

# Two-year FDI in Iran hits \$9.2b: *Official*

## Economy Desk

Iran attracted \$9.2 billion of foreign direct investment in the past two years, indicating 170 percent growth compared to the preceding two years, announced the head of the Organization of Investment and Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran.

Referring to the changes that have occurred regarding FDI in the incumbent government, compared to the previous one, Ali Fekri said the \$9.2-billion investment is not satisfactory for us, as we still have to work a lot until we reach the desired figures, IRNA reported.

"In the Iranian year of 1401 (ended March 20, 2023), the country attracted nearly \$4.2 billion

of foreign investment, which was a significant increase compared to previous years."

It is possible to set a target of about \$10 billion for each year, Fekri noted, adding that its realization depends on how we can pave the ground for the entry of foreign capital.

After the signing of JCPOA in 2015, the French giant Total did not invest a single dollar in the oil and gas sector of Iran, he said, adding that Russian companies have started an oil project worth \$2.7 billion in the southwestern province of Ilam.

"There were investors who had concerns about sanctions, but we opened the way for them to invest in Iran without worrying about sanctions," the official said.

In the Iranian year of 1402, the Chinese have first place in investment as during the eight months since the beginning of this year (March 21-November 21), they have invested \$1.2 billion in the fields of mining, tourism, technologies, renewable energy, sanitary products and cosmetics, he noted.

The official went on to say that after China, the UAE ranked second, with over \$1 billion of FDI in Iran, and Russia ranked third in investment in our country. He described these achievements as the result of the government's economic diplomacy along with the development of relations with neighboring states, as well as membership in SCO and BRICS.



## Ports development leads to transit growth, economy improvement



By Reza  
Abesh Ahmadlou

Staff writer

### OPINION

Iran has been seeking the development of its ports and transit infrastructure in recent years. As a result, the country has seen a significant growth in its transit trade and economic prosperity. The strategic location of Iran, as it sits at the crossroads of key shipping routes connecting Europe and Asia, has made it an important transit hub for trade in the region. The government's efforts to improve its ports and transit facilities have played a crucial role in further enhancing Iran's position as a key player in the global trade network.

The development of ports in Iran has been a top priority for the government, with significant investments being made to modernize and expand key ports across the country. The aim is to enhance the efficiency and capacity of these ports, thereby making Iran an attractive option for transit and trade.

In recent years, major ports such as Bandar Abbas, Bandar Imam Khomeini, and Chabahar have seen significant upgrades in terms of infrastructure and facilities. These ports are going to be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and machinery to handle shipments more

efficiently. The capacity of these ports has also been expanded to accommodate larger vessels and greater volumes of cargo.

The upgrade of ports has not only benefited Iran's trade network but has also improved the country's economy. The increased efficiency and capacity of these ports have resulted in reduced transit times and costs for shipments passing through Iran. This has made Iran an attractive option for transit trade, with more companies and countries choosing to use Iranian ports as part of their trade routes.

The growth in transit trade has contributed positively to Iran's economy. The increased trade volume has led to a surge in revenue for the government, with the transit trade sector becoming a significant source of income for the country. In addition, the improved transit facilities have also led to the creation of job opportunities and economic development in port cities and surrounding areas.

One of the key factors contributing to the growth of transit trade in Iran is the country's strategic location. Iran's proximity to key markets in Europe and Asia makes it an ideal transit point for trade. This has made Iran an attractive option for companies looking to streamline their supply chains and reduce transit times for their shipments.

Furthermore, the development

of Chabahar port has been a game-changer for Iran's transit trade. Located on the coast of the Gulf of Oman, the port has been developed as a key transit point for trade between India, Iran, and Afghanistan. The port's strategic location and the development of a new railway line connecting it to Afghanistan have made Chabahar an important hub for transit trade in the region.

In addition to the development of ports, Iran has also invested in improving its transit infrastructure, including roads, railways, and customs facilities. The aim is to provide seamless connectivity for shipments passing through Iran, further enhancing the country's appeal as a transit hub.

The improvements in ports and transit facilities have not only benefited Iran but also contributed to the growth of trade in the region. By providing efficient and cost-effective transit options, Iran has become an integral part of the global trade network, connecting key markets and boosting economic prosperity for the country and its trading partners.

Continued investments in ports and transit facilities are expected to further enhance Iran's position as a key player in the global trade network, contributing to economic prosperity and development in the country and the region as a whole.

## Path to progress: Entrepreneurs, governance, and media



By Zohreh  
Qanadi

Staff writer

### PERSPECTIVE

The journey towards becoming a developed country and subsequently achieving sustainable development is unique for each country, given the diverse challenges and opportunities they face in improving the lives of their citizens. A look back at the path of the top 20 developed countries, often referred to as industrialized countries, shows that they have predominantly focused on industrial development rather than alternative paths such as tourism, agriculture, livestock, etc. The Western model for development predominated in 1950s and 1960s. There was a shift from a static, agricultural, primitive and rigid society to a dynamic, industrialized, and urbanized society.

Nevertheless, the route for each country varies, allowing them to bolster their specific strengths and areas of competitiveness. In today's world economic progress occurs through processes driven by various factors. Entrepreneurs play a key role in this progress by identifying opportunities, innovating, and taking risks. As catalysts for economic development, they have changed the way of thinking about

business; they have provided practical ideas for expanding business around the world.

In Iran, the Iranian Entrepreneurs Forum, as a private sector, has identified 20 industrial sectors as propulsion.

Established in 2013, the forum is collaborating with 80 private entrepreneurial companies, taking more serious steps since 2022.

Still a developing country, Iran has fallen short in accomplishing its eight-decade-old development plans. However, the country's economy has been gradually recovering after a ten-year period affected by economic sanctions, oil prices, and the pandemic. But the question still remains: Why hasn't this expected growth materialized yet? Perhaps the recent decade-long sanctions are part of the question but, throughout the years, various explanations have been given. These range from the stagnation of the private sector – notably influenced by the policies adopted in the early years after the Islamic Revolution in 1979 – to the lack of dialogue between the government and the private sector.

It is essential to create a dialogue between the private sector and the government for development, where the role of the media also becomes more prominent. This falls under cultural or social development, that is often considered essential for overall development,

and has been ignored during the past decades in Iran. These aspects of development are crucial since they contribute to a sustainable society by fostering education, dialogue, and a sense of identity.

In recent years, Iranian Entrepreneurs Forum has successfully established this discourse at a higher level within society, bridging private companies, entrepreneurs, and the government. Essentially, it has embraced the path of global progress, but with a focus on indigenization, indicating its alignment with cultural development.

Media, as another actor, has played a somewhat weak role in shaping development communication in Iran.

By acknowledging strengths and weaknesses, both promoting and criticizing, the media has the potential to contribute to development communication. Its ultimate goal is to actively contribute to sustainable development by fostering positive social change, enhancing people's quality of life, and establishing a fair and equitable society.

Media in Iran should focus on this matter, with permission to access data and information rather than just general program information. This approach would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the situation and facilitate informed public discourse.



SHANA

## Second phase of Danan oilfield project completed

### Economy Desk

Daily oil production in Iran increased by about 11,000 barrels with extraction from new wells that were fully commissioned as the second phase of the development of the Danan oilfield was completed.

Mehdi Heidari, the managing director of the Iranian Central Oil Fields Company, announced the above, adding that by drilling 11 new wells, the total number of oil wells in the Danan field in the southwestern Iranian province of Ilam jumped to 20 wells, Shana reported.

"The oil pumped from the wells of the field is transferred to the processing and desalination unit of Dehloran by pipelines. As it was targeted, the production capacity of the field has increased from 8,000 barrels to 19,000 barrels per day." The contract for the main-

tenance and expansion of the Danan field was signed between the National Iranian Oil Company and MAPNA Group.

Danan oil field is located 30 km southeast of the city of Dehloran in Ilam Province and 80 km northwest of the city of Andimeshk.