



Asian Mayors Forum

AMF Quarterly

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Excellency,

As we are bidding farewell to 2023 and its sad developments, and with deep sorrow for thousands of lives lost in Gaza or other places across the world, we are beginning 2024 with hopes for peace and I would like to extend my sincere greetings and best wishes to you.

May it be a year full of health, happiness, prosperity, and countless blessings for you, your family, and all esteemed citizens of your city.

I hope we can work together in the coming year to further strengthen the ties of our friendship between AMF and all Asian cities and undertake a fresh initiative to develop cooperation in different areas of urban management, and mutual interest.

I look forward to meeting you at the AMF Secretariat in Tehran soon.

Hamidreza Gholamzadeh
Secretary-General
Asian Mayors Forum



International Affairs



Domestic Affairs



Member Cities



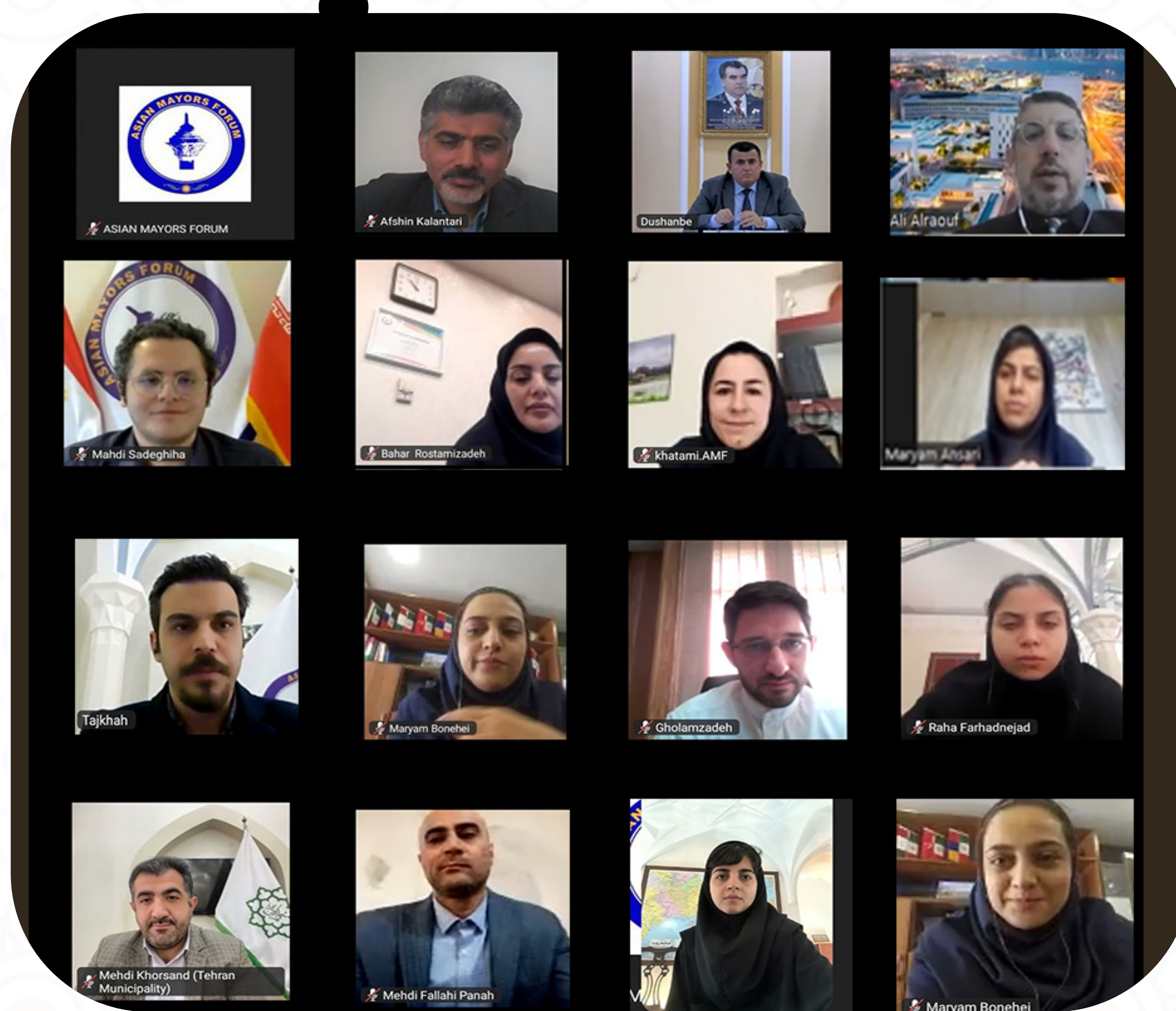
Interns

International Affairs



AMF holds online webinar on financial flows, sustainability

AMF has hosted an online webinar on sustainable financial flows on the occasion of Urban October. The event, dubbed “Sustainable Financial Flows in Asian Cities: Challenges and Solutions”, had prominent lecturers from different organizations including Deputy Mayor of Tajik city of Dushanbe Mr. Abdurahmonzoda Abdurahmon Safarali, UN Habitat National Project Manager Mr. Afshin Kalantari, ISOCARP Board Member Mr. Ali A. Alrauf, Tehran Municipality’s Head of Economic Diplomacy Office Mr. Mehdi Khorsand and AMF Advisor Mr. Mojtaba Tajkhah. Green financial flows, their reversibility and the role this policy can play in social and economic development and stability of the cities were discussed in the session, where two case studies were also taken into consideration.



Iranian researcher wins BRICS, SCO Young Leaders Award

Iran’s representative at “The BRICS and SCO Young Leaders Award” has won the title of Young Researcher of the Year. Mohammadreza Baradaran Motie, who was nominated for the award by AMF as a partner of the event, received the award for his project on efficiency of urban green spaces using computer modeling and AI. He received the title along with Rustam Lukmanov from Kazan. The award ceremony was held on December 11 in Russian city of Kazan, with representatives from India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, South Africa and Russia, rewarding the participants in categories of Media Influencer, Social Entrepreneur, Public Diplomacy, Young Researcher and Eco-initiative.





Chongqing trade event held with AMF coop.

The 17th China (Chongqing)-Iran Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation has convened in the Chinese city of Chongqing. The event, organized in cooperation with Tehran Municipality and Asian Mayors Forum, had several representatives from municipal, industrial and commercial sectors in attendance. Cooperation in fields of developing green and smart cities, urban transportation and smartification as well as automotive technologies were discussed in the meeting. The parties signed several agreements in the session. Chongqing is the largest city of the world in terms of population and is home to several trade and tech zones.

AMF event marks Intl. Migrants Day with UN representatives

AMF has hosted a movie watching event on the occasion of the International Migrants Day, with the presence of UN representatives. Held at Balkh Mansion, the event was attended by Lalini Veerassamy, the Chief of Mission for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Iran, representatives from UNHCR Mr. Tomoya Somejima and Mr. Farshud Farzin as well as a group of Afghan migrants. Starting with screening Baran movie from acclaimed director Majid Majidi on pains of Afghan migrants, the event continued with a video message from IOM Director General Amy E. Pope and a conversation on migrants in Iran, their needs, their challenges and the solutions to their problems. The potentials of the migrant community and the need to use all capacities to ensure their rights and meet their needs as citizens were also discussed in the meeting.



AMF takes part at UCLG-MEWA Retreat Istanbul'23



AMF delegation has taken part at UCLG-MEWA Retreat Istanbul'23, held in the Turkish city under the theme of "Redefining Urban Horizons." AMF Director of Urban Diplomacy Ms. Roya Leilieiyon addressed "Regional Insights: LRGs of MEWA Region Addressing Challenges" panel on behalf of AMF SG, drawing attentions to the changing dynamics of the world. Ms. Leilieiyon underlined that local governments are vital in today's world, particularly in a diverse and oil-dominant region as Middle East and West Asia. She said MEWA cities need to work on sustainable revenue flows and to make the diversity a strength to benefit from. She also stressed the readiness and capacity of AMF to facilitate the connection between MEWA and the rest of Asia. As a last word, Ms. Leilieiyon condemned the genocide in Gaza by Israeli regime, calling for concrete action against it. UCLG-MEWA Retreat Istanbul'23 has started on December 19 and will last for 3 days.

AMF marks Human Rights Day with high-ranking conference

AMF has held "Human Rights: International, Iranian and Urban" in cooperation with the Faculty of World Studies. Organized on the occasion of World Human Rights Day, the event addressed the most pressing issues of the field at three levels in different panels. AMF SG, while underlining the importance of the human rights in today's world, condemned the double standards in this regard. He particularly pointed out the situation in Gaza and the veto of a UN resolution by the US. Dean of Faculty of World Studies Mr. Saeidreza Ameli, UN Resident Coordinator for Iran Mr. Stefan Priesner, and South Korean Ambassador Mr. Yun Kang Hyeon were other prominent lecturers of the conference.





AMF Meet-Up 2023 held mid-Dec.

AMF has held its Annual Meet-Up on December 13, 2023, reviewing its activities and planning for the future. The online session, chaired by AMF SG Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, explored what has been done in 2023 and announced the plans for the upcoming year. The Head of AMF Technical Committees Mr. Mahdi Fallahi Panah also reviewed the performance of the committees and their future perspectives. AMF also announced Iranian cities of Hamedan and Shiraz as Capitals of Tourism and the Environment, respectively. The Lebanese city of Ghobeiry was also announced as the Capital of Culture for 2024.

AMF actively participates in 6th Guangzhou Award

AMF delegation has had an active participation at the 6th Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation held early December. AMF SG delivered a speech at "AI and Digital Economy" sub-forum held on the sidelines of Global Mayors Forum in the Chinese city as part of the Award event. Underlining the contribution AI has already made in urban management, Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh noted that it is a transformative opportunity to build smarter and more sustainable urban environments. The AMF SG also had a meeting with his counterpart at UCLG, Ms. Emilia Saiz on a new initiative of the Forum, InCity. Further, Mr. Gholamzadeh held talks with Deputy Director of Xian Foreign Affairs Office Ms. Li Xiaoyan, who serves as the Head of Tourism Committee of UCLG ASPAC, as well. The officials discussed cooperation under InCity.





UN Habiata urges new urban financing framework

The UN-Habitat Executive Director has issued a statement on the occasion of World Cities Day, calling for a new financing framework to unleash the potential of the urban environments. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, while drawing attentions to the stalemate of progress towards Sustainable Development Goals, underlined the opportunities cities offer for growth and recovery. Noting that half of the world is now urban, he urged better financing the cities.

AMF SG addresses Korean forum on human values

AMF SG says effective management of human settlements requires consideration and application of human values. Addressing a panel on the humanities and cities at "The 21st Century Human Values Forum 2023", Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh underlined in his online speech that development needs peace and peace in urban environments relies on human-centered management, which prioritizes values such as inclusion and citizenship. That's why these human values should be included in urban planning and management, he said, calling for the change in these fields. The Secretary General further underlined the capacities AMF has created in this regard, including specialized committees and networks to meet the needs of different communities and address different urban issues. "The 21st Century Human Values Forum 2023" was held in South Korean city of Andong on October 27-29.



AMF, OANA explore media cooperation



AMF has discussed cooperation with the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA). The talks were made between AMF Secretary General Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and OANA Secretary General Mr. Zaman Rezakhani at Forum's Secretariat. Boosting ties and signing a cooperation agreement were touched upon in the meeting, regarding the high potentials and capacities of the two organizations. OANA, an association of 44 news agencies from 35 Asia-Pacific countries, was founded in 1961 on the initiative of UNESCO.

AMF seeks cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire

AMF has discussed cooperation with Friendship Association of Iran and Côte d'Ivoire. The discussion took place in a meeting between AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and the Association's Founder and Director Mr. Mohammad Dastgheib and a senior adviser to him, Ms. Parsakhoo. The capacities of AMF for connecting Asian and Ivorian cities and the potentials of the African country in different fields, particularly urban arena, were explored in the meeting as the parties pledged to work for joint projects, including sister city agreements.



Domestic Affairs



AMF launches Urban Cinema sessions

Asian Mayors Forum has launched a series of movie watching and reviewing sessions on urban documentaries and films, dubbed "Urban Cinema". The first session was dedicated to "The Lover's Wind", acclaimed documentary of French director Albert Lamorisse. The attendees, while watching the movie, enjoyed exchanging comments and reviews on the documentary, with a focus on the way it has pictured the urban and architecture aspects of Iran and the Iranian cities.



AMF takes part at charity event of diplomatic spouses

AMF participated at the Charity Bazaar of the Diplomatic Women Association as the previous years. The opening ceremony, held on November 1, was held with the presence of spouse of the Iranian Foreign Minister Mrs. Amirabdollahian and several other diplomatic spouses. Groups from different countries attended the event, offering their food and handicrafts. The 3-day event was organized at Abgineh Hall of Diplomatic Club.





AMF signs MoU with UT faculty

AMF has signed an agreement with the Faculty of World Studies from University of Tehran. The agreement was reached in a meeting between AMF Secretary General Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and the Head of FWS Mr. Saied Reza Ameli, setting the ground for cooperation between the international body and the academia on urban challenges. The Faculty of World Studies is a pioneer institute in higher education with an interdisciplinary approach aimed at providing an integrated picture of the modern world.

Winners of painting contest on urban environments announced

Tehran Municipality and Asian Mayors Forum have announced the winners of its 1st painting competition for children on “the Environmental Future of My City”. Organized on the occasion of World Metropolitan Day, the contest received nearly 150 works, among which the following are selected as winners. The winners will be awarded in a ceremony by Tehran’s Department of Environment in November and their works will be displayed at an exhibition.



Member Cities



AMF felicitates new mayor of Bojnourd

AMF SG has felicitated the newly elected mayor of Iranian city of Bojnourd, Mr. Mohammadali Keshmiri, wishing him success in his term. The full text of the message is as follows: Dear Colleague, The Honorable Mayor, I would like to express sincere greeting of mine, and all the members' of the Asian Mayors forum due to the trust vote of the people's representatives in the city council and for your worthy election as the mayor. I also pray God for your success and proudness in carrying out of this critical responsibility. I hope that through a bilateral will and collaboration, we could be able to prepare good quality of life for the citizens and better situation for your beautiful city, in regional, continental and global level. within the framework of our common goal "Asia for citizens, integration for better life".



A new Iranian city joins AMF

AMF has a new member! The Iranian resort island of Kish has joined us to foster ties with Forum's members. The beautiful city, located off the southern coast of Iran in the Persian Gulf, is a popular tourist destination and has a lot to share regarding urban tourism and its related industries. Kish also enjoys rich culture and history, while serving as an economic hub enjoying a free trade zone. AMF hopes to have a fruitful cooperation with Kish!



AMF family gets bigger by a new member

We are delighted to welcome the Iranian city of Behshahr to AMF family. Behshahr lies on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea, enjoying mild weather and green environment. The city is home to numerous historical and natural attractions and an active agriculture industry. AMF is looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with Behshahr.



AMF hosts meeting between Zahedan, foreign diplomats

AMF has hosted a meeting between its member city of Zahedan and a delegation of foreign ambassadors on boosting bilateral cooperation. AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Zahedan Mayor Mr. Mohammad Amir Barahoui held talks with Ambassador of Republic of Korea Mr. Yun Kang Hyeon, Ambassador of Bolivia Ms. Romina Guadalupe Perez and First Secretary of Japanese Embassy Mr. Sawada Nobutaka, introducing the capacities of Sistan-Baluchistan Province and its capital city of Zahedan in economic, cultural and tourism sectors. The envoys, while welcoming the cooperation, underlined the potential fields in this regard, including cultural similarities and common urban challenges. The delegation was also invited to visit Zahedan on its national day in January.

AMF to boost ties with Kermanshah on smartification



AMF hosted a delegation from the Iranian city of Kermanshah to explore the development of ties on smart cities. The delegation, headed by Kermanshah Municipality's ICT Director Mr. Abedin Mahmoudi, discussed its most recent smartification projects and the capacities of the western Iranian city to expand cooperation in this regard. Kermanshah is an active member of AMF Committee for Smart Asian Cities.

Iranian city of Lahijan joins AMF

Let's welcome our new member, Iranian city of Lahijan. Lahijan is a tourist destination in northern Iran and is among the most prominent cities on Caspian southern shores. Enjoying a beautiful nature and a rich history, Lahijan is known as an agricultural hub known for its tea and silk farming. AMF hopes for a successful and productive cooperation with Lahijan.



AMF, Sari co-organize conference on tourism



AMF and its member city of Sari has organized an international conference on tourism in the Iranian northern province of Mazandaran. "Mazandaran International Conference on Tourism" had a focus on the potential market of Russia and CIS countries as it introduced the various capacities of the Mazandaran cities in field of tourism. Including an exhibition on tourism and its related industries, the event was held on 27 - 30 September, 2023, at Mizban Hotel in Babolsar.

AMF holds talks with Dushanbe, Minsk

AMF SG has held talks with Deputy Chairman of the City of Dushanbe Mr. Abdurahmonzoda Abdurahmon Safarali. Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh discussed expansion of ties with Mr. Deputy Chairman, introducing the capacities of the AMF and the potential Dushanbe has as the Forum's term President. The Secretary General has also met with Alexander Chernikov, Deputy Mayor of Minsk City Executive Committee on bilateral ties between the Belarusian city and AMF. AMF Secretary General visited Tajik capital late September to take part at Dushanbe International Investment Forum 2023.



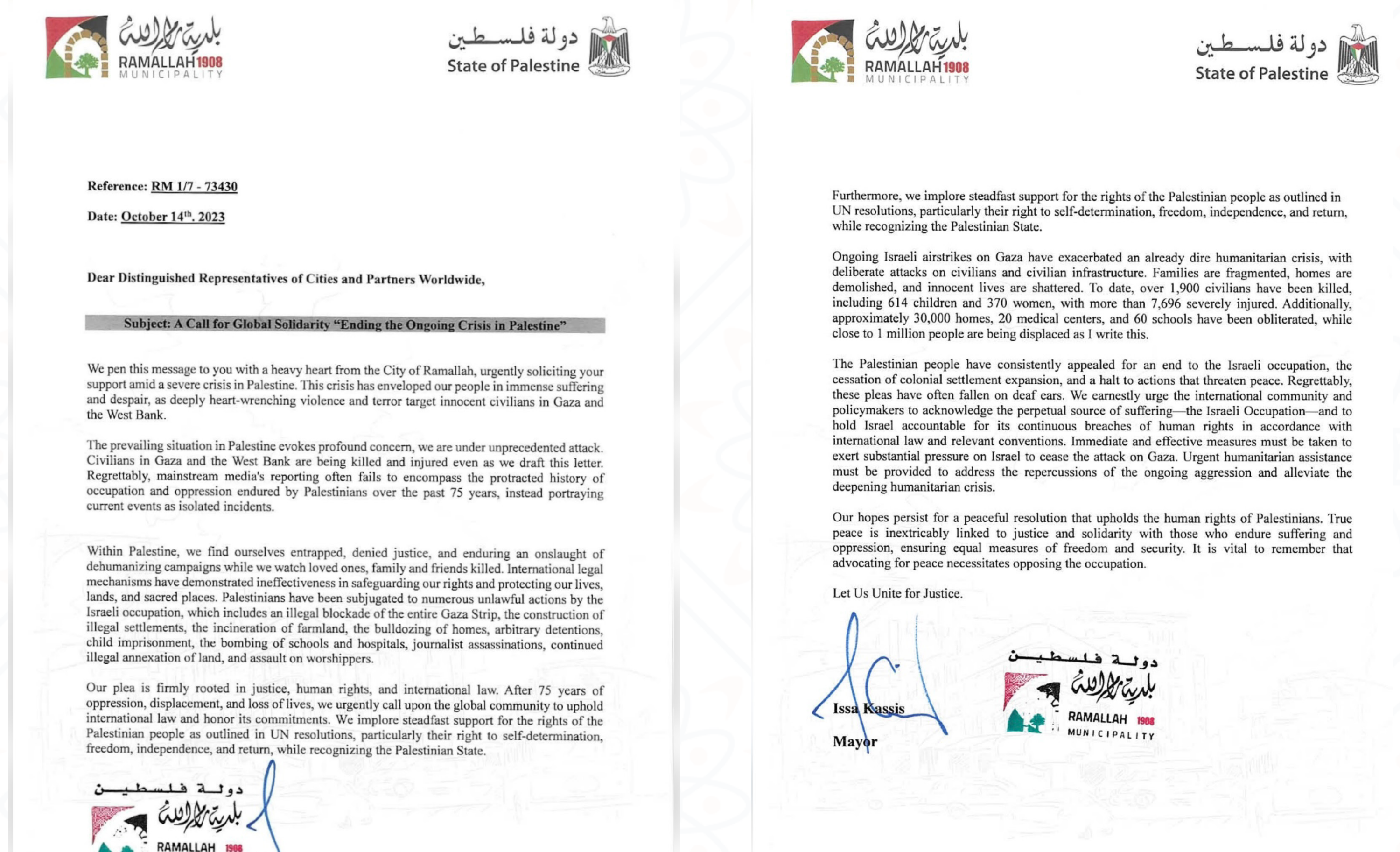
'Cities can play vital role in boosting urban investment'

AMF SG has emphasized the role of the cities and local governments in fostering investment through city diplomacy. Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh made the comments in his speech at "Dushanbe International Investment Forum 2023" in the Tajik capital. The Secretary General underlined the potentials city diplomacy for sustainable development, including building international networks, promoting local investment ecosystems, facilitating Public- Private Partnerships and ultimately creating livable cities. He urged all to recognize the power of the cities as engines of economic development and join hand to benefit from this potential in making a bright future for the urban environments. "Dushanbe International Investment Forum 2023" was held in the Tajik capital late September.



Ramallah Mayor calls for solidarity with Palestinians

Mayor of the Palestinian city of Ramallah has called upon the international community to support the rights of the Arab nation and acknowledge the "perpetual cause of the suffering: Israeli occupation". In his letter to urban leaders and mayors, Mr. Issa Kassis has deemed the situation in Gaza and West Bank as dire after continuous airstrikes against civilians and infrastructures. While condemning the "ineffective" international legal mechanisms for safeguarding the rights, lives and lands of the Palestinians, Mr. Kassis has underlined the rightful plea of the nation for peace and justice, violated by Israeli occupation for 75 years. Ramallah Mayor has urged support for the human rights of the Palestinians, including freedom, underlining that "advocating for peace necessitates opposing the occupation."





AMF, Zahedan to hold 1st Asian Urban Startup Weekend

AMF and the Iranian city of Zahedan will hold the first Asian Urban Startup Weekend mid spring 2024. The initiative was agreed upon in a meeting between AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Zahedan Mayor Mohammad Amir Barahouyi in the southern city, where a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between AMF, Zahedan Municipality and Sistan-Baluchistan Science and Technology Park. The project is aimed at using the potential of regional and continental ideators, entrepreneurs, businesses and startups to deal with urban challenges and set the ground for sustainable development. Social inclusion and public wellbeing, environmental protection and resilience, urban regeneration and public spaces, smart cities and technology-based governance, public services and urban infrastructure are the main areas of the first Asian Urban Startup Weekend.

AMF, Kazan exchange views on boosting ties

MF SG has held talks with Mayor of Russian city of Kazan Mr. Il-sur Metshin. Accompanying a delegation from Municipality of Tehran, Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh exchanged views with Kazan mayor on developing ties. The meeting took place on the sidelines of "International Architectural and Construction Forum", where the delegates addressed a panel on preserving the identity in urban architecture. The delegation also made a visit to Kazan Hi-Technology Park, known as IT Park, to explore capacities for cooperation.



Interns



Interns develop negotiations skills at simulation competition



AMF intends to organize negotiation simulation and roleplay competitions with the aim of improving negotiation, argument building, and rhetorical skills among the youth. The subject will be selected from hits of the day in urban management area, including environment, urbanization and architecture and the scale of the competitions will be domestic and international. The very first of these series has been held with the participation of AMF interns on the development project of a religious site in the Iranian city of Shiraz, roleplaying for/against the project and defending their ideas. The simulation ended with introducing the winner party.

Interns take part at session on twin cities of Tehran

AMF interns have attended another interactive session on the twin cities of Tehran. The meeting discussed the capabilities and challenges of Georgian capital Tbilisi, a sister city of Tehran, while exploring Freetown of Sierra Leone with which Tehran has a Memorandum of Cooperation.





AMF holds simulation on Iran, Afghanistan water dispute

AMF has hosted the 2nd session of its simulations, this time on Iran's water share from Afghanistan's Hirmand River. The negotiation session was held with two teams from Iranian and Afghan students, both consisting of legal, diplomatic, environmental and economic representatives. The teams discussed the major challenges and the possible solutions for the controversial issue between the two countries. The negotiation and problem-solving process were evaluated by a jury of prominent figures, including environmental activist Mohammad Darvish, senior lecturer and researcher in water diplomacy Hojjat Mianabadi and senior lecturer in international relations Mahdi Ahouie. The session ended with both parties being evaluated as equal.

● About us

Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) is an international non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to developing friendly relations and technical, economic, and cultural cooperation between mayors and city managers in Asia. The main goal of AMF is strengthening the integration of Asian cities to have a better life for their citizens through City Diplomacy, the exchange of knowledge and experiences, and specialized cooperation. The motto of the Forum is Asia for Citizens, Integration for a Better Life. Over a decade of its activity, AMF has been influential in managing local and urban affairs in Asia. While paving the way for the exchange of information and experiences between mayors and city managers, it has held successful meetings, including six rounds of the General Assembly plus specialized conferences and nine rounds of the Executive Board meeting in Tehran, Istanbul, Bangkok, Haiku, Gaziantep and Dushanbe. As an active urban network in Asia, in line with its defined mission and tasks, AMF launches various annual programs with the participation of world-renowned specialized organizations, such as UN-Habitat, at local and international levels dedicated to cities and urban startups.



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