



Asian Mayors Forum

AMF Quarterly

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International Affairs



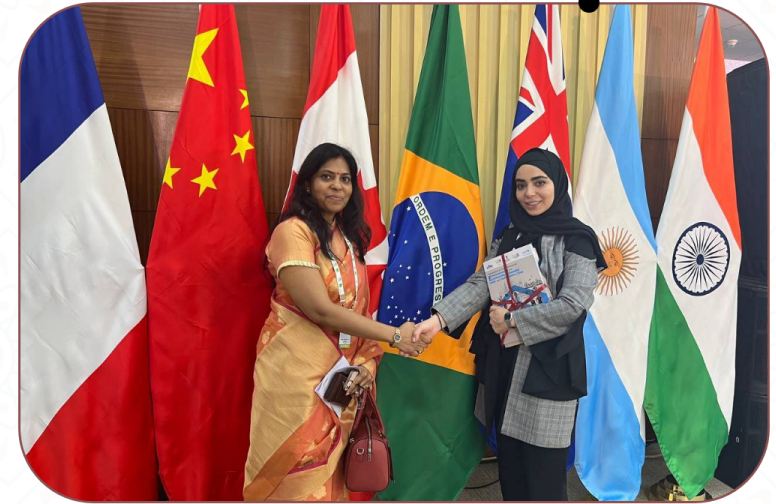
AMF Secretary General has addressed a thematic session on local culture and economy at Urban 20 Mayoral Summit in Indian city of Ahmedabad. Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, while attracting attentions to the historical and cultural heritages of Asia, underlined the need to use the capacity of this diverse continent to develop the cities and urban environments. Speaking at "Championing Local Culture and Economy" meeting, he said the culture and history are not only means to help boost ties between different nations, but also, they have the potential to help the economies, both locally and internationally. Reviving the historical structures and repurposing them as tourist attractions is a good example of this, he said. Mr. Secretary General added this is where urban diplomacy can play an influential role paving the way for cities and local governments to better know each other and their cultural and historical capacities and benefit from them.

"Local culture, economy vital for urban development"



AMF Women Network explores ties with Indian activists

AMF Network for Women has held talks with Indian officials and activists participating at U20 Mayoral Summit. Ms. Ladan Ranjbar, Coordinator of the Network, has met with Deputy Mayor of Udaipur in Women's Affairs Arpita Acarya and activist Ms. Shalin Agarwar of Surat. The meetings, held on the sidelines of the U20 in Indian city of Ahmedabad. The meetings discussed the fields cooperation on women empowerment.



Bandar Abbas actively participates in U20 India

Mayor of the Iranian city of Bandar Abbas, an AMF member, has held talks with several municipal officials participating at U20 Mayoral Summit in India's Ahmedabad. Mr. Mehdi Nobani had meeting with Mayor of Indian city of Agartala Dipak Majumder, where the expansion of tourism cooperation between the two cities was discussed. In a session with Permanent Secretary Federal Capital Territory Administration of Nigerian capital Abuja Mr. Olusade Adesola, Bandar Abbas Mayor and his counterpart explored the common urban challenges and their resolutions. Mr. Nobani also had talks with municipal delegations from Russia's Moscow, Brazil's Sao Paulo and Bhautan's Thimphu on inter-city ties and bilateral cooperation. Bandar Abbas Mayor also had a speech at "Encouraging Environmentally Responsible Behavior" thematic session, introducing the measures and initiatives of his city in this regard. The mayor also took part at a closed-door session on urban policies and priorities to shape the global development agenda. Urban 20 Mayoral Summit was held in India's Ahmedabad in July 7-8, with nearly 500 attendees, including city representatives, ambassadors and ministers.





AMF, UN discuss potential areas of cooperation

AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh has held talks with the UN Resident Coordinator for the Islamic Republic of Iran Stefan Priesner. The meeting discussed capacities of AMF for International cooperation, joint activities between AMF member cities and UN on SDGs and organizing joint cultural events. AMF SG underlined the need to focus on similarities and communalities to facilitate the move toward SDGs, introducing some of the initiatives of Tehran in this regard.

AMF discusses ties with Mongolia

AMF has discussed cooperation between Iranian and Mongolian cities with Ulaanbaatar's Honorary Consul to Iran Mr. Arman Mohaghegh. The meeting, held at AMF Secretariat, addressed expansion of city diplomacy between Tehran and Ulaanbaatar, stressing the exchange of tourism, technical and economic delegations. AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh highlighted the high capacity of Mongolia in agriculture and animal husbandry and the potential fields to benefit from this advantage. Improving ties between the tourism sectors of the two cities was also among the issues touched upon in the meeting. Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia, is a member of AMF.



AMF seeks stronger ties with Manila



AMF SG has met with Tehran's newly appointed Ambassador to the Philippines Mr. Yusef Esmailzadeh. Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh discussed the potential fields for cooperation between AMF and the Filipino cities, welcoming Mr. Ambassador's idea of exchanging urban management delegations between Manila and Tehran. Mr. Secretary General said the upcoming festival of Tehran twin cities will be a good opportunity for Manila's delegation to visit Tehran and explore the city as Mr. Ambassador pledged full support to boost the bilateral ties between the two cities.

AMF SG discusses boosting ties with Filipino envoy

AMF Secretariat has hosted the Philippines Ambassador to Iran Mr. Roberto G. Manalo. AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and the Filipino envoy exchanged views on cooperation between AMF members and the cities of the Southeast Asian country. Mr. Manalo pledged to facilitate and accelerate the efforts in this regard using the capacity of League of Cities of the Philippines. AMF SG, while expressing readiness of the Forum to expand ties with Filipino cities, invited them to the upcoming urban events in the Iranian capital, including the Festival of Sister and Twin Cities of Tehran and Tehran Golden Adobe Award, due in October.



Tehran City Council hosts delegation from Vietnamese capital

A delegation from AMF member city of Hanoi has met with Chairman of Tehran City Council Mehdi Chairman. The Vietnamese delegation included Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Tuan, Member of National Assembly, Deputy Head Hanoi Delegation to National Assembly; Chairman of Hanoi People's Council. The Vietnamese, including Chairman of Hanoi People's Council Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Tuan and Deputy Director of Hanoi Foreign Affairs Department Mr. Tran Nghia Hoa, discussed the structure of urban management in Tehran and Hanoi and the communalities between the two capitals. Mr. Chairman and Mr. Tuan, stressing the shared cultural and environmental aspects of the two cities, called for further development of Tehran-Hanoi ties.



AMF hosts session on Taiwan tensions

AMF has hosted "Taiwan Tensions: The Last in International Order Transition" session. The session had China and Eurasia Affairs Analyst Mr. Mehdi Khorsand as lecturer and addressed different aspects of the tensions in the Chinese island. The participants discussed root causes of tensions, the importance of Taiwan for China and its role in the international equations as well as the US motivations for supporting independence movement.



Kazan Youth Camp starts with participation of Iranian team

Friends International Youth Camp has started in the Russian city of Kazan. The opening ceremony of the camp was held this morning with about 200 participants from dozens of countries, including Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Brazil, South Africa, Venezuela and Algeria. The camp is dedicated to the development of international youth cooperation and covers a wide range of activities and topics such as diplomacy, media, tourism and art. A group of Iranian youths are taking part at the event under the MoU signed between AMF and Kazan's Academy.



AMF Statement and Campaign on World Peace Day

AMF SG has issued a statement on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, calling for collective action for a more peaceful future. The statement, while drawing attention to the biased nature of current approach toward international peace, urges exercising further tolerance and inclusion and reconsidering policies and actions in this regard. Peace building and peace keeping would not be difficult "if everyone and every organization make it a priority", the statement reads. "Say not all are fighting, what use in my lone call for peace. You are not one but thousands, light your beacon"



Asian Mayors Forum

Asia For Citizens, Integration For a Better Life

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AMF Statement on World Peace Day

Each year, the International Day of Peace is observed all around the world as an important occasion to raise awareness about this precious concept and strengthen its ideals, to foster friendship, inclusion and cooperation, and to encourage reducing violence and inequalities. No doubt, peace is vital for sustainable development in all aspects of human life and its absence leads to devastating situations.

However, discussing peace is not possible without addressing certain issues that have raised concerns for many communities in recent decades and years. Peace making cannot be limited to the absence of conflict. Today's world deals with numerous challenges and problems driven by lack of peace and harmony and prompted by arrogance and exploitation. Peace requires tolerance and inclusion and cannot be biased in favor of certain nations, races, religions or communities. The underlying racism in the US, growing Islamophobia in the West, and the post-covid Asiaphobia in the US are just some examples showing that peace-building actions have failed in resolving very primary issues in different parts of the world and there is a need to reconsider.

In an environment filled with inequalities and injustice, conflicts and disasters, it would seem hard to talk about peace, peace-building and peacekeeping. Not if everyone and every organization make it a priority and join hands with others to foster peace. Peace making is a collective responsibility and needs collective action. As such, the Asian Mayors Forum urges all entities and organizations, at local, national and international levels, to work together regardless of borders and beliefs, for it is through peace that we can build a brighter future for all humanity.

"Say not all are fighting, what use in my lone call for peace

You are not one but thousands; light your beacon" Mowlana Rumi

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AMF Commemorates Peace Day with International Students

AMF has hosted a ceremony to celebrate the International Day of Peace with a group of foreign students living in Iranian cities. The event engaged participants in different activities and workshops on peace-building, inclusion and tolerance. The students, mostly from Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Syria, also participated in cooperative games and simulation activities designed for peace-building.

Domestic Affairs



AMF SG meets municipal delegation from Iran's Lahijan

AMF SG has held talks with a municipal delegation from the Iranian city of Lahijan. Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh introduced the international capacities of AMF for connecting Iranian and foreign cities in his meeting with Lahijan Mayor Reza Zendehtdel and City Council Chairman Mohammad Iderm. He stressed that AMF provides a platform for exchanging knowledge and experiences and facilitating the urban development. Lahijan municipal officials, for their part, underlined the historical, cultural and tourism capacities of the northern city, recently introduced as Iran's Capital of Tea. Identifying potential cooperation fields in international and urban diplomacy arenas were also discussed in the meeting.



AMF, Iranian city of Behshahr meet on cooperation

AMF and Iranian city of Behshahr have discussed cooperation in urban fields. In a meeting between AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Mayor of Behshahr Yaser Ahmadi, the capacities of the Forum and the northern Iranian city were discussed with a focus on its membership. Behshahr Mayor, noting the potential of AMF to introduce the Iranian cities in the international arena, underlined that his city has a lot to say in tourism including several seasonal festivals. Behshahr, a city of Mazandaran Province, has a rich history and culture and is home to major port industries. The city enjoys beautiful nature of Hyrcanian forests and is a pole of producing pomegranate. Its Miankaleh Wetland is famous for its untouched wildlife.



AMF hosts travel experience session on U20 Mayoral Summit



AMF has hosted a gathering to share the experiences of its delegation at U20 India, held in Ahmedabad in 7-8 July. The session discussed the history of G20 and its mayoral summit (U20) as well as the process of the event and its outstanding features. The meetings, activities of AMF delegation, the highlights of the thematic sessions, cooperation fields as well as cultural and historical aspects of the city and their representation in the event were among the discussed topics. The active participants also were awarded with humble gifts from the U20 summit.

Intl. Correspondence Workshop held at AMF

AMF has hosted a workshop on International Correspondence and its principles. The workshop was mentored by Mr. Mehdi Fallahi Panah, university teacher and Head of Tehran Municipality's Internationalization and Comparative Studies Office. The participants learned about official and commercial letters and emails as well as some other formal communications. Educational workshops are part of AMF's broad development vision aimed at training a new talented generation of urban managers and experts.



AMF holds workshop on diplomatic protocol, etiquette

An educational workshop has been held at Tehran Municipality's Center for International Affairs, organized by AMF. The workshop was mentored by Mr. Mehdi Honardoust, the former Director General of Protocols at Foreign Ministry of Iran. Formal behavior, dress codes, body language, time management in official meetings, gifts and official meals were discussed in the meeting.



Member Cities



AMF welcomes Iranian city of Arak as a new member

Arak is an industrial pillar of Iran and serves as the capital of Markazi Province. Enjoying several universities and higher education centers, Arak is a metropolis with a rich cultural and historical heritage as well. AMF hopes for a successful and productive cooperation with Arak!



AMF welcomes Iranian city of Bojnurd as a new member



AMF interns have delivered a presentation on its organizational structure to get to know the Forum and its mission. The presentation, delivered both in Farsi and English, explored different parts and positions of AMF and their tasks. The correlation between different parts was also discussed.

AMF has another new member to introduce

Bandar Abbas is a port city, situated in southern Iran on the strategic Strait of Hormuz and coasts of the Persian Gulf. The city is the capital of Hormozgan Province and serves as an industrial and cultural hub in the region. AMF looks forward to expanding ties with Bandar Abbas.



AMF SG congratulates newly-elected Mayors of Iranian Metropolitan and Province Center Cities

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 a 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 a better life"

Interns



AMF interns partake in interactive session on Tehran twin cities

AMF new interns have attended an interactive session on sister cities of Tehran. The session, held at Tehran Municipality, explored Seoul and Minsk, the capital cities of South Korea and Belarus, and their characteristic as metropolises. The potential grounds of the two cities for joint activities and improving the urban ties with Tehran were also discussed in the meeting.



Interns deliver presentation on AMF structure, mission



AMF interns have delivered a presentation on its organizational structure to get to know the Forum and its mission. The presentation, delivered both in Farsi and English, explored different parts and positions of AMF and their tasks. The correlation between different parts was also discussed in the session.

Interns learn organizational behavior in workshop



At AMF, we are committed to knowledge-sharing and training as part of our mission. “Educational Saturdays” is our initiative toward this mission, with the first session dedicated to a workshop on organizational behavior. The aim was to create more convergence and coordination between the staff, structure and the organization as well as improving the overall productivity and performance.

Educational Saturdays: Urban Diplomacy

Our interns have participated at a workshop on cities and diplomacy, mentored by AMF Director of Urban Diplomacy Ms. Roya Leilieiyon. The workshop covered a wide range of issues, including the history of urban diplomacy, its mechanisms, its difference with public diplomacy and its role in developing cooperation at regional and international levels. A presentation on traditional and modern urban diplomacy was also delivered by interns.



• 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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