

Iranian envoy: Iran, Indonesia can offer new narrative of Asia



Iran's Cultural Attaché in Indonesia Yahya Jahangiri (3rd Right) attends the opening ceremony of the 2026 Asian-African Conference Festival, hosted by Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia in Jakarta on June 30, 2026. ● IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Cultural Attaché in Indonesia criticized the dominance of major powers over historical narratives, saying Tehran and Jakarta could present the world with a different narrative of Asia. Yahya Jahangiri made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the 2026 Asian-African Conference Festival, hosted by Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia in Jakarta. The event brought together government officials,

ambassadors, academics, intellectuals, and young leaders under the theme, "Rethinking the Asian-African Conference for the Younger Generation: Global Solidarity, Multi-Diplomacy, and Multi-Narratives of World History." Addressing the concept of "multi-narrative history," Jahangiri said one of the defining challenges of the contemporary world is that history has too often been told through the lens of dominant powers. He argued that many nations across Asia and

Africa have experienced not only territorial colonization but also "narrative colonization." "A multi-narrative approach to history is not about denying the truth; it is about ending the monopoly over how that truth is told," he said. "Every nation and every civilization should have the opportunity to tell its own story in its own voice and from its own perspective." Jahangiri described young people as the driving force behind the future of Asia and Africa.

"The younger generation is not simply the heir to history—it will write the next chapter of it," he said. According to Jahangiri, closer cooperation between Tehran and Jakarta could offer the world a different narrative of Asia—one that presents the continent not as a peripheral actor, but as one of the principal centers of human civilization. Turning to the idea of "multi-diplomacy," the Iranian cultural attaché said diplomacy in today's world extends far beyond

governments and official institutions. "A film, a book, or a cultural festival can at times shape public opinion and strengthen ties between nations more effectively

than years of political negotiations," he said. In his closing remarks, Jahangiri described the 2026 Asian-African Conference Festival as an opportunity not only to

commemorate the legacy of the historic 1955 Asian-African Conference, known as the Bandung Conference, but also to build future-oriented cooperation.

Iranian series 'Aban' wins two awards at Madrid independent film festival

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The Iranian drama series Aban, directed by Reza Dadouei and produced by Majid Molaei, won two major honors at the sixth Madrid International Independent Film Festival (FICIMAD 2026) in Spain. At the festival's closing ceremony, Laleh Marzban received the Best Actress award in the Television and Web Series category for her performance in Aban. Mohsen Chavoshi also won the Best Original Song award for his acclaimed track Wall Clock (Saat-e Divari), which was featured in the series, Tasnim reported. Aban follows the story of a woman whose innovative, wealth-generating ideas force her to choose between preserving her loving marriage and pursuing her entrepreneurial ambitions. In its official festival catalog,

FICIMAD praised the series as "an engrossing screenplay that grows darker with every moment," highlighting its unpredictable yet effective plot twists that leave audiences "astonished and captivated."



The catalog describes the story as unfolding at a slow but relentless pace, with each narrative turn carrying the impact of "a massive explosion." It also commends the urban setting, saying the

city evolves into a character in its own right—a melancholic, almost bleak metropolis that blends Iranian culture with contemporary themes. The festival further praised the series' soundtrack, describing Amir Tavassoli's score as "outstanding" for conveying a broad range of emotions. It singled out the closing theme, Wall Clock and Gypsy (Saat-e Divari va Koli) by Mohsen Chavoshi, calling it an unforgettable song by a distinguished artist with international appeal. The Madrid International Independent Film Festival (FICIMAD) is one of Spain's leading events dedicated to independent cinema. Held annually, it showcases film and television productions from around the world while providing a platform for emerging talent and outstanding international works.

Isfahan to host international tourism short film event

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Iran's central province of Isfahan is preparing to host the Cinetour Tourism Short Film Event later this year as officials seek to promote event-based tourism and showcase the province's cultural and tourism potential to international audiences. According to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the event's policy-making council held a meeting on June 30 in the Isfahan Governor's Office. The session was attended by the governor's special adviser on tourism, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Directorate of Culture and Islamic Guidance, tourism industry stakeholders, members of the provincial hoteliers' association and other relevant organizations. Speaking on the sidelines of the meeting, Davoud Abiyan, deputy head of tourism at Isfahan's General Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, described tourism as one of the country's and the province's most important pathways for overcoming



current economic challenges. He stressed that closer cooperation between government institutions and the private sector is essential to developing the industry. Masoud Nik-Aein, the special adviser to the governor of Isfahan on tourism, underscored the importance of introducing the province's attractions to the international community, particularly in the post-war period. He said filmmakers could play a significant role in showcasing Isfahan's

tourist attractions, landscapes and filming locations, adding that event-based tourism is among the most effective strategies for revitalizing the sector. Yaser Ahmadi, an international festival juror, presented the executive plans for the Cinetour event and outlined its organizational process, objectives and international potential. The Cinetour Tourism Short Film Event is scheduled to take place in Isfahan in December.

'Under the Oak Tree' gains international momentum



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The Iranian short film Under the Oak Tree, written and directed by Hossein Elahyari, has been selected for the Short of the Year competition organized by the Short Film Conference (SFC) and will also be screened at the Iranian Short Film Night program during New Zealand's Show Me Shorts festival. The Short Film Conference (SFC), founded in 1970, is the world's oldest and one of the most influential international professional networks dedicated to short cin-

ema. Its annual Short of the Year competition is among the organization's flagship programs, bringing together films nominated by qualifying festivals. The entries are evaluated through a vote by SFC members, with the winner announced during the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and Market in France. Selection for the competition offers filmmakers significant international exposure among festival directors, programmers and short film distributors. Under the Oak Tree was nominated by the Oscar-qualifying In-

the Palace International Short Film Festival, a recognition that reflects confidence in the film's quality and strengthens its prospects for further international screenings and distribution. The film has also been selected for Iranian Short Film Night at New Zealand's Show Me Shorts festival, one of Oceania's leading short film events since its launch in 2006. Under the Oak Tree will be screened on July 21 and 22 as part of the festival's special program highlighting Iranian cinema, with screenings taking place in several cities across New Zealand.

The film recently won the Best Iranian Film award at the third Seven Skies International Film Festival, where the prize was presented by festival director Shahab Hosseini. Its growing list of international accolades also includes an honorary diploma at the 31st Listapad International Film Festival, the Special Jury Prize at the 22nd In the Palace International Short Film Festival in Bulgaria, Best Film, Best Screenplay and Best Sound Design in the national competition of the 41st Tehran International Short Film Festival, as well as the National Will Manifestation Award at the 43rd Fajr International Film Festival.