



Asian Mayors Forum

AMF Quarterly

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Happy New Year

It is my pleasure to send you my sincerest New Year 2025 greetings. AMF is once again fully committed to working hand in hand with cities, organizations, and networks all around Asia and the world in 2025. In the New Year, I wish you and your loved ones good health and success and a wonderful year filled with enormous happiness and boundless success. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Hamidreza Gholamzadeh

Secretary-General
Asian Mayors Forum



International Affairs



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International Affairs



Japan photo exhibition opened in Tehran Metro



The opening ceremony of “A Glimpse into Japanese Culture” photo exhibition was held on Saturday in Tehran Metro in a commemoration of the Asian country’s culture week.

The ceremony, organized at Jihad Metro Station, was attended by Japanese Ambassador to Iran H.E. Tamaki Tsukada, Tehran Municipality’s Deputy for International Affairs and Secretary General of Asian Mayors Forum Dr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, alongside key Tehran Metro officials including Mr. Heshmati, Deputy to Tehran Metro CEO. Hailed by attending officials as an opportunity for cultural exchange between the two great Asian nations, the exhibition includes images capturing the normal lives of Japanese people, allowing Tehran’s residents to immerse themselves in Japanese culture and tradition.

“A Glimpse into Japanese Culture” photo exhibition is open to the public from October 26 to November 1 at Jahad Station on Line 3 and Tajrish Station on Line 1.

BRICS cities need to boost cooperation

AMF Secretary General has emphasized the necessity of strengthening intercity cooperation at the “BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities” meeting in Dubai.

Hamidreza Gholamzadeh highlighted the BRICS cities’ cooperation as a significant factor in strengthening the economic and political relations of member countries and enhancing the capabilities of the whole organization.

Introducing the Asian Mayors Forum, he pointed out the impact of similar organizations in achieving this goal, stressing that they need to play a role within the structure of the Association.



AMF hosts Rossotrudnichestvo exhibition



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 Vladimirovna 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 co-organizes 2nd Romania photo exhibit

The 2nd photo exhibition of Romania's historical and cultural attractions has opened in Tehran Metro in commemoration of the country's National Day, also known as Great Union Day. The ceremony, organized at Shohadaye 17 Shahrivar Metro Station with cooperation of AMF, Tehran Municipality, Tehran Metro and Romanian Embassy, was attended by Tehran Municipality's Deputy for International Affairs and Secretary General of Asian Mayors Forum Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, Romania Ambassador to Iran H.E. Mirela-Carmen Grecu, and Deputy to Tehran Metro CEO Reza Heshmati.

The event is aimed at fostering cultural ties and understanding among the two nations of Iran and Romania, bringing images from the cultural and historical lures of the European country to the daily lives of the citizens in the Iranian capital. The "Romania in Pictures" exhibition will last until December 8 and is available at Shohadaye 17 Shahrivar Station (Line 7), Allameh Jafari Station (Line 4) and Darvazeh Shemiran Station (Line 2 and 4 Junction).



Khorramabad hosts international conference on environment, urban health

Khorramabad, the president city of AMF Committee for Environment and Urban Health, has hosted an international conference about the pressing challenges in this field.

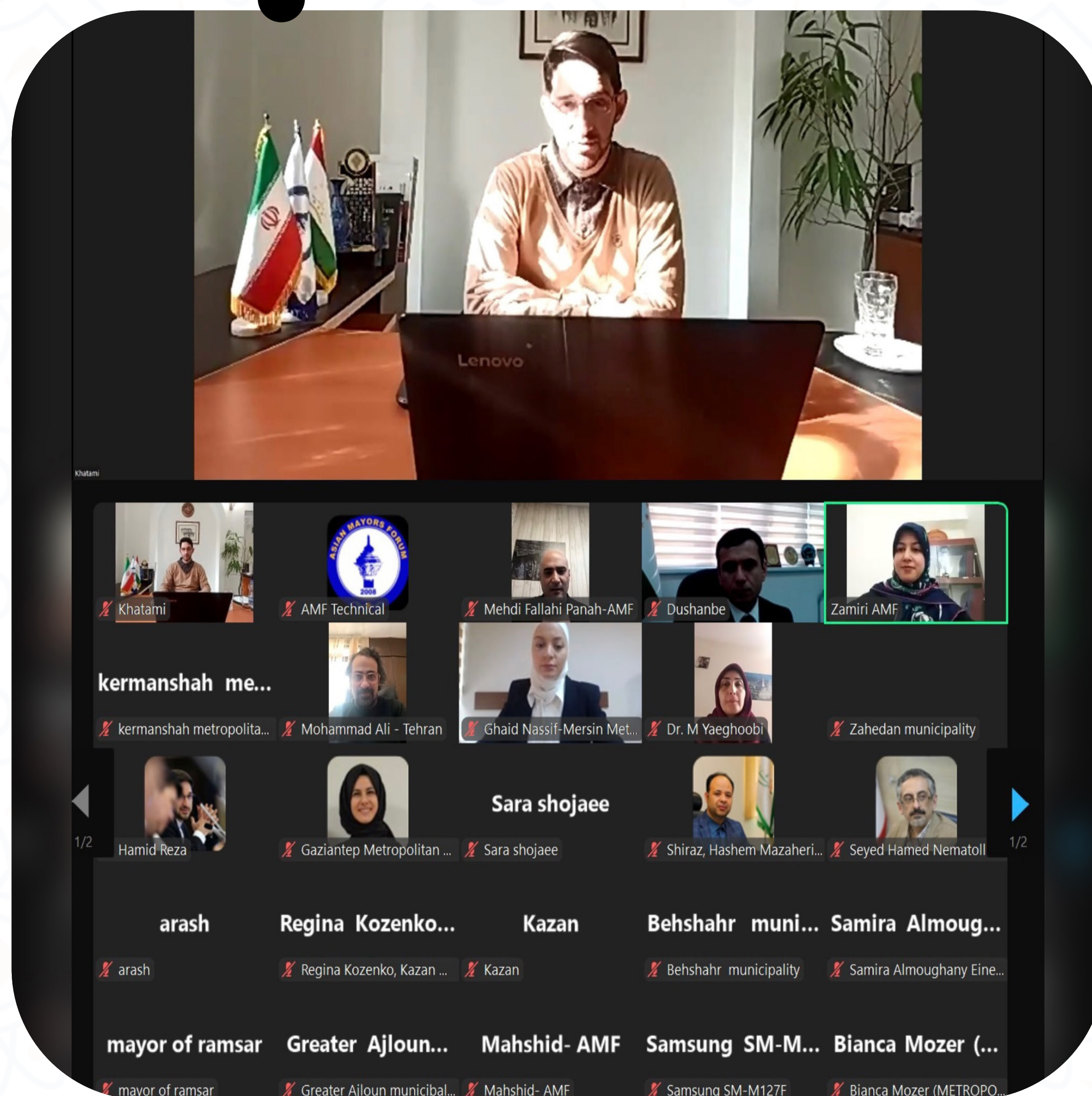
Organized in two days and two technical panels on participatory conservation and role of women in environment protection, the event saw invaluable contributions from Iranian and foreign mayors and municipal officials from Iranian cities of Khorramabad, Kermanshah, Bojnourd, Qazvin, Gorgan, Semnan, Sari, Turkish city of Ankara and Indian city of Anantapur, ambassadors of Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Nicaragua, experts and activists from Iran, Russia and Tunisia and representatives from ECO, ECO Cultural Institute and Marmara Foundation.

Bilateral and multilateral meetings, signing MoUs, workshops and tree-planting were among the side events of the conference.



AMF MeetUp 2024 reviews annual activities

AMF MeetUp 2024 has been held online on December 16, briefing all members on the activities of the current year. The meeting, inaugurated by a speech from term president city of Dushanbe, was dedicated to a thorough report of the actions and events in 2024 delivered by AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh. Cooperation with members, events, meetings and visits, appointments and new members, as well as the goals and plans for the upcoming year were discussed in the MeetUp 2024.



AMF SG urges urban leaders to work for peace

AMF Secretary General has marked the World Metropolitan Day with a message. Celebrating the occasion as an opportunity to raise awareness about "centers of culture and innovation", Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh drew attention to the genocide and destruction underway in Gaza Strip and Lebanon and the moral obligation of urban leaders to advocate and work for peace and stability.

In his video message, Mr. Secretary General expressed heartfelt solidarity with all war-affected people, calling for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian assistance.

Pledging to deepen the Forum's commitment to fostering dialogue and collaboration, the message urged all urban leaders to shoulder their responsibilities in advocating for peace and humanity all over the world.

AMF co-organizes unique astronomy event



"Girls, Pioneers of Space" was held on October 26, 2024, at the "Gonbad Mina" Planetarium, with the participation of the International Girls' Friendship Association.

The event featured notable speakers, including government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani, Deputy for Women and Family Affairs Zahra Behrouzazar, AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, Russian astronaut Yelena Luchitskaya, space expert Vafa Sedaghat, and CEO of the Abbasabad Cultural and Tourism Complex Mohammad Hossein Hejazi.

The event included an exhibition of works from the Aerospace Museum by Master Siros Borzou, and recognition of successful girls in the field, such as Hananeh Khorramdashti (gold medalist at the 2024 International Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad) and Baran Pourseif (bronze medalist at the World Robotics Olympiad). Additionally, the event honored Mojdeh Dalirsharmi, the director of the International Girls' Friendship Association, and Russian astronaut Yelena Luchitskaya.



Rasht hosts festival of Creative City of Gastronomy

The “Creative City of Gastronomy” festival was held from December 18 to 21 in the Iranian member city of Rasht, with the participation of ambassadors and representatives from international organizations.

The event was inaugurated with the presence of Gilan Governor Hadi Haghshenas, City Council Chairman Mohammad Hossein Vasegh, Rasht Mayor Rahim Shoghi, AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, ambassadors from Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, the Romanian Embassy’s consul, and the president of the ECO Cultural Institute. The cultural and tourism potential of Rasht, recognized as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, was emphasized during the event.

On the sidelines of the festival, the Exhibition of Cafes, Restaurants, and Related Industries was also inaugurated. The participating ambassadors toured the exhibition and several of Rasht’s tourist attractions, engaging in discussions with the Governor of Gilan, the Mayor of Rasht, and other local officials. The primary focus of these meetings was the development of tourism cooperation.



Shiraz hosts 1st conference on urban environment



Shiraz, the "Asian Capital of Environment 2024" has hosted the first International Urban Environment Conference in the closing days of the year.

The conference, inaugurated by a speech from Shiraz Mayor Mohammad Hassan Asadi and a video message from AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, featured technical panels on urban management and environmental topics, as well as a ceremony honoring prominent professors and experts in the field.

In his message, AMF SG underlined the role of cities and urban management in sustainable development. Mr. Gholamzadeh, introducing the Asian Capitals initiative and hailing the measures taken by Shiraz Municipality, deemed the efforts decisive in the city's election as the Asian Capital of Environment 2024. He said municipalities and local governments possess a great capacity to fulfil the SDGs at urban, national, and international levels, and such conventions facilitate this process.

Over 250 papers were submitted to the conference secretariat, some of which were presented as speeches, while others were showcased as posters during the event, held on 26 December. A cartoon festival was also organized as one of the conference's side events.



Domestic Affairs



AMF hosts specialized meeting on citizens' skillfulness

AMF has hosted the first meeting of "Tehran: the Skill-Oriented City" in cooperation with Tehran Municipality's Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology.

The meeting, held on October 21, had Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, University Lecturer Mohammad Hossein Buchani and Researcher and Author Dariush Shahbazi as speakers.

AMF SG, while emphasizing the need to equip citizens with new skills regarding rapid urbanization, said skillful citizens play an important role in cities' growth and flourishing. Increasing the cooperation between municipal organizations and educational institutes, adopting a more citizen-oriented approach, applying specific roles to districts, and engaging the neighborhoods in the city's governance were other topics discussed in the meeting.



AMF hosts another round of "Risk" competition

AMF, in collaboration with DiploHouse Think Tank, held the fifth round of "Risk" competition early November.

Designed to promote strategic thinking and negotiation skills, the event was tailored for students of international relations and related fields. Participants competed individually and in teams, applying their knowledge to get through the challenges.





Students learn about public diplomacy at AMF Workshop

AMF hosted another workshop on Public Diplomacy early December, attended both by trainees and IR students.

The event, led by AMF SG and Tehran Municipality's Deputy for International Affairs Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, covered a range of topics in public diplomacy, emphasizing its importance in today's world and how to effectively leverage it to strengthen international relations.

Participants applied their knowledge by designing and brainstorming campaigns to promote Tehran, turning theoretical ideas into practical skills.

AMF has previously organized several public diplomacy workshops as well as the very first "Summer School of Young Diplomats", aiming to improve the knowledge and skills of the next generation in public diplomacy and international communications.

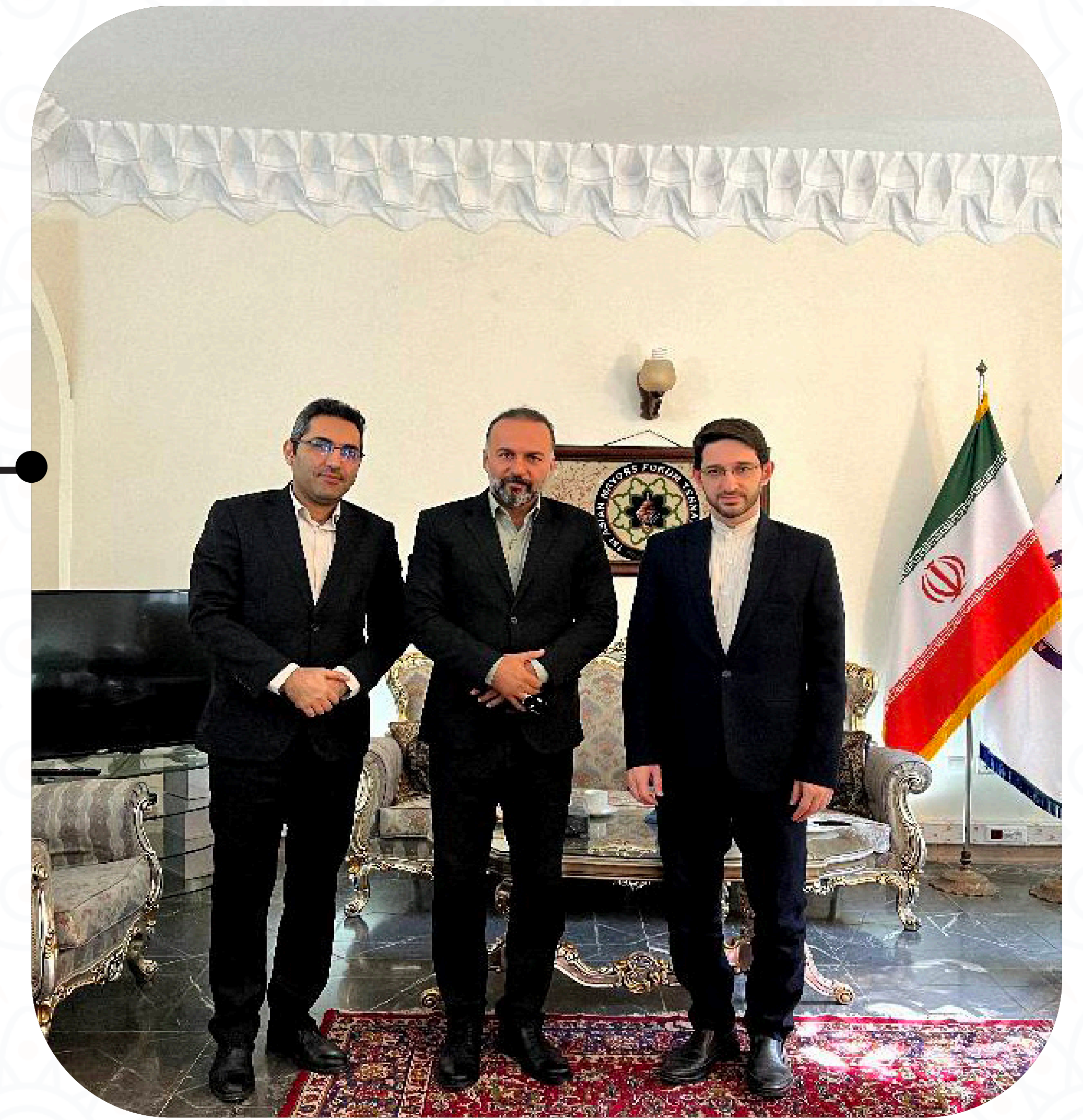
Member Cities



AMF SG discusses cooperation with Ramsar Mayor

AMF SG has held talks with the Mayor of Ramsar, a tourist destination in northern Iran.]

The meeting, hosted by AMF on October 16, saw Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Mr. Ali Amini Shad discussing the potential of the city for cooperation, particularly in hosting international events. Ramsar is a coastal city located in the Mazandaran province of northern Iran, along the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. Known for its lush landscapes, Ramsar is famous for its natural beauty, including dense forests, hot springs, and the scenic mountains that surrounds the city.



AMF member cities attend World Conference of Historical Cities

The 19th World Conference of Historical Cities was held from November 14 to 16 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, with Shiraz and Masuleh participating as AMF members. The event, focused on sustainable mobility in historical cities, featured presentations by Shiraz Mayor Mohammad-Hassan Asadi and Masuleh Mayor Yousef Nirouei, highlighting the historical and cultural significance of these cities. During the meeting, Isfahan was also selected as the host for the 21st World Conference of Historical Cities.

AMF SG hold talks with Mayor of Rasht

AMF Secretary General has met with the Mayor of Iranian city of Rasht.

During the meeting, held on November 25, 2024 at AMF Secretariat, Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Mr. Rahim Shoghi discussed enhancing cooperation and coordinating the joint cultural events.

One of the key topics of the meeting was organizing the TEDx Food event, highlighting Rasht's status as a UNESCO Creative City in the field of gastronomy.



Iranian city of Langarud joins AMF

The Iranian city of Langarud has joined the AMF family. Langarud is a major city in the northern province of Gilan, famous for its silk, tea and rice. The city enjoys a rich history and serves as a touristic destination on the coasts of the Caspian Sea. AMF hopes to have a good cooperation with Langarud.



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



AMF family expands with a port city

Iranian port city of Abadan has become a member of AMF.

Abadan is located in southwestern Iran, near the Persian Gulf and along the border with Iraq. The city is famous for housing the biggest oil refinery of the country as well as for its petrochemical and fishing industries.

AMF welcomes this new member, looking forward to further cooperation with Abadan.

AMF welcomes Isfahan, Iran, as new member

We are excited to welcome another great city to our global family!

Isfahan needs no introduction as it is a popular destination internationally. Known as 'Nesf-e Jahan' or 'Half of the World,' Isfahan is a city with stunning architecture, rich heritage, and vibrant culture.



**Congratulations
to
Isfahan
for joining
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Ramsar, Iran, becomes a member of AMF

AMF has welcomed another new member from Iran in autumn. Ramsar, a scenic city in northern province of Mazandaran, has just joined the great AMF family. Ramsar is laid between the Caspian Sea and montane forests, thus enjoying unparalleled views and attractions that have turned it into a hub in northern Iran. AMF hopes this cooperation would lead to more opportunities for this picturesque city.

AMF network reaches northwestern Iran

We are thrilled to welcome a new member to our organization: Tabriz!

Tabriz is the industrial and commercial hub of northwest Iran, serving as the capital of East Azerbaijan Province. As a city rich in culture and history, Tabriz features countless attractions, including a UNESCO-listed Bazaar that bridges the past and the present.

We look forward to a fruitful cooperation!



Interns



AMF launches 7th Internship Program



The 7th Internship Program of the Asian Mayors Forum kicked off on December 28, 2024, at the organization's headquarters.

The event, attended by AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, introduced the new group of interns to the Forum, its strategies and goals, as well as the programs designed for interns and their responsibilities.

During the ceremony, the efforts of the sixth group of interns were also recognized, with international certificates awarded to them in acknowledgment of their achievements.

The 6th internship program saw major contributions from the interns, including the successful organization of three specialized conferences on urban environment and tourism as well as several thematic events.



• 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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