

Iran to hire top int'l aides for Makoran development: Pezeshkian

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian announced that necessary coordination has been made to enlist top international consultants for the development roadmap of the Makoran region.

Speaking at a Wednesday cabinet meeting about the development of the Makoran coastline, Pezeshkian acknowledged the valid concerns raised by several government members, reported president.ir.

He noted that while all the points raised were precise, the critical issue remains that, unfortunately, there has not yet been a comprehensive plan or roadmap for the development of Makoran.

Pezeshkian went on to say that different government bodies have taken action based on their respective responsibilities.

The president emphasized that over the past several months, there have been nearly weekly meetings focused on developing a maritime-based strategy and establishing a roadmap for the Makoran region.

"I have always believed that if we want to achieve a leading position in the region as outlined in the national vision document, the quality of development in these coastal areas must not fall short of the efforts made by neighboring countries."

Pezeshkian added that the Makoran coastline is the most important platform for Iran's sustainable and long-term development and, in a sense, the future of Iran depends on the development of this area.

The president stated that once the comprehensive plan is completed, based on thorough studies and evaluations of the region's capacities and opportunities, the responsibilities of each body will be clearly defined, and coordinated actions will proceed in a unified and synergistic manner.

Paknejad dismisses alleged challenges in oil sales

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad addressed rumors about problems with oil sales, dismissing them as baseless and part of psychological operations by adversaries. "We currently have no issues with selling oil," he said, adding, "Measures have been taken to ensure we face minimal challenges in the future."

Speaking on Wednesday on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting, the minister noted that significant contracts to boost gas production would soon be finalized, Shana reported. Paknejad also reported a 35 to 40 million cubic meter reduction in household gas consumption in recent days, attributing the decrease to public cooperation.

"Thankfully, the public's cooperation has been excellent, leading to reduced consumption in residential and commercial sectors. While we anticipated

household consumption to reach up to 670 million cubic meters per day, public efforts have helped cut daily consumption by 35 to 40 million cubic meters," he explained.

The minister emphasized that measures are being planned for next year to manage winter challenges more effectively.

"This year, some initiatives were delayed for various reasons. Next year, if I remain in office, I assure you that the oil industry will work diligently to prevent further shortcomings. I also commend the president's rare act of apologizing to the public and, as Oil Minister, I apologize to the people for any shortcomings from any party," he said.

Regarding the rise in petroleum product production, Paknejad announced a daily increase of over 10 million liters of diesel over the past two months. This was achieved through

process adjustments at oil refineries and increased feedstock. "We've seen similar progress with gasoline production," he said. He added that power plants have diversified their fuel mix, which helped mitigate gas supply concerns during peak demand.

Paknejad highlighted successful energy diplomacy initiatives with neighboring countries, including potential agreements on gas swaps or imports.

"We're currently negotiating with Turkmenistan to swap gas with two neighboring countries. This will help prevent potential pressure drops in the northeastern section of our national gas grid," he said.

Commenting on the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), Paknejad noted that discussions during the meeting focused on gas trade and policy-making.



"These talks help Iran, as the holder of the world's second-largest gas reserves, achieve its objectives in gas trade," he said. Meanwhile, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) stated that rumors suggesting China will re-

duce its purchase of Iranian oil in the future are completely untrue, noting that both oil production and investments are on the rise.

On Tuesday evening, Mohammadreza Farzin in a televised interview

said, "Oil production has not decreased, nor have the country's foreign exchange reserves. Iran is among the top five gold purchasers globally and has one of the highest gold reserves relative to its foreign currency reserves."

Aref: Energy shortages will be resolved with ongoing measures



Iran's First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref said that the imbalance in gas and electricity supply would be addressed through ongoing measures and initiatives.

Speaking at a meeting with the Isfahan Province's parliamentary delegation on Tuesday, he also emphasized that managing water consumption requires se-

rious determination and public awareness, according to fvpresident.ir.

Aref stated that plans to transfer water from the Oman Sea to central Iran are being pursued vigorously to address the region's drinking, health, and agricultural water issues. He added that alongside these infrastructure projects, fostering a culture of

water conservation and gaining the public's trust in the government's management of water consumption are key solutions to the water crisis.

Aref further highlighted that water usage in highly water-rich countries like Germany averages 140 liters per person per day, while in Iran the figure stands at 270 liters per day.

He noted that some large industrial projects were built in central Iran without considering land-use planning, and that water-intensive industries should have been located near seas or areas with abundant water resources. This narrow focus in the past contributed to the current water crisis in the central regions, the top official criticized.

Regarding efforts to meet the province's electricity needs, Aref referred to the private sector's role in launching the second phase of the combined-cycle power plant and the solar power plant at Mobarakeh Steel Company. He noted that the government has extensive plans for generating 30,000 megawatts of solar power.

Approval of oilfield projects

Also, speaking at the ninth session of the Economic Council on Monday, Aref underscored the government's commitment to utilizing the capabilities of technology-based companies.

He said, "Breaking the country's reliance on foreign technologies is only possible through lever-

aging the resources of technology-based companies and academic and research centers. Past experience has shown these entities excel across various fields."

During the session, three major oilfield development projects on Azadegan, Azar, and Masjed Soleyman were also approved. These projects involve a total direct investment of \$12 billion, with funding sources identified.

The long-term contracts are expected to generate approximately \$140 billion in revenue for the country, with significant contributions from domestic and tech-based companies.

The development plan for the shared Azadegan oilfield, the country's largest oil project, aims to enhance recovery, boost

production, and optimize operations. The project, proposed by the Oil Ministry, targets cumulative additional production of approximately 1.765 billion barrels over three years and has received approval from the Economic Council.

Furthermore, another project following the same goal for the Azar joint oilfield was approved. This \$1 billion investment aims to add 177 million barrels of oil to national production capacity over a 20-year contract.

The development and operation of the northern wing of the Masjed Soleyman oilfield, with a \$257 million investment, were also approved. This project targets an additional 21 million barrels of oil over a 20-year period.

VP: Iran ready to initiate AI movement in petchem industry



The vice president for science, technology, and knowledge-based economy said that his office is fully prepared to launch the artificial intelligence (AI) movement in the petrochemical industry by utilizing emerging technologies, particularly AI, to enhance productivity and reduce production costs.

Hossein Afshin made the remarks

on Tuesday, during a press conference for "Petrofan 1403," noting that the event signals a new path for the petrochemical industry. He described the petrochemical sector as a leading industry in the country, contributing not only significantly to foreign currency earnings but also playing a key role in completing downstream value

chains and generating added value. However, the official pointed out that some value chains remain incomplete, which can be attributed to a lack of budgetary resources or the adoption of policies that focus only on short-term profits, neglecting the value chain.

Afshin identified a lack of investment in research and development (R&D) and new technologies as one of the major challenges in the petrochemical industry.

He emphasized that technology is advancing rapidly, and failure to adapt could lead to serious long-term problems. "An industry that doesn't take research and innovation seriously is doomed to fail," he said, adding that the move toward smartification in petrochemicals is a significant step to correct that course. The official emphasized that his

office is ready to implement the AI-driven movement in the petrochemical sector, leveraging emerging technologies to boost efficiency and lower production costs.

Afshin also highlighted that one of the main features of the Petrofan conference is its recognition of innovative managers, which is not merely symbolic but rather aims to identify and highlight managers who have successfully implemented innovations.

"What matters here is not the value of the award but the credibility and brand that this recognition brings to the innovative managers," he said.

Moreover, Afshin discussed the importance of addressing technological needs in the petrochemical industry and the role of knowledge-based companies in meeting these strategic technological re-

quirements as another key aspect of the conference.

Focusing on the importance of such events, he said, "All major developments in the world stem from these types of conferences and showcases. Today's world is one of exposure and introduction as it is through these platforms that information exchange takes place." The official went on to say, "However, we must be cautious that innovation in the industry does not become mere window dressing. Establishing innovation centers without tangible results will only waste resources."

Afshin also noted that the event serves as a platform for interaction between technology-based companies, researchers, academics, and the petrochemical industry.

"Looking at the past three editions, Petrofan has shown a positive and

successful upward trajectory, and this year, it will continue with even more momentum. I hope the outcomes of this event and the upcoming exhibition will bring about significant transformations in the country's petrochemical industry." At the end of the event, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy Vice-Presidency and the Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company.

The "Petrofan 1403" conference, under the slogan "Path of Innovation in Petrochemical Industry," will be held from December 22-24 in Tehran, in collaboration with the Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company and the Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy Vice-Presidency.