

Japan’s trade organization to revise Iran strategy to upset sanctions

Economy Desk

The special representative of Japan’s External Trade Organization (JETRO), during a meeting with the head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO), highlighted Tokyo’s interest in investing in Iran and announced plans to revise its operational approach to yield productive outcomes in the face of anti-Iran sanctions.

On Tuesday, marking the 96th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Tokyo, Mohammad Ali Dehqan Dehnavi, the TPO chief, met with JETRO’s Special Representative Maekawa Nobutaka, as reported by IRNA.

In the meeting, Maekawa stated, “Sanctions have weakened our trade relations, and we deeply regret this. As a result, we intend to revise and adjust our operational methods in Iran to achieve promising results.” Emphasizing Japan’s unwavering investment interest, he added, “Japanese enthusiasm for investing in

Iran remains unchanged.” Both sides reiterated their mutual commitment to expanding commercial ties. Maekawa further noted, “JETRO’s presence in Iran will continue to facilitate Japanese companies wishing to operate here, ensuring they can sustain their activities.”

Iran seeks collaboration with JETRO

Dehqan Dehnavi affirmed the constructive impact of TPO-JETRO cooperation, stating, “We aim to leverage Japan’s expertise in trade, particularly in promoting domestically produced goods and adopting supportive measures.” Highlighting Iranian appreciation for Japanese product quality, the deputy minister of Industry, Mining and Trade added, “Iran welcomes hosting JETRO’s technical experts to learn from their experience.” Amir Roshanbash, the deputy for international business promotion at the TPO,

underscored the potential for technical and engineering services collaboration, saying, “Significant capacity has been established in these sectors through learning from Japanese firms.” He emphasized, “Training and technology transfer fall outside sanction restrictions, enabling us to maintain and consolidate these opportunities.” JETRO is a Japanese government-related organization that promotes mutually beneficial trade and investment relations. Originally focused on promoting Japanese exports, JETRO now also promotes foreign direct investment. This suggests JETRO plays a key role in international trade and investment initiatives.



As reported by IRNA, with over 80 offices in 60 countries, JETRO focuses on marketing Japanese products, inviting buyer delegations, gathering trade data, fostering international market engagement, encouraging foreign investment in Japan, and analyzing global economic and technological trends.

Rupee, yen symbols ‘currently activated’ in Iran’s forex market: ICE

Economy Desk

The spokesperson for Iran Center for Exchange of Currency & Gold (ICE) announced on Tuesday that, “The trading platform for the Indian rupee and Japanese yen symbols are currently activated within the commercial forex system of ICE,” as reported by IRNA.

“Previously, five currency symbols were active on the trading board of the commercial forex market, with transactions conducted across all of them. Currently, the euro, dollar, dirham, yuan, rouble, yen, and rupee symbols are operational, enabling merchants to buy and sell these currencies,” Asghar Balesini stated.



Balesini emphasized that activating the Indian rupee symbol will “significantly facilitate trade exchanges between the two countries.” He elaborated, “Customs data for 1403 (last Iranian calendar year, began on

March 20, 2024) shows approximately 152 million tons of non-oil exports valued at \$57.8 billion, while imports totaled \$72.4 billion. India was a major destination for Iran’s non-oil exports last year, accounting for \$1.9 billion, with \$1.7 billion in goods imported from India.” Although Iran’s imports from Japan in 1403 stood at around \$104 million, he added, the strategic importance of imported goods — primarily medical, healthcare, and industrial products — prompted the activation of this symbol in the commercial forex market.

The spokesperson noted that high-volume currency symbols are

actively traded in the commercial forex market, saying, “Total transactions in this market from the start of the [Iranian] year (March 20, 2025) until May 21 reached \$4.5 billion. Broken down by currency, trade volumes in the first two months of this year included 5.6 billion dirhams, \$2.4 billion, 2 billion yuan, 249 million euros, and 515 million roubles.” Balesini concluded, “From the launch of the commercial forex market until May 21, total transactions at ICE exceeded \$11.5 billion in USD terms. By currency, this breaks down to 15.6 billion dirhams, \$5.4 billion, 8.9 billion yuan, 531 million euros, and 1.7 billion roubles.”

Iran’s EAG delegation tasked with networking to normalize FATF case

Economy Desk

The Iranian deputy economy minister and head of Iran’s Financial Intelligence Unit (IRIFIU) said that the country’s participation in the 42nd meeting of the Eurasian Group (EAG) holds significant importance, citing “networking to normalize Iran’s case within the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)” as a key mission for the delegation.

The EAG is a FATF-style regional body comprising Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It focuses on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the meeting in Moscow, Hadi Khani noted, “This session is critical for Iran in multiple ways. First, it fosters knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and operational alignment with other nations. Most importantly, it provides Iran an opportunity to present its efforts in combating money laundering and ter-

rorism financing.” The deputy economy minister said, “Iran began presenting reports on its initiatives and programs from the first day of the meeting (Monday),” adding, “During the main session on Thursday and Friday, Iran will outline its anti-money laundering measures and decisions.”

The head of Iran’s delegation also affirmed, “On the sidelines of this meeting, we will hold discussions with anti-money laundering chiefs of BRICS member states.” He further highlighted, “At Iran’s proposal, a working group focused on combating money laundering and drug trafficking among Caspian littoral states was formed during the previous session. This group will convene again here.”

He noted, “At the previous EAG meeting in India, we secured a resolution from the plenary session, with member states unanimously agreeing to assist Iran in exiting FATF’s list of high-risk

and non-cooperative jurisdictions.” “This issue was revisited during Sunday’s meeting with the chair and deputies of the 42nd EAG plenary session,” he continued.

Khani stated, “With the Expediency Council’s ratification of the Palermo Convention and the ongoing review of the CFT Convention, there is renewed optimism and motivation within the EAG secretariat and member states to expedite resolution of Iran’s FATF case and restore normalcy.” Referring to bilateral meetings with other delegations, he added, “We will leverage the expertise of EAG member states that are also FATF members — such as India, Turkey, China, and observer countries like Japan — to build networks. Their support will help mitigate FATF’s restrictive countermeasures against Iranian nationals in global financial transactions.”

The 42nd EAG meeting commenced on Monday, in Moscow, with Iran attending as an observer. Over 200 represen-



tatives from more than 15 Eurasian, Middle Eastern, African, and Southeast Asian countries, alongside 20 international organizations, are participating.

Iran’s delegation, led by Khani, includes representatives from the Foreign Ministry, Economic Security Police, and Financial Intelligence Center.

Hope for ‘maximum ...

At its best, diplomacy seeks the “maximum possible,” not the “maximum desirable.” Recognizing this distinction is essential for understanding diplomatic success or failure.

A review of the five rounds of talks between Abbas Araghchi and Richard Nephew in Oman, Geneva, and Rome reinforces this point. Though largely held

behind closed doors, reports from think tanks such as the International Crisis Group and the Stimson Center suggest that, despite key differences, the two sides have reached preliminary understandings on some operational scenarios.

In the latest round of talks, even American sources acknowledged that Iran’s new proposals were “technically rational” and worthy of discussion at higher

levels.

Along these lines, assessments from Western institutions such as the Brookings Institution and the European Council on Foreign Relations indicate a moderation in the American side’s expectations. Stepping back from demands like a complete halt to enrichment or fully intrusive inspections shows signs of a more realistic posture. In response, Iran—while

holding firm to its principles—has put forward proposals such as “phased reciprocal return to commitments,” which many experts interpret as “smart flexibility.”

In essence, if one were to summarize why the public remains hopeful about the negotiations, the answer is clear: because Iranians have come to understand that, in today’s tumultuous world, foreign policy

is not a realm of dreams but a domain of realism. With a strong sense of historical memory and past experience, Iranian society believes that diplomacy—if guided by dignity and pragmatism—can relieve some of the burdens of daily life. This hope, though quiet and gradual, is rooted in a wise, national, and responsible perspective. And that, indeed, is the greatest asset for continuing the path of dialogue.