

Iranian students win three titles at China robotics event

Runner-up spot no less than championship: *Team manager tells Iran Daily*

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Iran's 13-member student robotics team won three titles at the RobotChallenge 2026 in Beijing, China, taking second place in the team Technical Report category and third place in both the under-12 creativity category and robotic rugby. The results extended Iran's presence among the leading teams in the international student robotics competition, despite the country sending a much smaller delegation than several of its rivals. Teams from 48 countries took part in the competition, with students from countries including China, Russia, Romania, Japan, Germany and South Korea competing alongside Iran. Nader Nobakht, head of Iran's student robotics teams, told Iran Daily that the second-place finish in the Technical Report category demonstrated the ability of Iranian students to design, document and present robotics projects at an international level. The category assesses more than the construction and operation of a robot. It also examines teams' ability in the design process,

problem-solving, technical documentation and presentation of their achievements. Iranian students also picked up third place in the under-12 creativity category, highlighting the creative abilities of younger members of the country's robotics programme. The Iranian team finished third in robotic rugby, adding a second bronze-level result to its second-place team ranking. Nobakht said the continued success of Iranian students in international competitions was significant, particularly given the size of the delegation sent to China this year. "For the championship, naturally, much broader facilities, equipment, logistical support and preparation are needed," Nobakht said, adding that maintaining a position around second and third place in the world was itself a valuable achievement. He said that if Iran wanted to go one step further and win the championship, the team would need access to better equipment and facilities, a more organized preparation process, broader planning and more suitable training camps.

Increasing the number of students sent to international competitions would also be important, Nobakht said. The difference in team sizes was particularly striking at this year's competition. South Korea and Thailand each competed with more than 100 students, while Malaysia also sent more than 100 students. Host China took part with a very large student delegation. Egypt sent about 70 to 80 students, while Tunisia sent about 30 to 40, according to Nobakht. Iran competed with only 13 students. Nobakht said Iran had sent 48 students to the competition two years ago and that expectations had been for the delegation to grow this year, potentially reaching about 100 students. He said the smaller Iranian delegation made the three results particularly significant. "Despite this difference in the number of participants, facilities and level of preparation, winning three world titles with a team of 13 students is a very valuable achievement," Nobakht said, describing the result as "something not short of a championship".



Members of Iran's student robotics team salute on the podium after winning the bronze medal in the RobotChallenge 2026 competition in Beijing, China, on August 10, 2026.
● IRNA

The number of participants, equipment, facilities, logistical support and the quality of preparation can all influence a team's chances of winning, he said. Iran nevertheless held on to its place among the world's leading student robotics teams and defended the runner-up position it achieved in the previous edition of the competition. The result also kept alive Iran's recent run of international success in student robotics, with the country again finishing near the top of a competition involving dozens of national teams.

In memory of Minab schoolkids

The Iranian students also used the competition to commemorate pupils killed at Shajareh Tayyeb School in Minab, a city in southern Iran. The team competed with images of the victims printed on their



uniforms as part of an effort to honor the memory and suffering of the students. At least 168 people, most of them primary-school boys and girls, were killed in a US missile attack on the school on February 28. The Iranian students continued to wear the same uniforms when they appeared on the podium after securing their international titles, dedicating their scientific and sporting achievement to the victims. The podium appearances also brought Iran's flag to one of the world's major international student scientific competitions.

For Iran, the latest results build on its performance in the previous edition, when the student robotics team finished as world runner-up. This year, with a delegation of just 13 students, the team secured second place in the Technical Report category and two third-place finishes in under-12 creativity and robotic rugby. The results demonstrated the capacity of Iranian students to compete internationally even when the resources and size of the delegation were significantly different from those of several competing countries.

Culture can be 'common language' for peace: *Deputy minister*



Iran's Deputy Culture Minister Mohsen Javadi, seen on the screen, addresses the 11th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting in Bhopal, India, on August 9, 2026.
● IRNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran called for stronger cultural cooperation among BRICS members at a two-day meeting in the Indian city of Bhopal, with its deputy culture minister saying culture and the arts could serve as a "common language" for peace and help address economic and political challenges. "Culture and art are not a side issue, but the only common and effective language for peace, tranquility and resolving economic and political challenges in today's world," Mohsen Javadi, who led the Iranian delegation at the 11th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meet-

ing on August 8-9, said at the event. The meeting was held under the theme "Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". The Iranian delegation took part in negotiations that produced a final statement agreed by all members and adopted as the basis for BRICS cultural cooperation in 2026. Javadi highlighted cooperation in books and publishing, culture, arts, tourism and cultural heritage, while stressing the importance of supporting young people in member states as drivers of future cultural ties. On the sidelines, he

held talks with cultural officials from India, Indonesia and Brazil. Indonesia's Culture Minister Fadli Zon expressed readiness for joint work on the Tehran International Book Fair, film production, protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and cultural weeks. Talks with India's deputy culture minister focused on expanding cooperation around the Persian language, including the Indian official's personal interest in learning Persian. Javadi proposed two major cultural programs in India, centered on the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, to be organized with the Iranian embassy and cultural mission. The 18th BRICS summit is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in mid-September.

Iran's new grand ...

But its replacement has yet to emerge. The future regional order will probably be neither entirely American nor led by Iran. Instead, it is likely to be a multilayered and competitive order in which the United States remains a player, China takes on a greater economic role, Iran seeks to consolidate its regional position, and the Arab countries play a more independent role. The "Foreign Affairs" article reminds us of one important point: Contrary to many predictions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated a strong capacity for adapta-

tion and strategic reconstruction. However, assessing Iran's future requires distinguishing between two concepts: the power of resistance and the power of development. Iran has shown that it can withstand pressure, but the next stage in becoming a sustainable power requires establishing a link between security, the economy and society. For this reason, the "new grand strategy of Iran" should not be seen as a complete break with the past. Rather, it should be viewed as a new stage in the evolution of an existing strategy: a shift from advancing revolutionary ideals abroad toward preserving strate-

gic depth; a shift from confrontation toward managing competition; and, finally, a shift from pure ideology toward a combination of ideology and national interests. But the future of this strategy hinges on one fundamental question: Can Iran turn its geopolitical position and security capabilities into economic power, popular support and sustainable regional influence? The answer to this question will determine not only Iran's future, but also the security architecture of the Persian Gulf over the next decade.

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0440031

second Announcement

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity	UNIT
1	TUBING, API GRADE L-80, TYPE1, SEAMLESS, 3 1/2 IN., 9.2 PPF "N.VAM" THD. OR EQUIVALENT, R-3 (MAX. LENGTH: 40.5 FT) STANDARD DRIFT AS PER API 5CT/ISO11960 & NACE MR0176 SIZE (OD), WEGHT (PPF), AS SPECIFIED MARKING: STENCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH API 5CT & USC SYSTEM NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION 1 (L.O.I: 1) "QCP/MPS DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW AND CONFIRM" "ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION"	2000	LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 12,218 EURO or 19,570,986,432 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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