

# Iran Expo 2025 kicks off in Tehran with reps from 111 countries

**Economy Desk**

The 7th Exhibition of Iran's Export Capabilities, Iran Expo 2025, officially commenced at the Tehran International Fairgrounds, attended by representatives from 111 countries.

During the inauguration ceremony, which included President Masoud Pezeshkian, Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, Minister of Agriculture, the Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), and officials from various nations, TPO Chief Dehghan Dehnavi highlighted the event's significance, saying "This exhibition offers an unparalleled opportunity to expand Iran's exports."

"With non-oil exports growing by 15.6% last year, the upward trajectory of our foreign trade will continue," Dehnavi stated, ISNA reported.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, President Pezeshkian highlighted the country's strategic position, saying, "Iran serves as a crossroads linking east to west and north to south, offering diverse opportunities for investors, traders, and tourists. This foundation can forge a future marked by health, peace, and securi-

ty for the region and the world."

"Peace and security are established through trade, investment, and constructive interactions among nations, which require respect for the rights of nations and genuine collaboration," the president said.

The TPO chief also described the 7th Iran Expo and the Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit as "Iran's largest commercial events," adding, "Today, with pride, we launch this exhibition alongside 190 official delegates and over 3,100 foreign business leaders and economic actors from 111 countries."

On the sidelines of the expo, Dehnavi emphasized its role in showcasing Iranian capabilities, saying, "Over 1,000 Iranian companies are displaying their export capacities here. Concurrent B2B negotiations, political consultations, and specialized meetings will ultimately bolster Iran's export development."

He further elaborated on the TPO's philosophy, adding, "We believe trade between nations transcends mere economic and financial ties — it strengthens friendships and fosters political and cultural bonds. This event seeks not only commercial growth but also economic

convergence and enhanced multilateral relations."

The TPO chief framed trade opportunities as "a platform for collaboration to build a better world, generate prosperity, and deepen fraternity among nations."

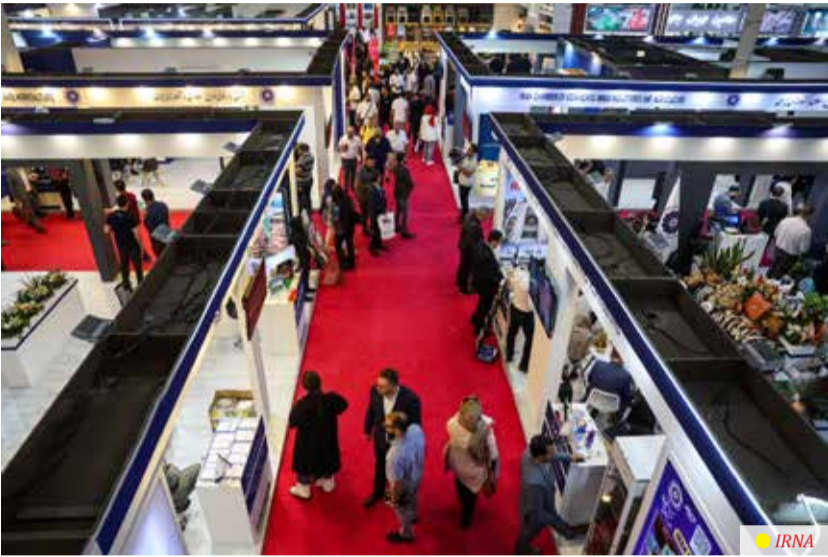
Reflecting on last year's achievements, Dehnavi noted, "Despite global challenges, Iran's foreign trade surged significantly. Non-oil exports reached an unprecedented \$57.8 billion — a 15.6% growth and a historic milestone."

While acknowledging that "not all growth can be attributed to a single exhibition," he stressed, "This event undeniably plays a vital role in boosting exports and remains central to our export expansion strategy."

Dehnavi highlighted the expo's international appeal, saying, "Participants include 40 Asian and African countries, 23 European nations, and 8 South American states — a geographic diversity underscoring the exhibition's global importance for Iran's trade development."

**A shift from MoUs to actionable contracts**

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters, Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Moham-



mad Atabak announced "unprecedented foreign business participation in Expo 2025" and outlined a key focus, "Converting memoranda of understanding (MOUs) into operational contracts."

Atabak contrasted this year's approach with past practices, "Unlike previous years, where many talks ended in

non-binding MOUs, Expo 2025 incorporates stricter monitoring mechanisms to ensure implementable outcomes." Specialized offices have been established at the venue "to conduct technical and legal reviews of agreements, guaranteeing their transformation into actionable commitments."

## NDF says poised to invest \$2b in Africa

**Economy Desk**

National Development Fund of Iran (NDF) announced the organization's readiness to allocate a \$2 billion credit line for financing technical and engineering services exports and investments in profitable projects across Africa.

Speaking at the financial, banking, and logistics panel of the 3rd Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit in Tehran, Hossein Eyvazlou, a board member of NDF, elaborated on the mechanism, saying, "After a commercial or investment contract is signed between Iranian technical and engineering service exporters and their African counterparts, the agreement will be referred to the NDF upon completion of technical, financial, and economic evaluations by the Iranian agent bank," Mehr reported.

"In this process, the agent bank may utilize the insurance services of the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran to cover commercial and political risks. The EGFI, in turn, will secure government or bank guarantees from the target African countries to mitigate these risks," he added.

Eyvazlou highlighted additional methods of supporting African projects, stating, "Beyond the banking agency model, if Iranian contractors participate in profitable African projects, the NDF — upon obtaining payment commitment guarantees from the Iranian broker bank — can directly transfer funds



to the overseas accounts of Iranian companies. Additionally, if a project's returns are sufficiently high, the fund may also acquire equity stakes."

He emphasized that this initiative aims to boost the NDF's foreign currency assets and facilitate overseas currency circulation, saying, "This approach will ultimately enhance the fund's capacity to supply foreign currency for importers of goods and services critical to Iran's domestic industries."

Stressing the importance of synergy among stakeholders, Eyvazlou proposed, "To operationalize the NDF's \$2 billion credit line, a dedicated working group on technical and engineering services exports and investments in Africa should be established, involving the Central Bank of Iran, the Trade Promotion Organization, the NDF, and the EGFI."

Eyvazlou underscored Africa's vast potential and Iran's technical expertise, describing the NDF's credit line initiative as a strategic step toward expanding Iran-Africa economic ties and strengthening Iran's position in international currency markets.

## Gov't offices to use solar power to ease summer energy deficit: SATBA

**Economy Desk**

An official from the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SATBA) said efforts are underway to equip a significant portion of executive and government agencies with solar power systems by this summer.

Deputy for Investment and Regulation of the SATBA, Amir Doudabi Nezhad, emphasized that, under current regulations, government offices are required to source at least 20% of their electricity from renewable energy, IRNA reported.

"Given the government's prioritization of this issue — particularly the president's direct emphasis — we aim to fulfill this obligation in the shortest time possible, even exceeding the mandated quota through solar energy," he added.

The deputy underscored the necessity for government agencies to secure adequate funding for this transition.

"Through coordination with the Plan and Budget Organization and provincial authorities, budgetary arrangements are being finalized," he noted.

According to the official, SATBA has also streamlined the process by identifying and introducing qualified solar contractors nationwide to facilitate direct agreements between agencies and suppliers.

"We hope that with the public sector's commitment and reduced bureaucratic hurdles, a substantial portion of this year's peak load can be addressed," Doudabi Nezhad remarked.

Recently, President Masoud Pezeshkian granted government agencies a two-month deadline to install solar panels.



### Ministry pledges support

Meanwhile, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi affirmed the ministry's full support for accelerating solar power plant development in government facilities in line with the president's directives.

"Agencies in every province can benefit from solar plants. The Energy Ministry will facilitate this by introducing qualified contractors and providing necessary equipment," he said.

Aliabadi outlined the process that agencies with energy demands up to 7 megawatts should coordinate with local distribution companies, while those requiring 7–25 megawatts must engage regional electricity companies. After feasibility verification by Energy Ministry representatives, solar installations will proceed.

"Once preliminary approvals are secured, SATBA will issue permits for renewable energy projects," he added.

The energy minister has also announced updated electricity tariffs, with rates for

high-consumption users increasing by up to 26 times. However, tariffs for beneficiaries of the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee and similar aid organizations will remain free. These changes take effect from May 22.

Citing data from Tavanir (Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company), Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, the head of the company, reported that the electricity demand last year was approximately 48,876 megawatts, which reached about 56,000 megawatts on Sunday, April 27, compared to the same day last year — a 13.6% year-on-year increase attributed to unseasonably early heatwaves.

Rajabi Mashhadi noted that 14 megaprojects and 36 demand-management initiatives will help balance grid supply and demand during peak periods. He urged citizens to join the "25-Degree Campaign" (reducing AC usage by setting thermostats on 25°C) to alleviate strain on the power grid, particularly for industrial sectors.

## The Hague rejects Bahrain's bid to overturn €214m award to Iranian banks

The Court of Appeal in The Hague has rejected Bahrain's appeal to annul a €214 million arbitration ruling in favor of Iran's Bank Melli and Bank Saderat, upholding the award in the longstanding dispute.

According to Iran's Legal Affairs Center of the Presidential Office, the court dismissed Manama's challenge to the arbitration decision, which stemmed from the Iranian banks' legal action against

Bahrain's 2015 seizure and forced liquidation of Future Bank, IRNA reported.

The ruling confirms Bahrain's obligation to compensate the banks, as reported by IRNA.

Bahrain had alleged that the banks violated international sanctions regimes, but the arbitration tribunal dismissed these claims, finding insufficient evidence of unlawful conduct during the

period leading to the asset seizure.

In its November 2021 ruling, the tribunal concluded that Bahrain's confiscation and liquidation of Future Bank were politically motivated and "disproportionate" under international law, ordering Manama to compensate Bank Melli and Bank Saderat with €214 million in damages.

Following the verdict, Bahrain appealed to The Hague Court of Appeal to annul

the award, contending that the tribunal overstepped its jurisdictional authority and that upholding the decision would contravene Dutch public policy.

However, after a three-year legal review process, the court rejected Bahrain's arguments outright, ruling that its jurisdictional objections were procedurally time-barred and failing to demonstrate any violation of public order.

