



Russia's creative-industry shift opens new door for Iranian publishing

Arts & Culture Desk

Russia's publishing industry is moving beyond the printed page toward a broader creative economy, opening fresh opportunities for Iranian books to reach new audiences through translation, adaptation and rights deals, a senior Iranian cultural official said Saturday at the Moscow International Book Fair.

Alireza Nouri-Zadeh, director general for cultural associations and activities at Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, said his meetings with Russian publishers and book-industry officials pointed to growing interest in Iranian contemporary literature and children's books, IRNA reported.

The potential, he said, lies in turning books from stand-alone products into the starting point of a wider cultural and commercial chain, spanning animation, film, games, toys and educational prod-

ucts.

"Book publishing is no longer limited to printing and selling paper copies," Nouri-Zadeh wrote in an account of Iran's participation in the fair. "A book can become the nucleus of an economic and cultural chain."

Russian publishers are placing greater emphasis on children's and young-adult literature, viewing successful titles as platforms for illustration, animation, games and other creative products, he said. Iran, with its established pool of writers, illustrators and publishers, has considerable room to enter that market.

Nouri-Zadeh also said several Russian publishers had expressed interest in acquiring publication rights to Iranian children's books and contemporary fiction after learning about the Tehran Publishing Fellowship.

The Moscow meetings involved major Russian publishing houses,

including Eksmo and AST, as well as representatives of the Russian book industry and creative-sector institutions. Talks focused on copyright exchanges, introducing Iranian works and expanding joint projects.

At a separate literary meeting during the fair, Iranian and Russian officials called for a stronger two-way translation movement, particularly for contemporary works. Nouri-Zadeh said Iran has 22,000 active publishers and released about 107,000 book titles last year, including 82,000 original works and 24,000 translations.

Iran has also put incentives in place to support Persian-to-Russian translations, including grants and funding for the publication of 20 Iranian titles in Russian.

Nouri-Zadeh said the next step was to move beyond ceremonial cultural exchanges and turn interest into professional agreements on translation, publishing rights, distribu-



tion and marketing.

"The opportunity is real," he said, calling for sustained negotiations and joint projects to ensure Irani-

an literature secures a lasting foothold in Russia's evolving publishing and creative-industries market. The 39th Moscow International

Book Fair opened on September 2 and closes Sunday, bringing together more than 300 publishers from Russia and 10 other countries.

Iran, Turkey stress continued scientific, cultural ties



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Iran and Turkey called for continued scientific and cultural cooperation by drawing on their shared historical and civilizational heritage, during a meeting Saturday between Iranology Foundation President Ali Akbar Salehi and Turkish Ambassador

to Iran Hicabi Kirlangic in Tehran.

The meeting came as Kirlangic prepares to wrap up his diplomatic mission in Iran, offering both sides an opportunity to review years of cultural and academic engagement and reaffirm their commitment to keeping those ties on track under Turkey's

incoming ambassador, iranology.ir reported.

Salehi praised the Turkish envoy's cultural activities during his years in Iran and called for deeper scientific and cultural exchanges between the two neighboring countries.

He pointed to the broad potential for cooperation in history, culture, civilization and shared heritage, urging closer links between Iranian and Turkish academic and cultural institutions to foster greater mutual understanding between the two nations.

Kirlangic, who has a longstanding interest in Persian language and literature, welcomed his engagement with Iranian academic and cultural centers during his posting. He also voiced support for

maintaining and expanding cultural interaction between Tehran and Ankara.

The Turkish ambassador had previously visited the Iranology Foundation twice and became acquainted with its research activities and cultural programs. His familiarity with Persian literature and interest in Iran's historical and cultural fields helped forge closer connections with the country's academic and cultural institutions during his mission.

As his diplomatic tenure draws to a close, Salehi and Kirlangic agreed that Iran and Turkey should continue to tap into their shared cultural and scientific capacities to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen people-to-people ties.

Tehran, Yerevan discuss reciprocal publication of literary works

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Iran and Armenia discussed support for the translation and reciprocal publication of literary works as officials met on the sidelines of the ninth Yerevan International Book Festival in the Armenian capital.

Ebrahim Heydari, head of Iran's House of Book and Literature, and Anna Chulyan, director of the National Library of Armenia, also discussed the exchange of books and library materials, literary events and the participation of publishers and writers in book fairs, ILNA reported.

Heydari said translation offered one of the most important

avenues for cultural cooperation, stressing the need to support the translation and publication of works by Iranian and Armenian authors in each other's languages.

The meeting also covered the development of the National Library of Armenia's dedicated Iran section. Iran's House of Book and Literature agreed to assist with strengthening and expanding its holdings, according to a statement from the Iranian institution.

Chulyan outlined the Armenian library's work in preserving the country's written heritage and maintaining its national bibliography. She said the exchange of resources

and experience between the two national libraries was important.

The officials also discussed literary meetings, the presentation of works from both countries and greater participation by authors, translators and publishers in international book events.

The ninth Yerevan International Book Festival, which runs from September 4 to 6, has brought publishers, writers and literary professionals from several countries to the Armenian capital. This year's program centers on language, literary translation and the role of language in preserving cultural memory.

Russia can be ...

This helps explain why Russia can be an important partner for Iran without necessarily becoming an unlimited strategic ally.

"Russia does not accept the US-led liberal order and seeks, in various ways, to challenge it," Baghi said. "At the same time, pragmatism in Russian foreign policy means that partnerships and alliances are pursued as long as they serve Russia's interests."

That principle is particularly relevant as Iran seeks to expand economic cooperation with Russia in areas such as trade, energy, transportation, essential goods and financial arrangements. Such cooperation can help both countries reduce some of the effects of Western sanctions and create alternative channels for economic exchange.

But Baghi cautions against interpreting this cooperation as evidence that Moscow is prepared to confront Washington on Iran's behalf.

"Given that Iran is under Western sanctions

and is politically considered a high-risk country, Russia's foreign policy behavior shows that it does not want to tighten its relationship with Iran without limits," he said.

Russia's own confrontation with the West has made tactical partnerships more valuable. Moscow needs relationships that can support its economic and political interests while avoiding unnecessary escalation with the United States and its allies. Iran, in this context, can be an important partner, but the relationship remains subject to Russia's strategic calculations.

"Assistance to Iran, in economic, commercial, political and military areas, will go as far as it does not lead Russia into a direct confrontation with the United States," Baghi said.

The distinction between tactical and strategic cooperation is therefore central to the future of Tehran-Moscow relations. The two countries have significant areas of overlapping interest, but Baghi argues that

this should not automatically be described as a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Russia's definition of a strategic partner, he notes, has a specific meaning. Even Moscow's relationship with China, despite being described by both sides as a strategic partnership, is influenced by necessity and changing interests. "I believe Russia's partnership with Belarus is more strategic than its partnership with China," he said.

This does not reduce the importance of Russia for Iran. Rather, it suggests that Tehran can benefit from cooperation with Moscow by focusing on areas where interests genuinely converge. Trade, energy, transport links and financial mechanisms can provide practical opportunities, particularly when both sides seek to reduce their exposure to Western pressure.

At the same time, Russia itself remains part of the international system it criticizes. This is one of the main limitations on the emergence of a completely separate economic order outside Western structures.

"Although countries such as Russia and China are critics of the current world order, they have no choice but to play a role within the same structure and the same order," Baghi said.

In his view, Russia's position as a major power also rests primarily on its political and military capabilities rather than on economic or technological strength. He argues that Moscow's permanent seat on the UN Security Council and its nuclear arsenal give it a level of strategic weight that cannot easily be ignored.

"I place Russia, with some qualification, among the great powers," Baghi said. "Without its veto power and nuclear weapons, it would not have much to say in the global economy or economic and technological innovation."

This balance also affects Russia's relations with Washington. Despite their differences, Baghi believes that the two sides have reasons to maintain broader channels of communication because of Russia's position in

the international system.

"There is undoubtedly coordination between Moscow and Washington at the broader level, regardless of who occupies the White House," he said. "This coordination also applies to Iran."

For Iran, the message is therefore one of opportunity combined with realism. Russia can provide meaningful economic, political and security support, and closer cooperation can help Tehran expand its room for maneuver under sanctions. But Moscow will ultimately measure every step against its own national interests.

The future of Iran-Russia relations, in Baghi's assessment, is therefore more likely to be shaped by a steady expansion of practical cooperation than by the creation of an unlimited alliance. The two countries have strong reasons to work together, but the durability of that partnership will depend on how effectively they align their interests while preserving their independent strategic choices.