



International Day of Older Persons Elderly-friendly society a necessity for Iran

Social Desk

In the span of just over two centuries, the world has witnessed a remarkable transformation in life expectancy. Europe's average age, for example, rose from 33.3 in 1800 to 77 in 2021. In our own country of Iran, life expectancy has risen from 39 in 1950 to 76 in 2015. It has almost doubled, which is a tremendous progress. The steady increase in life expectancy can be attributed to advancements in healthcare, sanitation, nutrition, and overall quality of life. It's also worth noting that the remarkable progress made over the years signals the potential for further improvements in longevity.

Such progress in extending human life is undoubtedly an achievement worth celebrating. However, it has also brought about significant societal changes, as more and more individuals find themselves entering old age. In human beings, old age is defined as the final stage of the normal life span. Definitions of old age, however, are not consistent from the standpoints of biology, demography, employment and retirement, and sociology. The social aspects of old age are influenced by the relationship of the physiological effects of aging and the collective experiences and shared values of that generation to the particular organization of the society in which it exists.

In today's world, it has become an imperative for societies to adapt and create environments that are elderly-friendly, while simultaneously recognizing and valuing the contributions of older persons. The reason is quite obvious: With longer life expectancies, the world is experiencing a demographic shift towards an aging population. The proportion of older adults in society is growing, leading to increased diversity and unique needs within communities.

This demographic shift in turn necessitates a reevaluation of societal structures and policies to ensure the well-being and inclusion of older persons.

That's where the importance of having elderly-friendly societies come to play. Such societies prioritize the needs and rights of older individuals, which would lead to an environment that promotes their well-being and independence. These societies recognize the valuable contributions that older persons can make, based on their wisdom, experience, and expertise.

Through offering older persons acceptance and support, societies can tap into their potential and create intergenerational harmony, leading to mutual benefits for all age groups. This all begs the question: What qualities an elderly-friendly society have? Such a society should have accessible and affordable healthcare, along with comprehensive social support systems designed to address the unique needs of older individuals.

They should also come with an age-inclusive infrastructure, meaning that urban planning and infrastructure should consider the mobility and accessibility requirements of older adults, promoting their active participation in society.

And elderly-friendly society should also consider the employment and retirement of its older persons carefully. Encouraging flexible work options and creating opportunities for older persons to remain engaged in the workforce can contribute to their overall well-being and financial security. Such structure will also prevent early onsets of diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia.

In an ideal society for older individuals, they should also feel socially included and well-engaged with their communities. Promoting social connections and cultivating intergen-

erational interactions can combat the feelings of loneliness the elderly are prone to, and enhance their quality of life.

One final thing that policy-makers for such societies should be aware of is the fact that without ageism awareness and proper education, not much can be achieved. Raising awareness about ageism and promoting positive attitudes towards aging can challenge stereotypes and create a culture that values older persons.

Iran's National Week of Older Persons

Iran is among the fastest-aging countries, with projections indicating that in about 50 years, it would have more than 25 million older individuals. However, devising a week-long celebration indicates the will of Iran's policy-makers to strive towards an elderly-friendly society.

The week dedicated to honoring the elderly in Iran spans from Saturday, September 30 to Friday, October 6, and each day of the week has a specific theme: Saturday is focused on "popularization and strengthening of the foundations of aging," Sunday emphasizes "social and economic support, as well as respect for the elderly," Monday centers around "education and empowering the elderly," Tuesday highlights "policymaking, leadership, and intersectional cooperation in elderly affairs," Wednesday emphasizes "media, raising awareness, culture, and discourse," Thursday focuses on "equitable access to services," and, finally, Friday emphasizes the "participation of the elderly in the family and society."

The growing population of older persons in our country is as much cause for caution as it is for celebration. In order to ensure the well-being and inclusion of this demographic, our society must fast adapt and become elderly-friendly. It is no easy task, and

mere words and slogans and wishful thinking is not going to cut it.

It is only through prioritizing the needs of older individuals, valuing their contributions, and implementing policies that address their unique requirements, that we can have a society that not only enhances the lives of older persons but also creates harmonious intergenerational relationships.

Embracing age and building an elderly-friendly society is not only our religious and moral imperative, but also a means to harness the immense potential that older individuals bring to our communities, further strengthening our position in the region and world.

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IRNA

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran joins Electronic Communications Convention

Members of the Iranian Parliament have approved Iran's membership in the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts (the "Electronic Communications Convention", or ECC).

Iran as a member of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) signed the Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts and joined the treaty as the 19th country after Russia, Azerbaijan, Singapore, and Bahrain,

IRNA reported.

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 23 November 2005, the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts aims to enhance legal certainty and commercial predictability where electronic communications are used in relation to international contracts.

It addresses the determination of a party's location in an electronic environment; the time and place of dispatch and receipt of electronic communications; the

use of automated message systems for contract formation; and the criteria to be used for establishing functional equivalence between electronic communications and paper documents - including "original" paper documents - as well as between electronic authentication methods and hand-written signatures.

By establishing legal arrangements for Iran's membership in the convention, a clear vision of the development of electronic documents between Iran and other member states would be created.

Iran exports pharmaceuticals to 40 countries: Official

PRESS TV - A senior Iranian health official has hailed the country's progress in the fields of medical science and pharmaceutical industry, pointing to the export of Iranian-developed medicines to 40 countries across the world. Heydar Mohammadi, the head of Iran's Food and Drug Administration, said on Friday that a threefold increase in the export of Iranian pharmaceuticals bespeaks the country's good interaction with the neighboring countries. Speaking on the sidelines of the 2023 edition of Iran Pharma Expo in Tehran, Mohammadi said the presence of representatives from foreign countries is one of the greatest achievements of the exhibition.

The three-day exhibition, which is hailed as one of the biggest pharmaceutical events in the West Asian region, wrapped up on Friday. "Iran Pharma exhibition is a very good place to annually showcase and present the pharmaceutical capabilities of our country," Mohammadi said, stressing that Iranian medicines are exported to 40 countries.

"This year, the exhibition was held with more splendor and reception, and fortunately, high-ranking officials of the country also paid good visits to the capabilities of our country's pharmaceutical industries."

According to Mohammadi, who is also the deputy minister of health, 427 Iranian and 282 foreign companies from 33 countries participated in this year's exhibit.

"We hope to expand the access of the people of the region to quality medicines at the Group of Five (G5) meeting and in regional cooperation," the official said, referring to an initiative that was launched in June 2005 by the Islamic Republic of Iran based on historical, geographical and cultural links and common health problems with three other regional states namely Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan. WHO is also another member of the initiative which aims to enhance and strengthen sub-regional cooperation between members. Tajikistan has also joined as an observer to the G5 mechanism which bears the slogan of "joint work for solving joint health problems."

Organized by the Iranian Pharmaceutical Industries Syndicate, and with the collaboration of the Ministry of Health, Iran Pharma Expo is held every September, hosting manufacturers of pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical equipment and machinery, pharmaceutical printing and packaging, recombinant drugs, herbal medicine, food and dietary supplements, knowledge-based companies and pharmaceutical distributors. The international event provides an excellent opportunity for showcasing the national potentials and capabilities of experts and industry professionals in the prolific world of pharmaceutical industries.