



The screengrab shows a member of Iran's under-17 student robotics team working on her robot during a training camp before the Asian Robotics Championships in Thailand. ● SOCIAL MEDIA

### Parts shortage remains key hurdle: *Team coach*



Ahmad Samiei, head coach of the Iranian student robotics team, told Iran Daily about the selection process: "These students were picked from those who had previously taken part in national and international contests and also attended specialized robotics training programs. After interviews, the top students and ideas were singled out for the Thailand competition." He added: "Over two months of intensive camp, the team focused on practicing and reviewing tactics for various

leagues, zeroing in on building their projects and robots to show up at the competition fully prepared and bring home the best possible results."

Samiei said the team competed in several leagues, including Line Tracing, Intelligent Warrior Robot (Sumo), Creativity, and Technical Report, and ended up with strong results. "In the Creativity (Creative Project) League, our students bagged first, second, and third in different age groups — meaning they cleaned up all three medal colors. Furthermore, in the Line Tracing League, our students took home two bronze medals."

"Our team has picked up valuable experience in this and previous competitions. Fortunately, our members always strive to keep up with the latest global standards, and I can confidently say that, in terms of scientific ability and technical understanding, our team measures up to any other team of the same age group from other countries."

Samiei claimed that the only real issue they face is sourcing the parts needed to build our students' projects and robots. Due to existing restrictions, access to a wide range of components in Iran is extremely limited.

"This holds back our students, making it hard for them to carry out their ideal designs. Still, we do our best to work around this by establishing connections with other countries and finding ways to get the necessary parts. Even so, this shortage and lack of variety remain a major obstacle for us."

To make up for these shortages, he continued, they always put the spotlight on creativity and innovation in their students' robot and project designs, adding that "our efforts have paid off" so far.

"We're still pushing ahead by getting our students involved in a variety of international competitions, building up their experience so they can bring home even more impressive results in the future," he concluded.



Iran's under-17 student robotics team poses for a group photo at the country's embassy in Thailand after pulling off an impressive victory at the Asian Robotics Championships in the Southeast Asian country on November 2, 2025. ● SOCIAL MEDIA

### Our rivals in Thailand stronger than before: *U-17 team coach*



Parisa Afshar, coach of Iran's under-17 student robotics team, told Iran Daily that this year's competition, with teams from South Korea, China, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Thailand, was held at a very high level. "We had previously faced off against some of these teams at the World Championships in China, and this time we ran into them again," she said, adding that in her view, these teams showed up better prepared and stronger than before. "Our boys and girls performed

well in both Junior and Senior age groups, and pulled off some excellent results," she stated. On the selection process, she explained: "For this competition, students first took part in national contests, and the top performers were invited to join the team. After interviews, some were picked for the Asian competition. Among them, several had previously competed in the World Championships in China and earned medals there."

She pointed out that before heading to the competition, the team members put in continuous, intensive training to show up fully ready, and in the end, they managed to bag some outstanding results.



Two members of the "Senior" section of Iran's under-17 student robotics team pick up line tracing robots. ● SOCIAL MEDIA

### Our lead in Thailand bigger than before: *Team media manager*

Reza Gholami, media manager of Iran's student robotics team, told Iran Daily that at the 2023 Asian Championships in Malaysia, our team took home the title with one gold, one silver, and one bronze. But compared to our previous Asian win and even our runner-up finish at the World Championships in Beijing, our performance this year was better "since we ended up with a bigger points lead over our rivals". He noted that each year, the selection competition for Iran's robotics team is held at Tehran University. The top finishers go on to the World Championships, with the most prestigious being the China event, organized by Beijing Institute of Technology — one of the world's leading robotics universities. The next tier usually moves on to the Asian Championships. He noted that for the Thailand competition, the best students were called up to

a selection camp, where Iran's previous team members from Asian contests, as well as those who had made it through internal selection, showed up and presented their ideas and designs. Ultimately, the top students and projects were picked out and sent to the World Championships.

"For Thailand, 48 students were invited to the selection camp, and from them, nine were narrowed down and chosen," he added.



The screengrab shows Iran's under-17 student robotics team preparing for line tracing competitions. ● SOCIAL MEDIA