



Iran, Uzbekistan eye joint museum exhibits, cultural cooperation

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran is ready to team up with Uzbekistan to stage joint museum exhibitions and work on shared heritage projects, according to IRNA. Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Ali Darabi told Uzbekistan's First Deputy of the Cultural Heritage Agency, Tursunali Kuziev, that the two nations enjoy "deep-rooted cultural ties" that could pave the way for closer collaboration. Darabi said Iran is prepared to join forces on "world heritage nominations, museum displays, and restoration projects." He pointed to the success of the Glory of Iran exhibition in China, which drew more than 50 million visitors and featured 216

artifacts. He called the event a model for potential shows in Tashkent or Samarkand. Darabi also offered Iran's expertise in artifact restoration and cultural training. "We have strong capacity in education, restoration, and exhibition," he said, highlighting opportunities to boost cultural exchange. The official underscored the historical role of the Persian language across the region, noting it once served as the administrative language of Uzbekistan. He described this linguistic heritage as a "cultural asset" that could support stronger ties. He also mentioned the symbolic importance of Samarkand and Bukhara for Iranians, calling them cities of "love, culture,

and historic identity." Kuziev, in turn, welcomed the talks and noted striking similarities between Iranian and Uzbek museum pieces. "Many of our artifacts share artistic and spiritual traits," he said. He cited examples of Persian poetry and Iranian architects featured in historic Uzbek sites. "On a 200-year-old minaret, the architect's name is engraved in Persian," Kuziev noted, adding that verses by Hafez also adorn several mosques. Uzbekistan, he said, hopes to tap into Iranian expertise to help preserve shared cultural heritage. "Scientific and practical cooperation with Iran could play a key role in protecting our common legacy," he stated.



Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Ali Darabi (R) shakes hands with Uzbekistan's First Deputy of the Cultural Heritage Agency, Tursunali Kuziev, following a meeting at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage in Tehran, Iran, May 12, 2025.

● IRNA

Tehran launches first Publishing Fellowship Program



Head of the 36th Tehran International Book Fair, Mohsen Javadi, addresses the audience during the opening ceremony of the first Tehran Publishing Fellowship in Tehran, Iran, May 12, 2025.

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Iran launched its first Tehran Publishing Fellowship on May 12, marking a new chapter in the country's cultural diplomacy, organizers told state news agency IRNA. The event took place on the sixth day of the Tehran International Book Fair, drawing 31 guests from 20 countries to the western wing of the fairground. Mohsen Javadi, head of the 36th TIBF, called the fellowship "part of Iran's cultural identity" and traced its roots back to the translation of classical works by scholars such as Avicenna. "His works were taught in Paris academies less than a decade

after being translated," he said. Javadi praised the choice of children's literature as the focus for the inaugural round. "When children grow up with books, interaction becomes rooted in their minds," he said. Ali Reza Nourizadeh, head of the new fellowship, said the program began with 129 applicants, from which 20 were selected. "We've taken input from Istanbul's fellowship and the children's literature community here," he said. Selected books will receive support through a national translation grant. Acknowledging early-stage challenges, Nourizadeh called the effort a "first experience," urging participants to see any

shortcomings as part of the learning curve. Mohammad Aqirakcha, director of the Introtema Literary Agency, noted that this marks the first formal step by Iranian publishing toward rights exchange. "Until now, it's been a one-way street," he said. Citing a decade of experience with fellowships in Turkey, Aqirakcha said the initiative helps move books across borders. "We're here to show the literary value of Iran," he added. "Standing against injustice is not just Iran's duty, it's a global one." He described publishers as more than just cultural figures. "Each one is an envoy for

peace." Fathollah Foroughi, head of the Iranian Association of Children's Book Publishers, emphasized the long road ahead. "We want to see these books enter global markets. It takes patience and persistence," he said. He added that Iran could become a regional hub for publishing fellowships. "Through this path, we aim to expand Iranian literature, strengthen the fair's capacity, and support translation and rights exchange." Saba Literary Agency's director, Maryam Ronagh, voiced hope that both domestic and international publishers would make the most of the opportunity.

Venezuelan publisher hails ...



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

Omar Rangel Espinoza told Iran Daily that the number of exhibitors and the fair's large scale this year show how deeply Iranians value books. "There's a remarkable interest in literature and reading," he said, noting that many visitors were especially drawn to Venezuelan literature and Spanish-language works. Venezuela has taken part in several past editions of the Tehran fair. Espinoza said this kind of cultural exchange helps strength-

en ties between Iran and Venezuela. "These events bring our countries closer," he said. This year, Venezuela is showcasing around 90 Spanish-language titles, mainly covering Venezuelan and South American history, literature, poetry, and novels. Espinoza explained that much of Venezuela's literary output stems from its historical experiences. "Events from different eras have shaped our literature," he said, adding that many core values born of those events are reflected in both adult and children's books.

He cited Doña Bárbara by Rómulo Gallegos as one of Venezuela's most important literary contributions. "It's a psychological portrait of the Venezuelan plains," he said. The novel remains widely read and is considered a major work in Latin American fiction. Turning to Persian literature, Espinoza acknowledged that Venezuelans know little about it. "Few Iranian literary or historical works have been translated into Spanish," he said. However, he expressed hope for future joint efforts. "Through cooperation, we can help our peoples better understand

each other's culture." He stressed that translation is the most effective way to boost mutual awareness. Talks between Iranian and Venezuelan publishers have already begun. "We're hoping for positive outcomes soon," he said. The 36th Tehran International Book Fair opened on May 7 at Imam Khomeini Mosalla and runs through May 17. Over 2,300 publishers have registered to take part. The fair's theme this year: Let's Read for Iran.



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