



Asian Mayors Forum

AMF Quarterly

Issue No 7:
July- September 2024



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International Affairs



Tehran hosts 10th AMF EB Meeting



The 10th AMF Executive Board Meeting has been held in Tehran on August 28, 2024, with the presence of representatives from its member cities.

Kicked off by a speech from Dushanbe Deputy Mayor Abdurakhmon Abdurakhmonzoda as the term president, the meeting continued with Secretary General delivering a report on yearly measures and activities.

The Executive Board also approved the membership of 23 cities from Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, Russia, Indonesia, India, Butan, Armenia, Nigeria, Lebanon and Palestine, while selecting Iranian city of Khorram Abad as president of Committee for Environment and Urban Health and Kermanshah as president of Committee for Public Participation and Social Responsibility.

The 10th AMF EB Meeting was attended by mayors, representatives, and ambassadors from Iran, Tajikistan, Russia, Türkiye, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Eco Cultural Institute and International Organization for Migration.



AMF hosts specialized tourism conf

AMF Committee for Culture and Urban Tourism has hosted a technical panel on the sidelines of the 10th Executive Board Meeting of the Forum.

Held on August 29 in Tehran, the meeting was dedicated to introducing the tourism capacities of member cities and fostering inter-city cooperation in this regard. Speakers from Dushanbe, Tehran, Antalya, Qazvin, Bojnourd, Mashhad, Ankara, Kermanshah, Zahedan, Khorram Abad and Kazan discussed the culture, history and tourist attractions of their cities in two hybrid panels. The hybrid conference was public and was welcomed by dozens of enthusiasts.



Happy Peace Day!

AMF has hosted an event for the Iranian and international students on the occasion of International Day of Peace. Dubbed "Together for Peace", the event featured collective activities designed to foster integrity, solidarity and tolerance, including group activities, watching a documentary on Sardasht chemical attack, discussion and analysis as well as games to improve negotiation skills. The international students were from Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

AMF has hosted the opening ceremony of the exhibition organized by the International Humanitarian Cooperation of Russia (Rossotrudnichestvo) on September 23. The ceremony, attended by Honorary Consul of the Russian Federation in India Mr. Ratish Nair and the First Secretary of the Russian Embassy and official representative of Rossotrudnichestvo in Iran Ms. Lilia Vladimirona Votnova, hosted a group of enthusiasts. Mr. Nair is retracing the journey of the famous Russian traveler Afanasy Nikitin, who traveled to India in the 15th century as the first Russian. Mr. Nair has already passed through several Russian cities and Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, before arriving in Tehran. Cultural similarities among the countries along the route, key tourism features, and potential areas of collaboration were some of the topics discussed by Mr. Nair. This exhibition featured paintings by renowned Indian artist S. Radhakrishnan and photographs by the Russian Geographical Society.





AMF SG holds talks with Japanese envoy

AMF SG has hosted the Japanese Ambassador Mr. Takemaki Tsukada in a meeting dedicated to developing ties. Held on August 13 at AMF Secretariat, the meeting explored the capacities of AMF while discussing the necessity of absorbing more cities from the Asian country, improving the activities of the member Japanese cities, and boosting inter-city cooperation between Iran and Japan. While expressing readiness to expand all-out relations, AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh noted that exchange of knowledge and experience is a priority in this regard.

AMF SG, Malaysian ambassador discuss ties

AMF SG has held talks with Malaysian envoy on developing inter-city ties. In the meeting, Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Mr. Khairi Omar explored areas of interest and capacities of cooperation, while stressing the need to further enhance the ties between the AMF and Malaysian cities. Currently, Kuala Lumpur is the only member from the southeast Asian country at AMF.





AMF SG meets with Turkish envoy

AMF SG has held a meeting with Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Mr. Hicabi Kırlangıç. Introducing AMF and its capacities at international level, fostering cooperation between AMF and Turkish cities, the need to develop further cooperation between member cities from both countries and bilaterally benefiting from their capabilities were discussed at the meeting hosted by Hamidreza Gholamzadeh. AMF currently has 9 members from Türkiye, including Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

AMF's speech at Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum

Coordinator of AMF Network for Women, Youth and Family has addressed a panel at Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum in Moscow. Ladan Ranjbar, delivering speech at "New Solutions in Urban Development" underlined that the development needs to be inclusive and cover all aspects of an urban environment. Noting the importance of female participation in this arena, she said this a challenge needed to be addressed.





AMF hosts farewell ceremony for ECO SG

AMF has hosted a ceremony to bid farewell to Secretary General of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Mr. Khusrav Noziri. Organized by Eco Cultural Institute (ECI), the ceremony honored the efforts of Mr. Noziri, with ECI President Saad Khan and AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh presenting gifts to him. The ceremony was attended by several diplomats and representatives from international organizations.

AMF SG Addresses Construction Conference in Moscow

AMF Secretary General has addressed an international conference on "Economic and Legal Aspects of Management in Construction and Development" in Russian capital, Moscow. Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, who took part in a panel called "Construction and Development: Values, Strategies, Trends", underlined the importance of sector in urban economy, innovative trends, and development prospect in Asia. Sustainable and green construction, smart cities and the need to increase international cooperation in this regard were among the topics of his speech. The conference was attended by urban leaders, experts and academia.



AMF hosts cultural night at ECO-IOM workshop

AMF has hosted a joint cultural event with Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) within the framework of ECO-IOM Workshop on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Human Smuggling in ECO Region.

The cultural night was inaugurated by a speech from ECO Secretary General Khusrav Noziri and saw addresses from IOM Chief of Mission in Iran Lalini Veerassamy, ECIECO President Saad Khan, AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Mayor of Zahedan Mohammad Amir Barahuyi. A folklore music performance and an exhibition of handicrafts from AMF member cities of Zahedan, Khorramabad and Ramsar concluded the event. The Workshop on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Human Smuggling in ECO Region was held in Tehran on 29-30 July.



AMF Hosts Russian Exhibition on Cultural Exchange

AMF has hosted the opening ceremony of the exhibition organized by the International Humanitarian Cooperation of Russia (Rossotrudnichestvo) on September 23.

The ceremony, attended by Honorary Consul of the Russian Federation in India Mr. Ratish Nair and the First Secretary of the Russian Embassy and official representative of Rossotrudnichestvo in Iran Ms. Lilia Vladimirona Votino-va, hosted a group of enthusiasts. Mr. Nair is retracing the journey of the famous Russian traveler Afanasy Nikitin, who traveled to India in the 15th century as the first Russian. Mr. Nair has already passed through several Russian cities and Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, before arriving in Tehran. Cultural similarities among the countries along the route, key tourism features, and potential areas of collaboration were some of the topics discussed by Mr. Nair. This exhibition featured paintings by renowned Indian artist S. Radhakrishnan and photographs by the Russian Geographical Society.



AMF Attends Shahnameh Festival Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of the first International Taq-e Bostan Shahnameh Recitation and Naqali Festival was held in Kermanshah with the presence of AMF Secretary General.

The Ambassador of Tajikistan to Iran Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi and the President of the ECO Cultural Institute Mr. Saad Khan, were also special guests of the ceremony, hosted by the Mayor of Kermanshah Mr. Nader Norouzi. The significance of Shahnameh in Persian culture and literature, as well as the necessity of recognizing it as one of the most important cultural and historical heritage of Persian-speaking countries, were among the topics discussed at this event.

The Festival was held on September 27-28 in Kermanshah and awarded 10 contestees from among 452 entries.



AMF, IOM Sign MoU to Boost Cooperation

AMF and International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Iran have signed an MoU to further develop their cooperation.

The agreement was signed by AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Chief of Mission of IOM in Iran Lalini Veerassamy in a meeting at AMF Secretariat and is aimed at enhancing the bilateral cooperation between the two organizations.

AMF and IOM have recently boosted their bilateral ties, co-organizing cultural events.



AMF Painting Competition: Gaza without War

Call for entries: AMF Painting Competition 2024
Share It

Asian Mayors Forum, in cooperation with Tehran Municipality, Gaza Municipality and Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults will hold a painting competition for children.

"Gaza without War"

Criteria:

For young artists aged 7 to 15

Theme: picturing Gaza without war

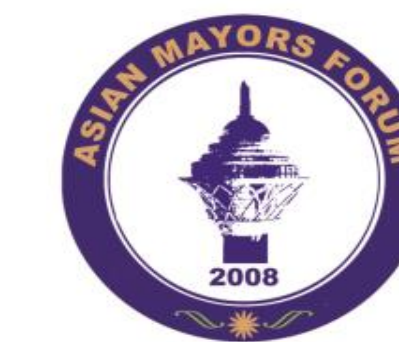
Technique: feel free to use any desired medium

AMF SG calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza

AMF Secretary General has called for an immediate ceasefire and end to the genocidal war in Gaza Strip.

In a statement issued at the 10th AMF Executive Board Meeting in Tehran, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh also urged the international community to take immediate action to lift blockade in Gaza and ensure the protection of civilians.

Offering condolences, AMF SG expressed solidarity and support for Gaza, saying the Forum stands with the Palestinian people in their struggle for a life of dignity and freedom.



Secretary General

Asian Mayors Forum

Asia For Citizens, Integration For Better Life

Date: 31 Aug 2024

REF: 759/2024

Permanent Secretariat

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Ghalamestan Park, Tehran, Iran

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Secretary General Statement in Support for Palestine

As the Secretary General of the Asian Mayors Forum, representing cities and municipalities across Asia, and on the occasion of 10th Executive Board Meeting I shall express our profound sorrow and deep concern over the ongoing violence and humanitarian crisis in Gaza which has claimed lives of more than forty thousand civilians most of them women and children. The genocidal war that has ravaged the Gaza Strip has resulted in unimaginable suffering, the loss of tens of thousands of innocent lives, and the destruction of vital infrastructure.

We call upon the international community to take immediate action to bring an end to the violence and to ensure the protection of civilians. We urge for immediate ceasefire and the lifting of the blockade on Gaza to allow for the free flow of humanitarian aid, medical supplies, and essential goods. The rebuilding of Gaza must begin immediately, with the support of the global community, to restore dignity and hope to the Palestinian people.

In these challenging times, our hearts go out to the families who have lost loved ones, to those who have been displaced, and to all who are suffering. We pledge to use our voices and platforms to amplify the call for peace and justice, and we stand with the Palestinian people in their struggle for a life of dignity and freedom.

Let us work together, across borders and cultures, to build a future where such tragedies are a thing of the past, and where every human being can live in peace and security.

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Domestic Affairs



First “Young Diplomat” Summer School held at AMF

The very first “Young Diplomat” Summer School was jointly held by AMF and DiploHouse Think Tank late July. The hybrid course, consisting of 8 specialized sessions, kicked off by former Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on Iran’s foreign policy principles and approaches. The first day continued by speeches from academicians Mojtaba Ferdowsipour and Hossein Mohammadi Sirat.

Parliamentarian Malek Shariati, AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, former MP Abolfazl Amouyi and academician Tohid Asadi were the lecturers of the second day of the school.

The third day saw sessions on international organizations, Africa region and the US foreign policy by lecturers Mehrdad Kiaei, Mohammadreza Dehshiri and Mohammadali Shafiee. The school was concluded by discussing China foreign policy, EU international relations, cultural and urban diplomacy with presence of academicians Hamed Vafaei, Mehdi Khanalizadeh, Yahya Jahangiri and once again AMF SG.

The 4-day event was hosted by AMF Secretariat on July 25-26 and August 1-2, 2024.



Member Cities



AMF attends women meeting in Khorram Abad

Coordinator of AMF Committee for Women, Youth and Family has participated in a meeting dedicated to the influential women of Khorram Abad, a member city serving as the capital of Lorestan Province in western Iran. Ms. Ladan Ranjbar attended the meeting, dubbed "Lorestan Women and Global Development Network", along with Khorram Abad Mayor Mr. Dariush Barani, members of city council and dozens of female activists and entrepreneurs. Capacities of Lorestan's female society, the importance of introducing the influential female figures, bilateral capacities of AMF and Khorram Abad in this regard and activities and measures in place were among the topics discussed in the meeting.



AMF member city takes part at UNESCO Heritage Cities Network meeting

Mayor of AMF member city of Bojnourd has addressed the UNESCO Heritage Cities Network Meeting at UCLG-ME-WA Executive Bureau Meeting Program in Turkey's Karatay. In his online speech, Me. Mohamad Ali Keshmiri introduced the cultural heritage of his city and discussed the strategies the municipality has adopted to preserve the heritage during the sustainable development of the Iranian city. Creating public interest, branding the city based on its cultural heritage, improving local tourism as well as reviving and redefining the use of historic sites were among the topics addressed in the speech.

Mayor of Kermanshah Seeks to Strengthen Ties with Gaziantep at UNESCO Meeting

Mayor of AMF member city of Kermanshah has taken part at UNESCO Creative Cities Network meeting on gastronomy in Türkiye's Gaziantep. Mr. Nader Nowruzzi, while introducing the capacities and attractions of his city, held talks with Gaziantep Mayor Ms. Fatma Sahin on working to operationalize the twinning agreement of the two cities. He also had meetings with his counterparts from Russia, Germany, Northern Cyprus and Venezuela. Kermanshah and Gaziantep signed twinning agreement back in 2011.



**Congratulations
to
Hachirud
for joining
Asian Mayors Forum**



New Member!

A new member has joined AMF family! Iranian city of Hachirud, from northern province of Mazandaran, is a touristic destination on the coasts of the Caspian Sea. AMF hopes to have a good cooperation with Hachirud.

AMF members take part in Kazan Digital Week

AMF has taken part at Kazan Digital Week with participation of three Iranian cities. Held in Russia's Kazan on 9-11 September, the event featured a session dedicated to digital urban management and was attended by Mayor of Kerman Mr. Mohsen Tuyserkani (in-person speech), Mayor of Shiraz Mr. Mohammad Hassan Asadi (online speech) and Mayor of Tabriz Mr. Yaghoub Hooshyar (video message). Several mayors and municipal officials from Russia, India, Iran and Uzbekistan took part in the event.



Interns



AMF opens 6th Internship Program



AMF has inaugurated its 6th Internship Program with the aim of empowering the talented students and graduates in urban management.

The opening ceremony was attended by AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, who elaborated on the aims and programs of the Forum.

The event also wrapped up the 5th round, awarding the trainees with certificates.



AMF Holds English Correspondence Workshop



A workshop on English correspondence was held for a group of enthusiasts. The workshop, conducted by Mehdi Falahi Panahi, focused on teaching the general concepts of English correspondence, types of correspondence, formal and informal letters, and their structure and format. Participants received a certificate of completion.



• 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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