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- Editorial Dept. Tel +98 21 84711226
- Address 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
- ICPI Publisher +98 21 88548892-5
- Advertising Dept. Tel/Email +98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com
- Website www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir
- Email irandaily@icpi.ir
- Printing House Iran Cultural & Press Institute



Iran expresses readiness to host BRICS trade tourism events



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's cultural attaché in Russia at its embassy in Russia highlighted the country's rich historical and cultural heritage and declared Iran's readiness to host trade tourism events for BRICS member countries. On Monday, Massoud Ahmadvand, the Iranian Cultural Counselor, made these remarks during the opening ceremony of the Global Commercial Tourism Development Congress. The event, attended by representatives from 18 countries, including Iran,

took place in Moscow, IRNA wrote. Speaking at the congress, Ahmadvand emphasized that culture plays a pivotal role in ensuring the reciprocal flow of trade tourists between Iran, BRICS countries, and the Global South. He noted that investing in enhancing cultural exchanges would help Iran solidify its position as a key destination for business tourists while expanding its economic ties with these countries. Ahmadvand pointed to Iran's extensive capacities as a nation with millen-

nia-old civilization and a wealth of cultural traditions. He argued that these strengths position Iran to become a prominent player in the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) industry. Referring to Iran's competitive advantage in history and culture, he cited 27 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the country, such as Persepolis, Naqsh-e Jahan Square, and Persian Gardens. These iconic locations offer ideal settings for hosting trade tourism events, he added. Ahmadvand also under-

scored Iran's existing infrastructure for hosting international events, suggesting the effective use of influencers to promote the country's tourism potential. Iran has previously hosted several international events, including exhibitions on Persian carpets, saffron, petrochemical industries, and health tourism. These events, he stated, showcase how Iran's rich culture can captivate global audiences. He further advocated for strengthening cultural diplomacy among BRICS nations and other Global

South countries through educational institutions, academic collaboration, and student exchange programs. Such initiatives, he said, would foster mutual understanding and counter negative Western media narratives against independent nations like Iran and Russia. Ahmadvand proposed joint art exhibitions and multinational scientific events under the BRICS framework as avenues to exchange ideas and technologies. In addition, he suggested that BRICS countries create a unified brand for business

tourism by emphasizing their shared cultural traits. This shared brand, he argued, would enhance these nations' status as premier business tourism destinations. The International Commercial Tourism Congress, focusing on BRICS countries, concludes on Tuesday, December 17. According to organizers, the event has attracted over 129 foreign representatives from 17 countries, including BRICS members, alongside 750 specialists from Moscow and across Russia. Participants include repre-

sentatives from public and private tourism sectors in countries such as Iran, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kazakhstan, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the UAE, and Uzbekistan. This event takes place as Russia aims to more than double its tourism sector growth by 2030. Earlier, Moscow hosted the first BRICS Tourism Forum during Russia's BRICS presidency. That meeting, attended by delegates from nine member nations, including Iran, approved the BRICS Tourism Roadmap.

COMSTECH, Iran's Pardis Tech Park sign cooperation agreement

Social Desk

The Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMSTECH) and Iran's Pardis Technology Park inked a cooperation agreement aimed at establishing a science and technology academy. The signing ceremony, which took place in a cordial atmosphere, was attended by COMSTECH Coordinator General Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary and Mehdi Safarinia, the head of Pardis Technology Park, IRNA reported. According to the agreement, the primary goal of the new academy is to train

a skilled workforce capable of managing science and technology parks across the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). This initiative underscores a shared commitment to advancing science and technology within the Islamic world. "This collaboration marks a significant step towards fostering innovation and technological advancement in our member states," said Choudhary during the signing ceremony. "By pooling our resources and expertise, we can ensure that the next generation of scientists and technologists is well-equipped to tackle the challenges of the 21st century."

Safarinia echoed Choudhary's sentiments, emphasizing Iran's dedication to contributing to the OIC's scientific and technological landscape. "We are excited to partner with COMSTECH and look forward to the positive impact this academy will have on our region," he stated. The partnership is not without precedent. Last year, COMSTECH signed a similar agreement with the Pasteur Institute of Iran, focusing on joint educational programs, research, technology, and innovation. This latest agreement further solidifies the relationship between COMSTECH and Iranian institutions. Iran's Minister of Science,

Hossein Simaee Sarraf, met with Choudhary to discuss the broader implications of the agreement. Sarraf highlighted Tehran's commitment to strengthening three COMSTECH-related secretariats hosted by Iran, which include networks for nanotechnology and science parks. He also called for mutual efforts to overcome challenges, particularly those posed by international sanctions, and to improve educational opportunities for Palestinian youth. "The challenges we face are significant, but through collaboration and dedication, we can create a brighter future for our youth and our region," Sarraf noted.

Forging alliances, economic ...

The summit will build on a roadmap designed during the previous D-8 ministerial meeting held in Istanbul in May. It will emphasize strategies to strengthen intra-group trade and economic integration among member states. Countries are anticipated to discuss initiatives aimed at realizing the long-term vision of the organization, which includes increasing trade volume among members to \$500 billion by 2030.

Key objectives of the summit include empowering youth by proposing initiatives that create more opportunities for young entrepreneurs and professionals in member countries to actively participate in the economy, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by developing policies and collaborations to enhance their growth and competitiveness, promoting technology and innovation, addressing sustainable development issues such as food security, energy efficiency, and climate change, and expanding trade by reducing trade barriers and increasing cooperation among D-8 countries for economic prosperity. Egypt's hosting and chairing of the 2024 summit is seen as a pivotal moment for strengthening regional cooperation, particularly given its strategic position as a bridge connecting Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

The outcomes of this summit are likely to shape the economic and developmental agendas of the D-8 countries for the coming decade, reinforcing collective unity and resilience in a changing global economy.

Beyond economic and developmental goals, Iran's participation in the D-8 meeting reflects broader geopolitical and diplomatic ambitions. Strengthening political and diplomatic relations will be a key focus for Iranian officials, who aim to use the summit to enhance mutual understanding and solidarity, especially amid regional conflicts and economic sanctions that impact Iran's global standing.

As nearly 300 days have passed since the Israeli regime's brutal war against the people of Gaza began, and with Lebanon and Syria also experiencing Israeli aggression, Iranian officials have the opportunity to leverage this summit to coordinate positions and actions against Israel. This would also allow Iran to showcase its role in promoting stability



in the Middle East, while addressing collective solutions to issues like regional terrorism, instability, and conflicts. Diplomatic and security cooperation with other D-8 member states will be an essential item on the agenda. Moreover, diversifying trade and circumventing sanctions will be another goal that Iran pursues during the summit. Given the oppressive sanctions and economic pressures from the West, the D-8 summit could serve as a crucial opportunity for enhanced collaboration in trade and investment, aiming to bypass restrictions imposed by Western countries.

If there is serious commitment from its members, the D-8 could establish a new framework for promoting barter trade, alternative payment systems, or joint investments, facilitating access to new target markets and technologies for both Iran and other member states.

As a major energy producer in the region, Iran can utilize this platform to strengthen energy cooperation. The country is poised to propose initiatives for energy collaboration, particularly in oil, gas, and renewable energy sectors, leveraging its expertise in this domain to aid energy-needy countries within the D-8.

Iran has also made remarkable advancements in technology, space research, and industrial development. This summit presents an opportunity for Iran to enhance technological collaborations, share its expertise with fellow member countries, and benefit from knowledge exchange and innovation.

In a nutshell, the objectives Iran can emphasize at the D-8 summit are multifaceted, encompassing economic relations, trade diversification, and increased political and security cooperation within the bloc of developing Islamic countries. This meeting will serve as a significant platform for Iran to assert its position in a shifting global order and strengthen its strategic alliances within the D-8 framework.

First Announcement

N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0140010

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
3	HYDRAULIC VALVE 4-3/4 IN. OD., 2-1/4 IN. ID., 3-1/2 IN. , 29 FOOT-10 IN. OVERALL LENGTH	30NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 10,559/61 EURO or 5,604,309,103 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir/material-procurement-management-tab.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

NOTE: Based on enactment issued by Nisoc's Tender committee, foreign companies must submit a Bid Bond Guarantee amounting to aforementioned (paragraph 1)Euro amount. Otherwise, their quotations will not be considered.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644
Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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