

Iran exporting techno-engineering services in water, soil sectors to 19 countries



Iran is exporting technical, engineering and electro-mechanical services to 19 countries, including Iraq, Armenia and Uzbekistan, said the deputy minister of agriculture for water and soil affairs.

Safdar Niazi Shahraki also said that 50 percent of the projects of the ministry are related to water and soil, reported IRNA

Niazi Shahraki pointed to the smarting of the irrigation system and noted that intelligent irrigation systems should replace the current systems and the country should employ irrigation systems according to the world's most modern technologies.

Meanwhile, the chief executive of Iran's East Azerbaijan Regional Water Company said on Tuesday that the Qiz Qalasi Dam, the largest joint water project between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan, will become operational in the coming days.

The construction operation of the dam, which is the most important project in the northwest of the country, has been completed and it will be inaugurated in the coming days in the presence of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Azeri counterpart Ilham Aliyev, Yusef Ghaffarzadeh stated.

The project, which includes the development of the Khoda Afarin reservoir dam 196km downstream of the Aras River with a capacity of 1.6 billion cubic meters has been fully designed and implemented by expert Iranian engineers, he emphasized.

Nameplate capacity of power stations up by 9,000MW: Official

The electricity generation capacity of power plants in Iran has increased by about 9,000MW in less than three years, announced an official at the Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) on Tuesday.

Hadi Modaqeq, the director general of the macroplanning office of the TPPH pointed to the syn-

chronization of 46 newly-inaugurated thermal power plants with a total capacity of 6,584MW since August 2021, saying that all efforts were done to reduce shortages across the country and to have sustainable power grid, IRNA reported.

He also added that steam units with a total generation capacity of

2,380 megawatts have been connected to the nationwide electricity grid since August 2021.

Electricity generation capacity of thermal power plants in Iran currently stands at 75,584MW, the official announced noting that a sum of over 9,000MW will be added to the figure by August 2025.



Know-how to produce fire-safe polymers indigenized



The researchers of a new technology-based firm (NTBF) based in the Incubation Center of the Materials and Energy Research Center (MERC) have achieved the technology of making fire-safe polymers.

Mahmoud Shahriari, the managing director of the Barad Materials and Technology Innovators Company, stated that by achieving the know-how to produce fire-safe

polymers, the NTBF succeeded in designing as well as production of the parts needed by several industries, according to a report by merc.ac.ir.

The technology developer went on to say that the price of fire-safe polymers made by his firm is totally affordable as are offered to the markets with a third of the price of similar foreign-made parts.

Pointing to the advan-

tages of the said product, he noted that the indigenized product is resistant to degradation at high temperatures.

"The automatic glass, tile and ceramic production line machineries enjoy advanced technology as operate at high speed and temperature," Shahriari stated adding that fire-safe polymers by his NTBF meet the standards for the said machineries. Stating that this technology is used for various industries, he said "In addition to the glass and tile industries, the know-how is being further developed by our firm to be used in more industries operated at higher temperature, including parts related to heat treatment furnaces, heaters, cruci-

bles.

According to the report, several parts used in the glassware and tile industry have been indigenized with the noted technology.

As stated, fire-safe polymers are polymers that are resistant to degradation at high temperatures. There is also dire need for fire-resistant polymers in the construction of small, enclosed spaces such as skyscrapers, boats, and airplane cabins. In these tight spaces, ability to escape in the event of a fire is compromised, increasing fire risk. Fire-safe polymers also find application as adhesives in aerospace materials, insulation for electronics, and in materials such as canvas tenting.

Minister urges removal of export barriers between Tehran, Baghdad

Iran's minister of economic affairs and finance emphasized the removal of barriers in the way of exporting technical and engineering services between Tehran and Baghdad.

Speaking in a meeting with Iraqi Minister of Trade Atheer Daoud Salman Al-Ghariri in Tehran, Ehsan Khandouzi pointed to the progress of the trade and economic relations between the two countries and stressed the need to remove barriers in the field of export of the technical and engineering services, IRNA reported. He also called for developing financial and currency exchanges and accelerating the construction of road and railway projects

between the two sides.

Regarding the launch of the Iran-Iraq Joint Industrial Town, Khandouzi said that preliminary measures have been taken by the two countries for the project.

The minister referred to the development of a railway between the two countries and urged the Iraqi side to embark on delivering the land for accelerating the construction operation of this project.

Khandouzi also pointed to the high capacities of Iranian technical and engineering companies and stated that the removal of trade barriers in this field can help increase cooperation between the two countries.

Annual trade of \$20b possible for Iran-KRG

President of Iraq's Kurdistan region Nechirvan Barzani was in Tehran Monday, heading a high-level delegation to bolster relations and explore opportunities for cooperation.

Nazim Dabbagh, representing the Kurdistan Regional Government in Tehran, emphasized the significance of the visit, noting Iran's view of Iraqi Kurds as a strategic ally, Press TV wrote.

Since the overthrow of the Baath regime in 2003, Iraq and the Kurdistan Region have become two important destinations for Iranian goods. Iran's trade volume with Iraq and the Kurdistan Region has stood at around 13 billion dollars in recent years, just over half of which is through around half a doz-

en land border crossings with areas under the control of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). Iranian officials have repeatedly said that they want to increase the volume to 20 billion dollars in coming years.

According to the Iraqi Kurdistan's Importers and Exporters Union, Iran ranks as the second-largest trading partner of the Iraqi Kurdistan region, just behind Turkey. Their annual trade amounts to approximately \$6 billion. The Iraqi Kurdistan's market offers the best opportunity for the presence of Iran's capabilities in various fields. Over the last two decades, it has seen the regional countries jockeying for position, but Iran's presence in the market has been minimal

despite the existence of common cultural and social capacities between the two sides. Various memorandums have been signed, especially by the provincial authorities in recent years, but the presence of Iranians in the regional market is not proportional to the capacities and talents at their disposal. For example, there is significant capacity in the medical sector in Iran's Kurdish-populated regions near the border, which can be used by patients and clients from Iraq, including the Iraqi Kurdistan. Currently, the presence of health tourists from the Iraqi Kurdistan in Iran's Kurdish regions is a familiar sight, but there is still room for much bigger numbers given the existing capacities and

linguistic and cultural similarities.

The Iraqi Kurdistan and Iran are connected through three official and internationally recognized border crossings: Parviz Khan in Garmiyah, Haji Omran in Erbil, and Bashmakh in Sulaymaniyah. Additionally, trade persists between the two regions through semi-official border points such as Shushme, Sayranban, Kele, and Pishtay Tawela.

Kermanshah in Iran alone has 371 km of land bordering the Kurdistan Region and Iraq, with six border crossings and border markets. Food industries and industrial products are one of the most important market needs of the Iraqi Kurds, for which there are significant



capacities in the Iranian Kurdistan.

Overall, Iraq has always had a significant place in Iran's international trade, where the export of engineering services to rebuild the country's infrastructure is more desirable than the export of goods. The Arab country, not the least the autonomous Kurdistan region, depends on oil for about 96% of its income. Years of occupation by US-led forces, the Daesh sedition and internal fight lingering from the time of former dic-

tator Saddam Hussein have destroyed Iraq's infrastructure. Hence, engineering services and infrastructure projects are not only more economical for investment than exporting goods, but also entail in better returns. However, strict and redundant laws and practices outside the usual commercial frameworks are a key hurdle, which require the two sides to facilitate the terms of trade exchanges.

They also need to perk up interaction between the pri-

private and public sectors, and facilitate business conditions and procedures.

For Iran, failure to benefit from available capacities will take away the best opportunity to export technical and engineering goods and services and allow Turkish companies to solidify their foothold in the region.

The fate of Iranians and Kurds is inextricably intertwined, where none has lived without the other, with their close kinship manifesting itself in every aspect of their life.

On Monday, President Barzani was on point when he cited former president of Iraq's Kurdistan Masoud Barzani famously saying that late Iranian general Qassem Soleimani was the first who came to the rescue of Kurds after they were attacked by Daesh terrorists in 2014.