is currently taking place at Tehran's Laleh Hotel, June

26-27, according to IRNA. Darabi highlighted the significance of this specialized council meeting in the context of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in West and Central Asia. He emphasized that intangible cultural heritage is the essence of a nation's culture and, without it, tangible cultural heritage cannot truly manifest itself. He stated that tangible heritage is the product of intangible heritage and is considered an invaluable asset in the progress and sustainable development of societies, representing the wisdom and intellect of humans throughout history. This intangible heritage encompasses a wide range of knowledge, including cosmic and natural sciences, traditional arts and crafts, and social practices that promote harmony, peace, rituals, festivals, performing arts, and the embodi-

ment of coexistence among human beings. Darabi continued by highlighting the numerous unparalleled manifestations of intangible heritage in the West and Central Asia region that have thrived due to the rich cultural legacy of identity-conscious nations and their intelligent inter-generational transmission. Since 2006, Iran has been a signatory to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and is recognized as one of the most active countries in implementing the convention. With nearly 3,000 national registrations of intangible heritage and 24 elements inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Iran has achieved success in preserving cultural identity and participating in the development of multinational dossiers,

promoting social cohesion among nations within the framework of the aforementioned convention. Furthermore, Darabi emphasized the importance of establishing regional centers under the auspices of UNESCO, as these centers play a pivotal role in the cultural policies of different countries. They assist in planning and guiding cultural endeavors within their regions, safeguarding their own intangible cultural heritage, and collaborating with other countries. Iran, with its valuable experience, has been recognized as a leading authority in educational activities, awareness-raising, safeguarding, and capacity-building. The Tehran ICH Center covers twenty-four countries in the designated geographic area, enabling cultural programs of neighboring countries in West and Central Asia to align with the center's strategic planning and foster mutual respect among member nations. This collaboration plays a key role in promoting peace and sustainable development in the region. Darabi explained that while the concept of intangible cultural heritage has gained international recognition in the past two decades, it has long been a focus of attention in the East, particularly in Islamic Iran. Its countless manifestations are evident in the rituals, customs, traditional language knowledge, and diverse traditional arts and crafts. Iran takes pride in its central role in West and Central Asia, using its ca-

capacity to promote the rich symbols and aspects of intangible cultural heritage alongside other participating countries. Through the development and implementation of specialized programs, Iran seeks to protect cultural identities, honor various cultures, and foster the resulting peace. By creating opportunities for sharing experiences among nations, successful models of interaction between humans, nature, and land resources can be identified, ensuring their sustainability through effective networking and exchange of expertise. Feng Jing, the Chief of the Culture Section at the UNESCO Office in Bangkok and the UNESCO Representative in the Tehran ICH Ordinary Governing Council, also addressed the meeting online. Jing emphasized, "We hope that our collaboration will lead to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage. UNESCO encourages information exchange and seminars on this subject. Mid-term and long-term programs will be considered within the framework of UNESCO regulations. Preserving intangible heritage in the West and Central Asia region is significant, and we need to continue our cooperation in this field." Referring to Iran's cultural heritage that has been registered at UNESCO, he stated, "This heritage holds great importance for us, and we should strive to be diligent in safeguarding intangible heritage as well."

English Heritage said no to Dutch loan request for 'fragile' Vermeer painting



English Heritage refused to lend one of its most precious paintings to a blockbuster Vermeer exhibition, claiming it was too fragile to travel, despite expert assurance that the risk of damage was "negligible", documents reveal. Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum tried to gather all

of Johannes Vermeer's 37 surviving paintings in one place for the largest ever exhibition of work by the Dutch master. 'The Guitar Player' at London's Kenwood House was one of only nine known Vermeer paintings not to appear at the show, which ended earlier this month. Now correspondence reveals the lengths gone to by the Rijksmuseum's curators to try persuade English Heritage, which runs Kenwood, to temporarily part with the painting.

At the start of the charm offensive last July senior figures from the organisation, including its chief executive, Kate Mavor, were treated to breakfast at the exclusive Wolseley restaurant in Mayfair by a Rijksmuseum delegation led by its director, Taco Dibbits, to discuss the potential loan. The Rijksmuseum even commissioned a report by "the world's leading expert [on] vibration mitigation" to try to convince English Heritage that the painting could be safely transported to Amsterdam using the latest technology.

Camera brings 'unprecedented clarity' to restoration of historic artworks

Scientists developed technology that will revolutionise the restoration of historic works of art by allowing conservators to identify and remove ageing varnish with total accuracy. A team at King's College London's department of physics has harnessed the power of fluorescence to bring "unprecedented clarity" to the conservation process, said Klaus Suhling. A revolutionary camera will allow experts to distinguish between varnish and other com-

ponents in an artwork, such as paints and binders, the Guardian wrote. "The conservation of paintings is vital to protect our cultural heritage for generations to come," said Suhling. "Most paintings created before the late 19th century have been varnished many times, making them appear dull or yellowed as the varnish degrades. To make the image visible again, it may be necessary to remove that varnish - but it can be a big challenge to differentiate this from the underlying paint



and other components within the painting." The King's College team developed a 25,000-pixel photon sensitive camera that uses a technique called macroscopic fluorescence lifetime imaging (FLIM) to harness the natural fluorescence in centuries-old varnish.