



Asian Mayors Forum

AMF Quarterly

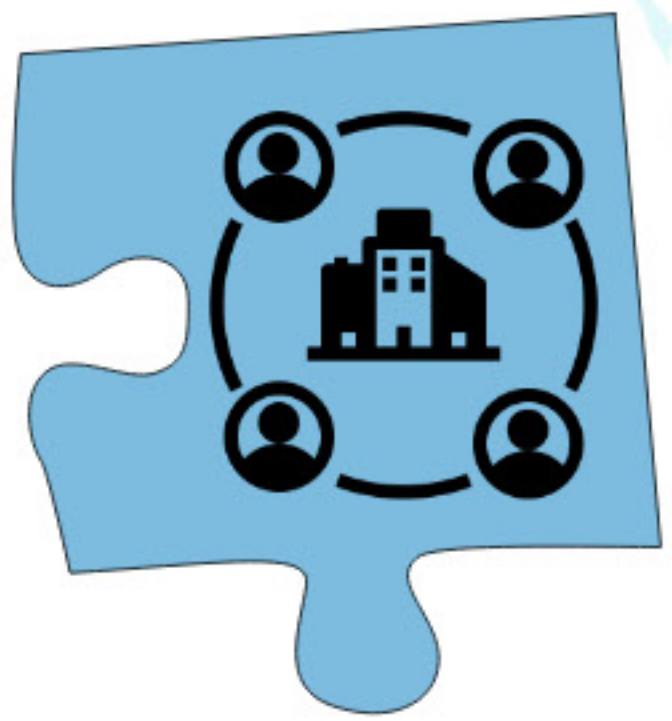
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Asian Mayors Forum
Asia for Citizens, Integration for a Better Life



نوروز یادآور سال نو ایرانی و بازگشت شور و نشاط، عشق، امید و تلاش به زندگی و بهار طبیعت است.
فرا رسیدن سال نو و روییدن دوباره شکوفه ها، بازتابی آشکار از قدرت خداوند متعال است و اینکه سالی که با میهمانی خدا آغاز می شود، چقدر مبارک خواهد بود.

در سال جدید ۱۴۰۴، روابط دوجانبه و مستحکم تر بین مجمع شهرداران آسیایی و شهر یا سازمان محترم شما آرزومندم.

Nowruz commemorates the Iranian New Year and the return of passion and Vitality, Love, Hope, and Effort to life and nature's spring.

The arrival of the New Year and the regrowth of blossoms are an obvious reflection of the Almighty's power and how blessed the year beginning with God's feast is.

It is an honor that my congratulations are presented to you in these splendid moments.

I wish stronger ties and close bilateral relations between AMF and your respected city or organization in the new year of 1403.

International Affairs



Cultural night celebrates 60 years of Tehran, Manila ties



Tehran has co-organized a night of art and culture dedicated to the Philippines, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and the south Asian nation. Dubbed "Harmony beyond Borders" and co-organized by the Embassy of the Philippines and Tehran Municipality, the night witnessed a photo exhibition of the Asian country's attractions as well as a joyful performance of its traditional music.

The event, inaugurated by speeches from AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, the Filipino Ambassador H. E. Robert Manalo and Municipality Spokesman Abdolmotahar Mohammadkhani, was attended by several diplomatic missions and municipal officials.



AMF SG, Pakistani envoy meet



AMF Secretary General has hosted Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran, Muhammad Muddasir Tipu, on February 12.

During this meeting, which included a tour of the Forum, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh introduced the organization, its actions, activities, and development outlook.

Key topics of discussion included strengthening intercity cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, particularly expanding relations between Tehran and Islamabad in this field.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Pakistani ambassador also held a discussion with media representatives.

AMF SG hosts Armenian envoy

AMF Secretary General has hosted the esteemed Ambassador of Armenia to Iran on March 11. During the meeting, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh while introducing the Forum, its activities, and development outlook, stressed that the twinning agreement between Tehran and Yerevan is an opportunity to expand inter-city cooperation. The esteemed Ambassador of Armenia Mr. Grigor Hakobyan, also emphasized the shared areas of collaboration and welcomed the expansion of relations between Armenian cities and the Forum. On the sidelines of the meeting, the Armenian Ambassador met and spoke with media representatives.





AMF marks Arbor Day with diplomatic tree planting ceremony

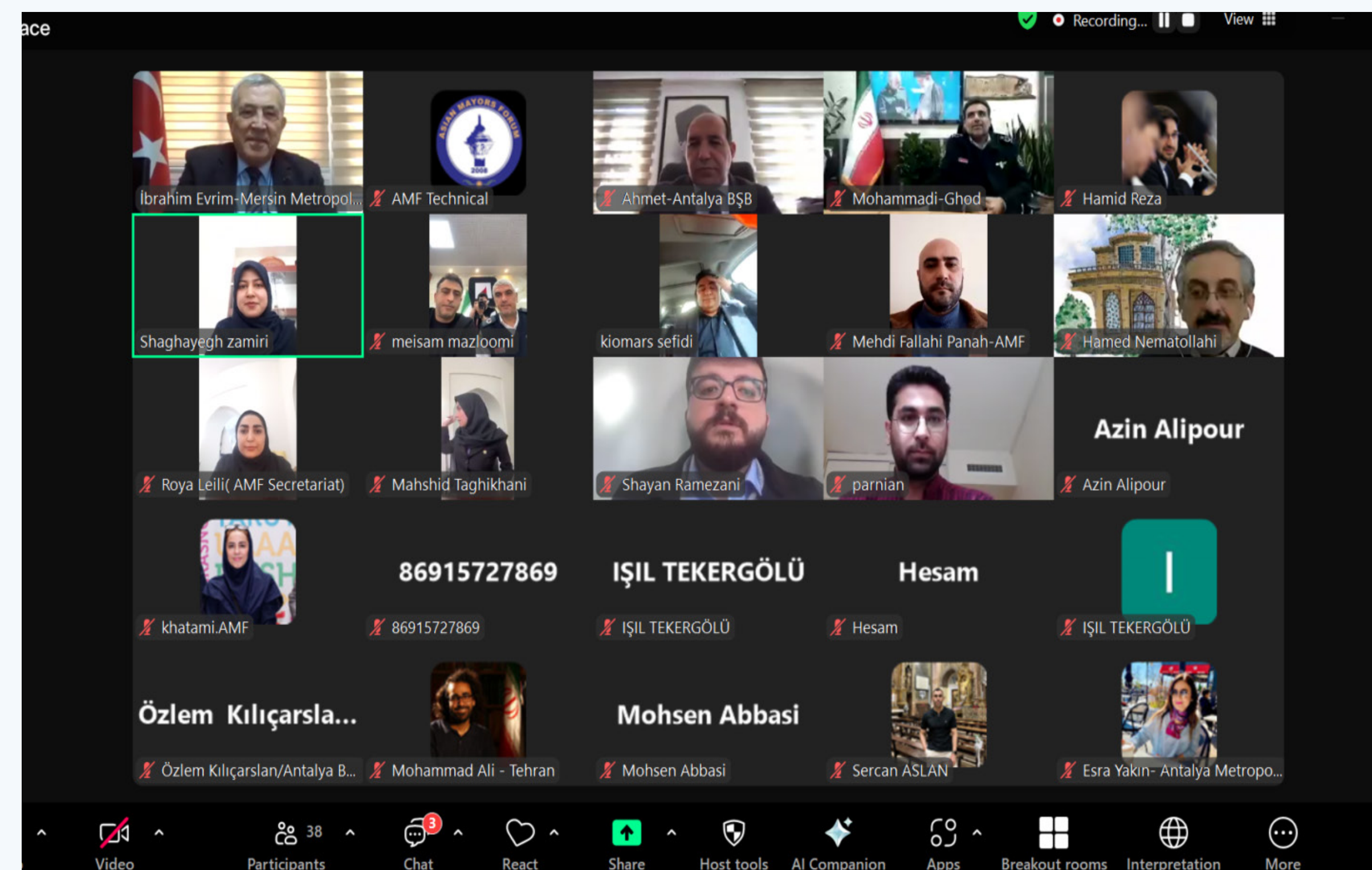
Asian Mayors Forum, jointly with Tehran Municipality, held the 3rd Diplomatic Peace and Friendship Tree Planting Ceremony on March 3.¹

Attended by Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani, AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and 41 diplomatic delegations from various countries and international organizations, The event included an opening ceremony by speeches from municipal officials, tree-planting, an exhibition of selected art works of "Gaza without War" painting competition and an Iftar banquet.¹

Among the participating delegations were ambassadors, chargés d'affaires, and representatives from Tajikistan, Romania, Malaysia, Russia, Uganda, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Serbia, Uruguay, New Zealand, the UAE, Oman, Mongolia, and Bulgaria. Several international organizations, including UNDP, WFP, ESCAP, UNHCR, ECI, APA, UNAMI, UN, and UN-Habitat, were also present.



AMF holds specialized meeting on LA fires



The specialized online meeting of “Lessons Learned from Recent Los Angeles Fires” was held today, February 25, with the participation of experts in the field. The meeting began with a brief speech by AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and included presentations by Advisor to the Mayor of Mersin Ibrahim Evrim, CEO of Tehran Fire Department Ghodratollah Mohammadi, Head of Shiraz Fire Department Hadi Eydipour, Head of Urmia Fire Department Vahid Forouzinmehr and Lecturer at Mohaghegh Ardabili University Kiumars Sefidi. The causes of fires in Los Angeles, actions taken against the crisis, prevention methods, studying high-risk areas in the region, and crisis management strategies for similar incidents were the key topics discussed.

AMF Women Network attends Iran Cultural Week in Tunisia

The Coordinator of the AMF Women, Family, and Youth Network has emphasized the role of Iranian females in non-governmental organizations.

Ladan Ranjbar, who was attending the “Status of Women in the New Society: Experience of Iran and Tunisia” panel, deemed women as an important part of society that can play a significant role in various fields. She highlighted NGOs and non-governmental institutions as a suitable platform for this purpose and called for strengthening opportunities for women’s participation in these organizations.

The panel was held in the capital of Tunisia as part of “Iranian Cultural Week in Tunisia” on February 7-12.





AMF attends commemoration ceremony of Nicaraguan poet

AMF delegation has attended the commemoration ceremony marking the 109th anniversary of the passing of Rubén Darío, the distinguished Nicaraguan poet and diplomat.

Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, Executive Deputy Najmeh Khatami and Director of International Organizations and Embassies Affairs Mahshid Taghikhani participated in the event, held at the ECO Cultural Institute with the presence of Nicaraguan Ambassador Ramón Alberto Moncada Colindres.

The ceremony highlighted the life and literary works of Darío, known as the "Prince of Spanish Literature," and the role of culture in uniting nations.

AMF calls for international support for Gaza reconstruction

AMF has reaffirmed solidarity with the Palestinian people, calling for international support for reconstruction of Gaza.

AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, in a statement issued on the occasion of the National Day of Gaza as well as the recent ceasefire agreement between Hamas and the Israeli regime, stressed the need to address the root causes of the conflict and to hold the Zionist regime accountable for genocide and war crimes.

Calling for an immediate end to the blockade of Gaza and humanitarian aid and support for the reconstruction of the city, AMF SG reasserted the Forum's commitment to promoting peace and justice in the region and the world.



Domestic Affairs





AMF SG meets with Tehran Deputy Mayor

AMF Secretary General has hosted Tehran's Deputy Mayor for Social and Cultural Affairs Mohammad Amin Tavakolizadeh.

During the meeting, which included a visit to the Forum, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh introduced the organization's structure and various departments. He also outlined the efforts by AMF in reviving the international identity of both the Forum and Tehran, strengthening intercity relations, and enhancing cooperation in urban management across Asia.

Tavakolizadeh, emphasizing the Forum's significant role in this field and commending its initiatives, called for leveraging capacities in sports, tourism, culture, social affairs, and healthcare sectors.

Discussions also covered potential areas of collaboration, engagement, and exchange of ideas regarding ongoing and upcoming cultural events, including the organization of international intercity sports competitions and joint cultural weeks.



AMF, SBU sign MoU to boost cooperation



AMF and Shahid Beheshti University (SBU) has signed an MoU to develop scientific and research collaborations.

The memorandum, signed by AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and the SBU Vice President for Scientific and Research Affairs Ms. Mehri Hamidi, sets ground for joint research and executive collaborations.

AMF SG deemed the agreement as an effective step toward facilitating goals and enhancing international interactions of the university, highlighting the importance of student and lecturer exchanges to leverage the knowledge and experiences of both parties.



Urban diplomacy discussed at AMF session

AMF has hosted a meeting on urban diplomacy and branding. Municipality, explored topics such as urban diplomacy in young democracies and the role of social media—particularly X (Twitter)—in city diplomacy and global branding.

Another key topic was the introduction of the newly established BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities, its potential, and its role in the future of international urban interactions among the countries of the bloc.



Member Cities





AMF SG meets Mayor of Baghdad

AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh has met with the Mayor of Baghdad Ammar Musa. During this meeting, which took place late February in a visit by AMF SG to Iraq, the parties discussed strengthening cooperation and joint programs. Key topics of discussion included increasing Baghdad's participation in Forum events, enhancing Baghdad's relations with other member cities, and exploring opportunities for collaboration in upcoming events.



AMF delegation visits TITE 2025

Members of the Asian Mayors Forum have visited the 18th Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition (TITE 2025). The visit aimed to explore the latest achievements in the sector, discover existing opportunities, learn about the participating cities and their tourism potential, introduce the Forum, and engage in discussions with representatives of member cities. During the visit, the membership certificate of the city of Hachiroud was also presented to its esteemed mayor, Mr. Jafar Radaei.



AMF announces 2025 Capitals

Asian Mayors Forum has announced 2025 Capitals of Environment, Culture and Tourism.

AMF has named Tabriz (Iran) and Antalya (Turkey) as joint winners of the Capital of Environment title, honoring their leadership in sustainability.

Kermanshah (Iran) has been designated the Capital of Culture for its rich heritage and creativity, while Isfahan (Iran) earns the Capital of Tourism title for its blend of historical charm and modern attractions.

These cities serve as inspiring examples of innovation and excellence in their respective categories, and AMF hopes their recognition fosters greater collaboration in culture, environment, and tourism across Asia





Kermanshah celebrates receiving “Capital of Culture” title

The AMF Deputy has presented the trophy and certificate of “Cultural Capital of Asia” to the Mayor of Karmanshah in a festive ceremony in the Iranian city. The public event, which took place on March 12 at Eastern Park of Kermanshah, was followed by unveiling of a commemorative stamp dedicated to the city’s new title. The ceremony also featured cultural and artistic programs, including honoring the cast of a popular local TV series, live performances of local traditional music, recognition of exemplary citizens and outstanding municipal service personnel. With over thousands of attendees, the event celebrated Kermanshah’s cultural significance on an international level. AMF has recently announced Kermanshah as the Cultural Capital of Asian Cities, Tabriz and Antalya as joint Environmental Capitals and Isfahan as the Tourism Capital of Asian Cities for 2025.

AMF hosts special course on protocol etiquette

Asian Mayors Forum has hosted a special training course on protocol etiquette for urban managers and experts. The course, conducted by Ali-Mohammad Bidarmaghz, aimed to enhance awareness and strengthen essential skills in protocol etiquette while improving the quality of official events. Key topics covered in the course included professional conduct at official ceremonies, principles of effective communication with guests, event management and execution, pre- and post-event protocol procedures, appropriate attire and behavior, etiquette for attending meetings and formal banquets, and protocols for participating in international meetings and events. The special training session was attended by managers and experts from the cities of Isfahan, Kermanshah, Ram-sar, Zahedan, and Semnan.



New Member!

Asianmayorsforum Join us in warmly welcoming Masuleh as the newest Iranian member of the Asian Mayors Forum!

Nestled in the Alborz Mountains, Masuleh is renowned for its unique stepped architecture and its natural

beauty. The city also features a rich history and culture.

Together, we continue to foster collaboration, innovation, and progress across our cities.



Interns



Iranian youth selected as Researcher of Year



Iran's representative at the "BRICS and SCO Young Leaders Award" has won the title of Young Researcher of the Year. Hosna Salimi, a trainee of AMF's 6th Internship Program who was nominated for the competition by the Forum, received the award for her scientific and research activities.

The award ceremony was held on January 26 in the Russian city of Kazan, with representatives from India, Iran, China, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, South Africa, and Russia being recognized in various categories, including Media Influencer, Social Entrepreneur, Public Diplomacy, Young Researcher, and Eco-Initiatives.

Team building workshop held for interns

The "Team Building and Management" training workshop, focused on group games, has been held for AMF interns. The event, designed to strengthen team spirit, improve teamwork skills, and introduce the principles of team building and leadership, included training in communication skills, problem-solving, and decision-making through interactive activities. The workshop provided an opportunity for interns to learn and apply managerial skills and effective collaboration in an interactive environment.



1st session of "City Studies" held at AMF



The very first session of the "City Studies" has been held with the participation of AMF trainees.¹ The session focused on the Turkish city of Istanbul, examining its characteristics, challenges, urban management issues, as well as the role of international organizations in this metropolis.¹ The "City Studies" is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of young experts in urban management and provide a better understanding of municipal-related issues. These sessions offer a valuable opportunity for participants to exchange ideas and engage in discussions.

2nd City Studies explores Bangkok

The second session in the series of "City Studies" meetings was held with the participation of AMF interns. Key topics of discussion included an introduction to Bangkok and its characteristics, urban challenges, the performance of international urban organizations based there, and the city's major projects. The session also examined Bangkok's urban management structure and the scope of authority of its local government. The "City Studies" is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of young experts in urban management and provide a better understanding of municipal-related issues. These sessions offer a valuable opportunity for participants to exchange ideas and engage in discussions.



• 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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