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# Sister cities of Isfahan, Romania's Iasi to revive cultural cooperation

#### **Arts & Culture Desk**

Romanian Ambassador to Iran Mirela Carmen Greco engaged with Isfahan Governor General Mehdi Jamalinejad to explore avenues for enhancing cultural and economic collaboration between Romanian city of Iasi and Iranian historical city of Isfahan.

The discussions highlighted the importance of nurturing ties with the city of Iasi, a sister city to Isfahan, IRNA reported.

The city of Iasi and Isfahan were announced as sister cities in 1999, to further expand their bilateral cultural and economic cooperations.

Jamalinejad expressed optimism about rekindling the robust relationship he established years ago as mayor of Isfahan. "I hope this close connection will continue to flourish," he stated, emphasizing the potential for reviving initiatives outlined in previous agreements between Isfahan and Iasi.

The dialogue also touched on the long-standing agreements between University of Isfahan, Isfahan Art University, and various Romanian institutions, IRNA reported.

Jamalinejad pointed out the Romanian request for introducing Persian language and literature courses in Romanian universities, stressing the need for prompt action on this matter. Plus, the governor general mentioned existing collaborations in music and

handicrafts, including a proposed partnership between the Sepahan Football Club of Isfahan and a football club in Iasi.

He noted that the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce had submitted a draft cooperation agreement to its Romanian counterpart, which remains unsigned. Jamlinejad highlighted the historical, economic, and cultural synergies between Isfahan and Iasi, suggesting that the potential for mutual cooperation is substantial.

He expressed a desire for systematic engagement, announcing plans for tourism programs aimed at fostering connections between Isfahan and Romanian tourism professionals.

Ambassador Greco echoed these sentiments, revealing that both the mayor and governor of Iasi are keen to continue their collaboration with Isfahan. Reflecting on her first visit to Isfahan four years ago, she expressed a commitment to fostering genuine partnerships rather than symbolic gestures. Greco noted the significance of the recent 120th anniversary of cooperation between Iran and Romania, during which numerous agreements were signed. She acknowledged the contributions of artisans from Isfahan who have showcased their talents in Romania and emphasized the urgency of finalizing a memorandum of understanding between universities in Isfahan and Iasi.

"We are fully prepared to activate the



Romanian Ambassador to Iran Mirela Carmen Greco (L) and Isfahan Governor General Mehdi Jamalinejad discuss cultural cooperation between Romania's Iasi and Iranian city of Isfahan in a meeting held in the Iranian city on January 25, 2025. IRNA

terms of our cooperation agreement," she affirmed, while also addressing the challenges faced by University of Isfahan in facilitating Persian language programs in Romania due to technical issues.

The envoy underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy, mentioning an upcoming international arts festival in Iasi, where Isfahan will be represented by a female artist special-

izing in ceramics.

She described the festival as an opportunity to showcase the innovative intersection of traditional craftsmanship and modern technology.

Responding to Jamalinejad's proposal to lift visa requirements for Romanian tourists. Greco assured that many Romanians are eager to visit Iran, regardless of visa restrictions. "Iran is a beautiful and cherished destination

for Romanian travelers," she stated. Jamalinejad instructed his team to address the hurdles faced by University of Isfahan in establishing Persian language programs in Romania.

He also extended an invitation for Romanian cultural and academic groups to visit Isfahan for special sessions organized by the municipality, which would include tours of historic sites in the region.

### Iranian animations to compete at Iraq's Babylon festival

#### Arts & Culture Desk

Four animations produced by the Documentary, Experimental & Animation Film Center (DEFC) will compete in the 5th edition of the Babylon Animation Cinema Festival in Iraq.

The festival, organized by the College of Fine Arts at the University of Babylon, will showcase 'Paper Flowers' by Ramak Amin Kazemi, 'Jiroft' by Marjan Keshani, 'Melody' by Ahmad Arabani, and 'Flying Season' by Shahang Kiani in its competition section, IRNA reported.

city of Babylon's Sumer Cinema. Hussein Mohsen Duwaij Al-Sahiyo, an Iraqi filmmaker and director of the Babylon Animation Film Festival, is a prominent figure in the Iraqi film industry. He is a member of the Iraqi Artists Syndicate and heads the Babylon Film Club. Al-Sahiyo's involvement in the international film scene was evident as he served as a jury member at the 18th Iran International Documentary Film Festival. also known as 'Cinema Verite'. The Babylon Animation Cinema Festival aims to promote and celebrate the art of animation, providing a platform for filmmakers to showcase



## Iran, Philippines celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties with cultural harmony



These animations will be screened on February 26 and 27 at the historic



their creative talents and contribute to the cultural exchange between Iran and Iraq.



Notice of tender for export sale No. 28/1403/Z (renewed)

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 140.000 metric tons of Iron Ore Pellet (%Fe:65) on basis of F.O.B at Barco. Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 18. Feb.2025 at Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department

of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 18.Feb.2025 at the office of the Seller.

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SiO2	3.5	Max
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CaO	0.9	Max
MgO	2.5	Max
CCS (kg/p)	Ave 250	
8-16 mm%	Min 90	
-6 mm%	Ave 5	
A.1%	Max 3.8	
T.I%	Min 95	
Prosity%	19-24	
Reducibility%	Min 90	



#### **Arts & Culture Desk**

The 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and the Philippines was commemorated with a cultural program titled 'Harmony Beyond Borders,' showcasing the talents of the Istgah Orchestra.

The event featured an enchanting selection of Iranian and East Asian instrumental pieces, celebrating the rich cultural ties between the two nations. Hosted by the Tehran Municipality and the Asian Mayors Association, the initiative was made possible through the collaboration of the Philippine Embassy in Iran, highlighting a commitment to fostering friendship and cultural exchange, ISNA reported.

As noted in a statement by the Philippine Embassy, "The 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and the Philippines presents an ideal opportunity to enhance cultural and artistic connections between the two countries."

The performance not only showcased artistic talent but also symbolized solidarity and friendship between Iran and the Philippines.

Mehdi Norouzi, the conductor of the orchestra, emphasized their mission, "We have always sought to be messengers of peace and friendship through music and literature for the world." This collaboration with the Philippine Embassy in Iran allowed them to explore the musical depths of this region, which Norouzi described as an exciting challenge.

The orchestra has previously made headlines with performances alongside ambassadors, including a collaboration with South Korean Ambassador to Iran Kim Jun-pyo.

Their joint performance was widely covered by media outlets like CNN, which highlighted the role of music and art in bridging cultural divides during challenging times. The Guardian also praised this effort as a way for Iranian artists to connect with the world.