

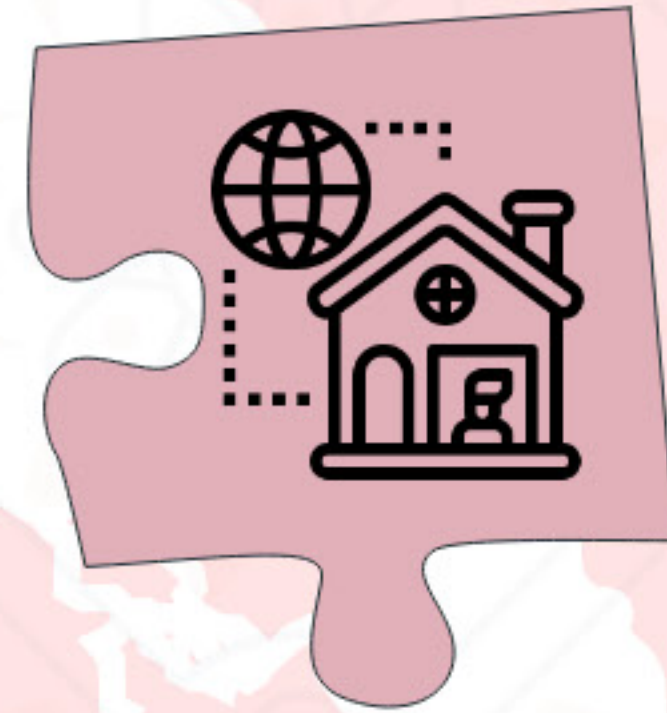


Asian Mayors Forum

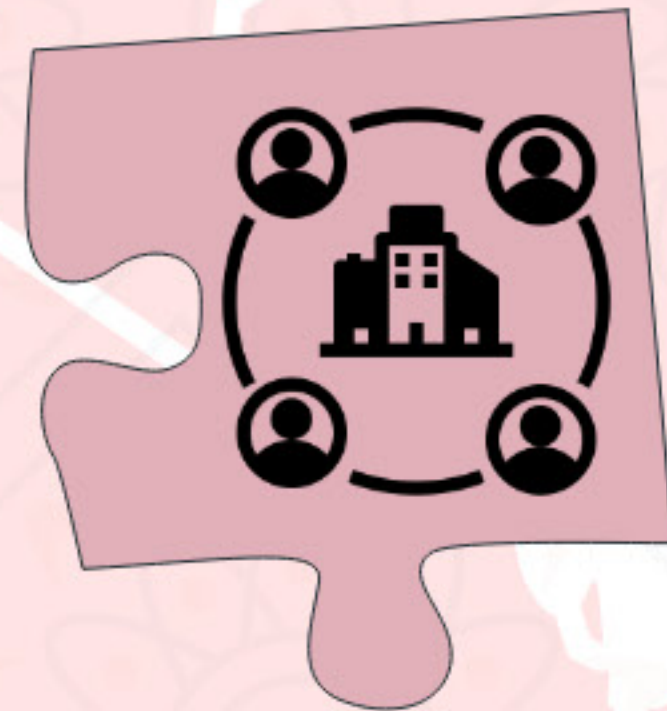
AMF Quarterly



● **International Affairs**



● **Domestic Affairs**

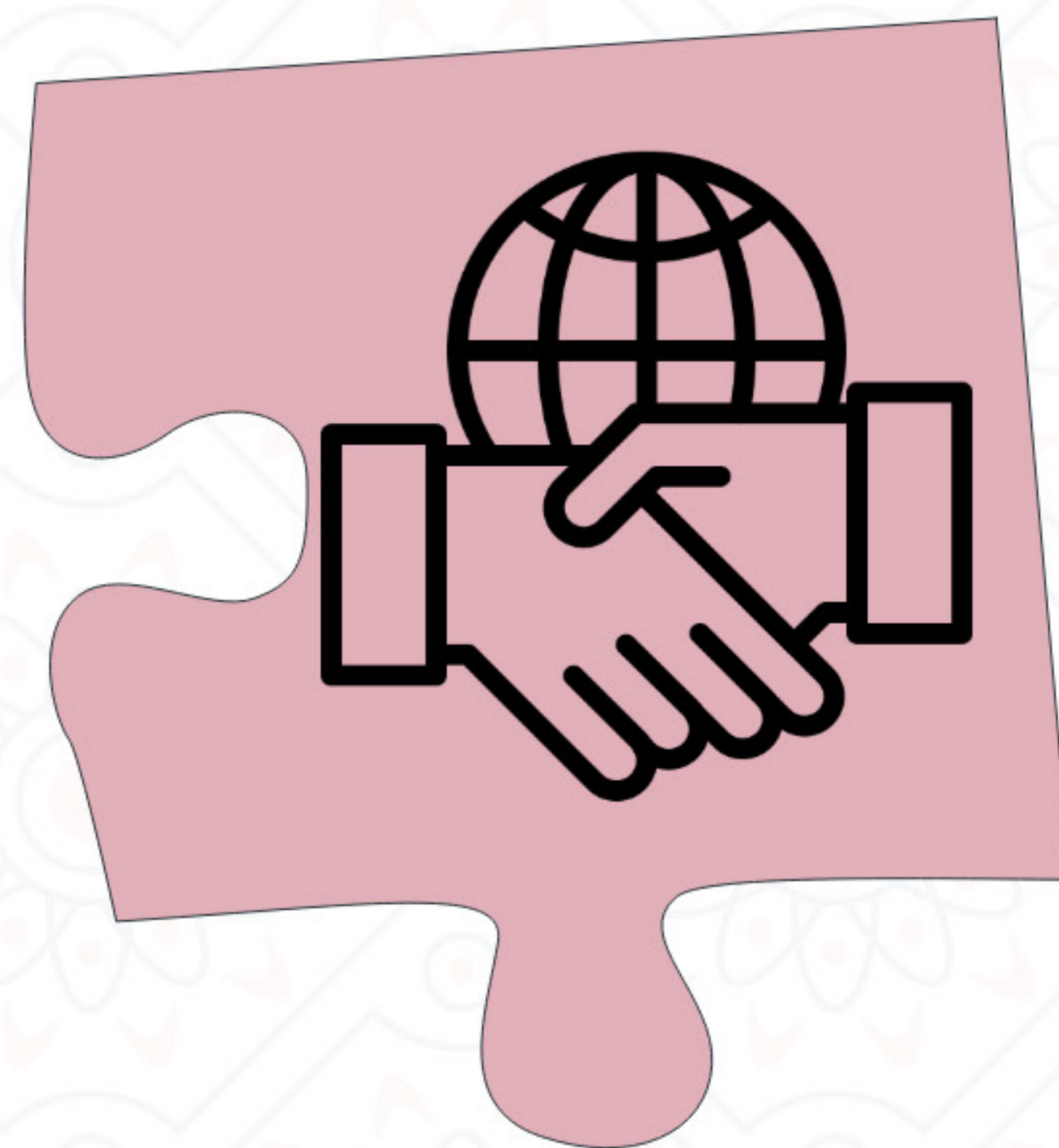


● **Member Cities**



● **Interns**

International Affairs



Meeting of BRICS+ cities held in Tehran



The 3rd meeting of the BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities was hosted by the Asian Mayors Forum and the Municipality of Tehran on April 10, at Milad Tower.

The event, whose previous two editions were held in Kazan, Russia, and Dubai, UAE, brought together urban and government officials from Russia, China, Brazil, and South Africa.

Notable participants included:

- Ilсур Metshin, Mayor of Kazan and President of the BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities
- Sun Xueqing, Secretary-General of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
- Bheke Stofile, President of the South African Local Government Association and Vice President of the BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities
- Eduardo Tadeu, Executive Director of the Brazilian Association of Municipalities

A number of Iranian urban managers were also in attendance.

During the assembly, the charter of this newly established organization was reviewed and approved by the members. A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the cities of Tehran and Kazan, with mayors Alireza Zakani and Ilсур Metshin in attendance.

The gathering concluded with a tour of Milad Tower and a symbolic planting of Iranian rose bushes in the Rose Garden of the Tower as a gesture of peace.

The "BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities" was officially launched in 2024 in Kazan as part of Russia's BRICS events, with the Asian Mayors Forum representing Iran in this initiative.



BRICS+ Meeting kicks off with Tehran tours



The third meeting of the BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities started on April 9 with Tehran tours. The tours took the foreign participants of the event, namely Russian and Brazilian delegates, to the Golestan Palace and the Sa'dabad Cultural and Historical Complex. The third BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities is taking place in Tehran from April 9-11, 2025, with municipal officials from Russia, Brazil, South Africa, and China, hosted by AMF and Tehran Municipality.

AMF hosts technical meeting with BRICS reps

The specialized session on “Crisis Management and Urban Resilience” was held on Friday, April 11, at the Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization, with representatives from BRICS countries in attendance. The session included a tour of the organization’s facilities and an introduction to its capabilities. Expert talks were delivered on urban crises and their solutions by prominent academics, including Dr. Mostafa Behzadfar from Iran University of Science and Technology, Dr. Seyed Amir Mansouri from the University of Tehran, and Dr. Zoheir Motakei from Shahid Beheshti University. Urban officials from BRICS countries—including the Deputy Mayor of Kazan (Russia), the Deputy Mayor of Maricá (Brazil), and two speakers from South Africa—also explored shared challenges and crises. This specialized session was held on the sidelines of the BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities meeting, hosted by Tehran and the Asian Mayors Forum.

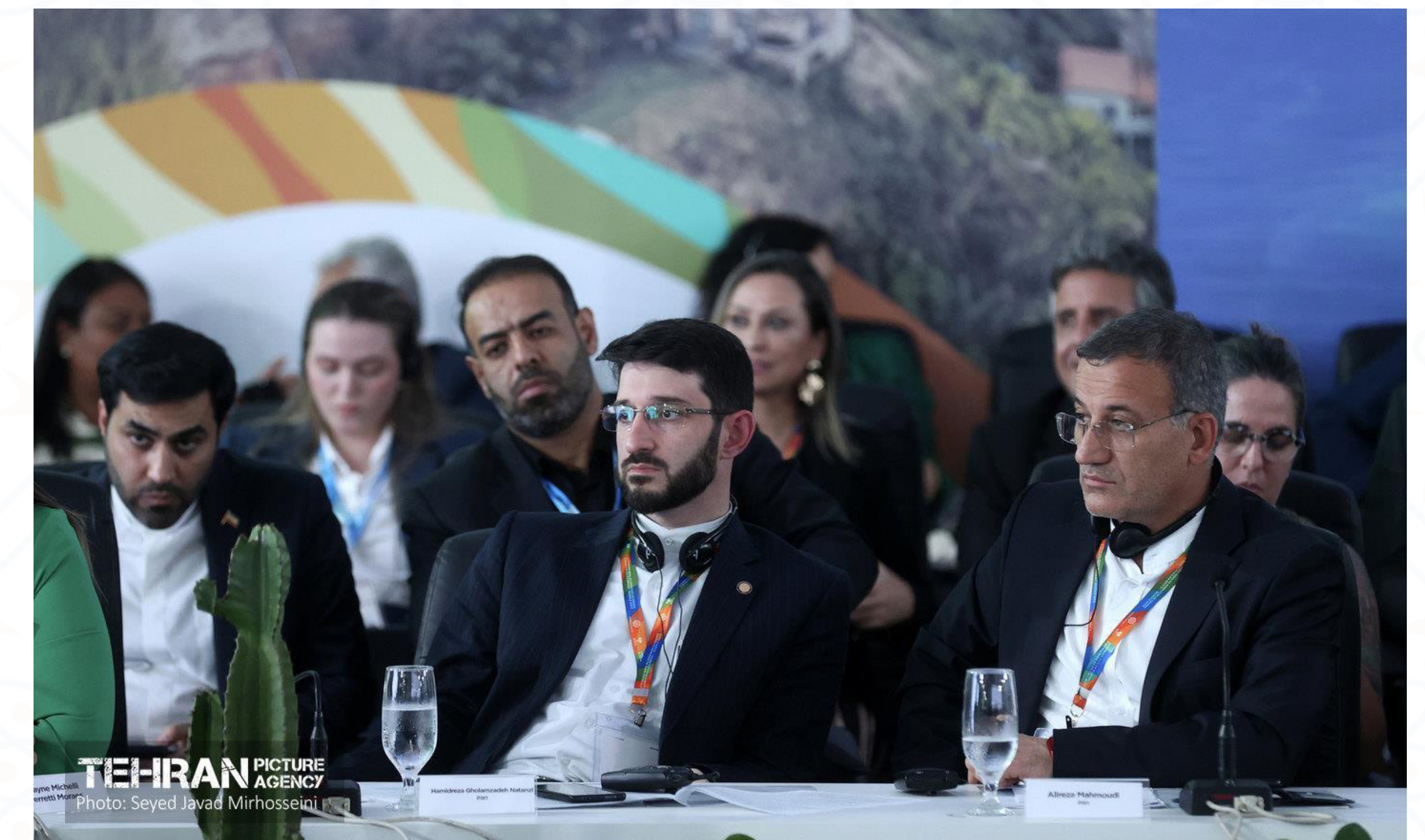


AMF delegation attends BRICS+ General Assembly

A delegation from AMF has attended the General Assembly of the BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities in Brazil's Maricá.

Headed by AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, the delegation, including mayors of the Iranian cities of Isfahan, Rasht, Qazvin, Arak and Deputy Mayor of Shiraz, took part in the event, addressing different panels and holding meetings.

AMF is a partner of the Association and co-hosted the previous meeting of the body in Tehran in April.



AMF delegates attend sustainability panel at BRICS+ summit



AMF delegates have participated in a specialized panel on sustainability and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles, held on the sidelines of the inaugural General Assembly of BRICS+ Cities and Municipalities in Brazil.

The session featured the Mayor of Tehran as the keynote speaker, with the mayors of Rasht, Qazvin, and Arak also delivering presentations on the adoption and implementation of ESG standards in their respective cities. Discussions focused on inter-city cooperation and shared areas of interest in advancing sustainable urban development.

The event took place in the Brazilian city of Maricá from May 26 to 28.

AMF SG moderates youth session at Brazil's BRICS+ summit

AMF SG has moderated a specialized youth session during the General Assembly of the BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities in Brazil's Maricá. The session, attended by senior urban officials from BRICS member countries, aimed to explore the role of the younger generation in addressing major global challenges.

It focused on key topics such as sustainable development, innovation, education, and social justice, providing a platform for young activists and stakeholders to present their initiatives and discuss youth involvement in public policymaking. Key speakers included Dmitry Denisyuk (Russia), Diego Viceli Cabral (Brazil), Edwin Velasquez and Horber Lopez (Venezuela), as well as heads of local governments from various Russian regions.

Mr. Secretary General emphasized the importance of youth participation in urban governance and praised the active engagement and innovative ideas shared by the participants.



Isfahan, Shiraz take part in BRICS+ architecture meeting



Delegates from the cities of Shiraz and Isfahan took part in a thematic session on Architecture and Urban Development, held during the first General Assembly of the BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities. Mayor of Isfahan Mr. Ali Ghasemzadeh and Deputy Mayor of Shiraz Mr. Arash Farajzadeh, shared insights from their cities on challenges and opportunities in sustainable urban development. The session focused on key issues such as integrating green technologies into architectural projects, improving the quality of public spaces, and preserving cultural and historical sites. The importance of community engagement in urban development processes and the evolving role of architects in creating inclusive urban environments were also among the topics addressed. The General Assembly took place from May 26 to 28, 2025, in Maricá, Brazil, bringing together municipal leaders and experts from across the BRICS+ network.

AMF delegate addresses BRICS+ Women meeting

AMF Deputy Secretary General has participated as a keynote speaker in the "BRICS+ Women" session held on the sidelines of the first General Assembly of the BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities in Maricá, Brazil.

In her remarks, Ms. Khatami emphasized the crucial role of women in shaping inclusive local and global governance and highlighted the need for stronger networks among women urban leaders within the BRICS+ countries. She also shared successful examples of women's empowerment in urban management, economic participation, and leadership training initiatives aimed at strengthening women's roles in city development.





AMF attends UCLG-MEWA tourism meeting

The UCLG-MEWA Culture & Tourism Committee Meeting has convened in Turkey's Antalya on April 19, with AMF delegates in attendance.

Held on the sidelines of the 10th Antalya Urbanism and Technologies Symposium, the meeting was dedicated to sharing knowledge and experience to promote tourism, particularly the local cultures.

National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

The AMF delegation participated in the commemoration ceremony marking the 80th National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the 50th anniversary of the Reunification.

The event was held at the Sacred Defense Museum in collaboration with the Iran-Vietnam Friendship Association and the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. AMF Deputy Najmeh Khatami and Director of International Organizations and Embassies Affairs Mahshid Taghikhani attended the ceremony, which emphasized cultural ties and friendship between nations.





'BRICS an opportunity for cooperation'

AMF Secretary General has emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation within the framework of BRICS+ during the II All-Russian Municipal Forum held in Moscow. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, speaking at the expert panel on "Prospects for the Development of International Cooperation of BRICS Cities», called the BRICS group an ample opportunity for cooperation and discussed key areas for collaboration. He highlighted education as one of the most important fields for intercity cooperation and expressed readiness for any joint initiatives in this area.

The II All-Russian Municipal Forum "Small Motherland – the Strength of Russia" is taking place in Moscow from April 21 to 23.

AMF, VARMSU ink MoU

AMF and the All-Russian Association for the Development of Local Self-Government (VARMSU) have signed a memorandum of understanding.

Inked by AMF SG Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and VARMSU Co-Chair Irina Guseva on the sidelines of the II All-Russian Municipal Forum in Moscow, the agreement is set to pave the path for inter-city cooperation between the members of the two organizations.]

The II All-Russian Municipal Forum is underway in Moscow on April 21-23.



AMF SG stresses need to boost BRICS cooperation



AMF Secretary General has emphasized the importance of leveraging opportunities for cooperation in the field of green spaces during the opening ceremony of ParkSeason Expo in Moscow.

Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, speaking at the event held on April 24, referred to the MoU between Tehran's Abbasabad Tourism Zone and Moscow's VDNKh Park, describing it as an example of such collaboration that can be effective in addressing challenges related to urban green spaces.

He also stated that the Forum could act as a facilitator for this kind of cooperation between Asian and Russian cities.

The ParkSeason Expo was held on April 24 and 25 in Moscow with the participation of urban managers and international experts.

AMF delegate addresses expert panel in Moscow

AMF Director for International Organizations has addressed a specialized panel at ParkSeason Expo in Moscow.

In a panel titled "BRICS Municipalities: Comfortable Urban Spaces", Mahshid Taghikhani emphasized the importance of redesigning cities based on such spaces and highlighted successful examples of these designs.

The Zahra Parkway in Tehran was among the projects she introduced, which has recently been completed in the capital of Iran. Taghikhani also added that the exchange of experiences in this field can accelerate the development and operation of similar spaces, enhance citizen satisfaction, and contribute to a purposeful move toward sustainable development.





AMF SG underscores culture as effective urban diplomacy means

AMF Secretary General has emphasized the importance of culture in advancing urban diplomacy and international cooperation during the opening ceremony of the "Kermanshah, Cultural Capital of Asian Cities" festival. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, speaking at the event held in Kermanshah with the participation of Iranian officials and international guests from 10 countries, highlighted the role of municipalities as supportive arms of governments. He noted that municipalities can play a key role in fostering international relations, attracting investment, and showcasing the economic potential of cities. The event hosted diplomats from Malaysia, Brunei, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Sri Lanka, along with representatives from UNESCO and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). Kermanshah was selected as the Cultural Capital of Asian Cities for 2025 due to its rich cultural heritage and the municipality's impactful efforts in promoting cultural initiatives.

'Resilience key element in urban development'

In a keynote address at the 28th Eurasian Economic Summit, AMF Secretary General has called for cities worldwide to adopt resilience as a core principle of planning and investment.

Calling resilience an essential, not an option, for survival and urban progress, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh emphasized the need for cities to change approaches toward resilience from mere survival to adopting to changes and thriving in uncertainty. He said for this reason, the urban leaders need to prioritize integrated governance, natural infrastructure, smart risk-informed design, social resilience and learning and foresight as pillars of resilience.

The address also praised Iranian cities like Tehran and Isfahan for integrating traditional knowledge and ecological design into modern resilience strategies, urging all to join hands to "transform vulnerability into strength."

The 28th Eurasian Economic Summit was held in Istanbul on 7-8 May.

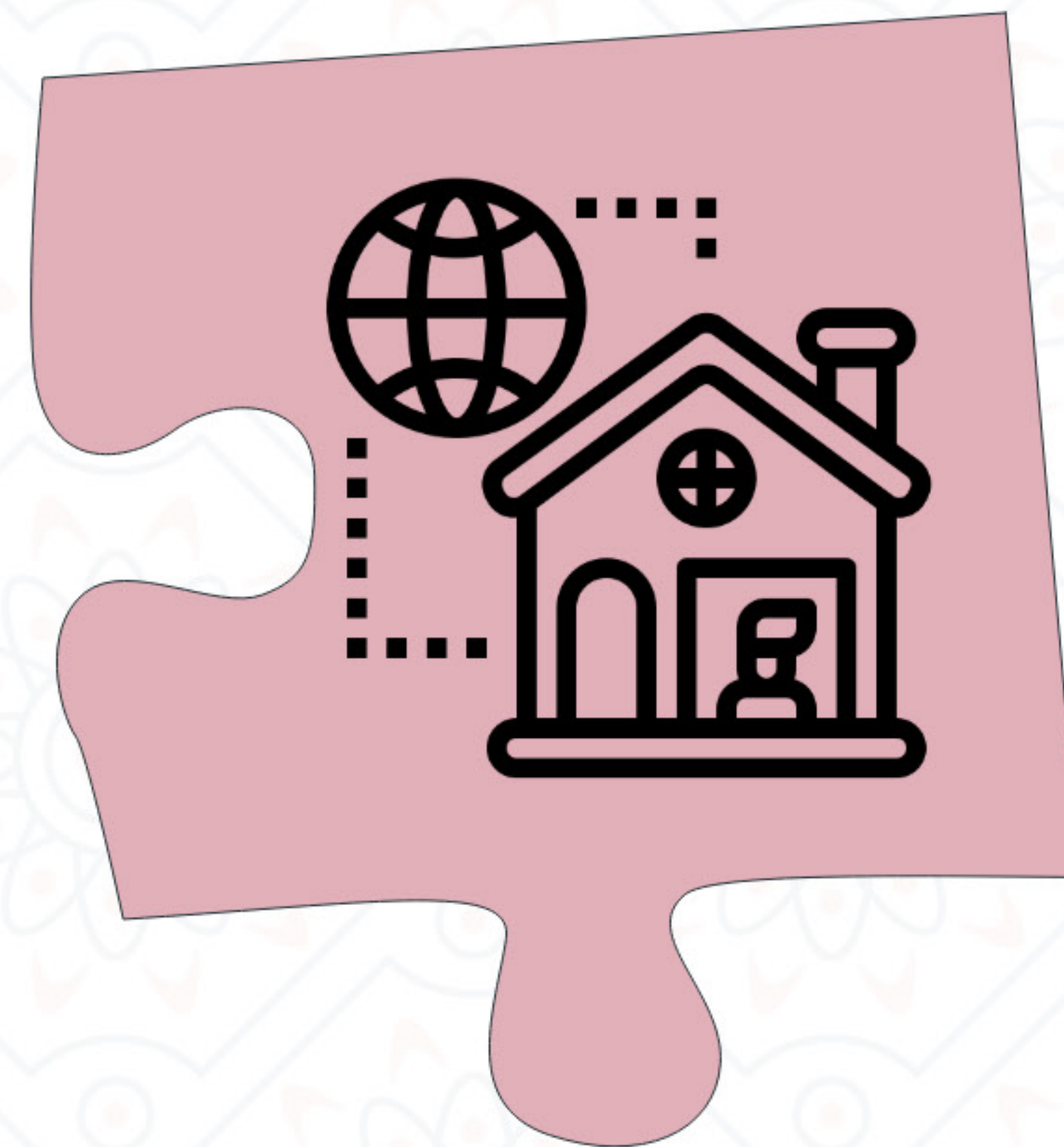




AMF expands cooperation with African cities

AMF has signed multilateral cooperation agreement with Senegalese cities. On May 2, AMF Secretary General hosted a delegation from Senegal, including Ousmane Sarr, Mayor of the Cherif Lo, Lazare Lamane Thiaw, Mayor of Pambal, and Saloum Sane, President of the "Investir au Sénégal". During the meeting, a multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Forum, the Senegalese union, and the municipalities of Cherif Lo and Pambal. The agreement sets the stage for cooperation in urban health, waste management, public transportation, infrastructure development, and cultural projects.

Domestic Affairs





Happy Nowruz

As we welcome the new year, AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh shares heartfelt wishes for a year of peace, prosperity, and renewal. May this spring bring new opportunities for cooperation and joint efforts among members of great AMF family.

6th round of Risk competitions held at AMF

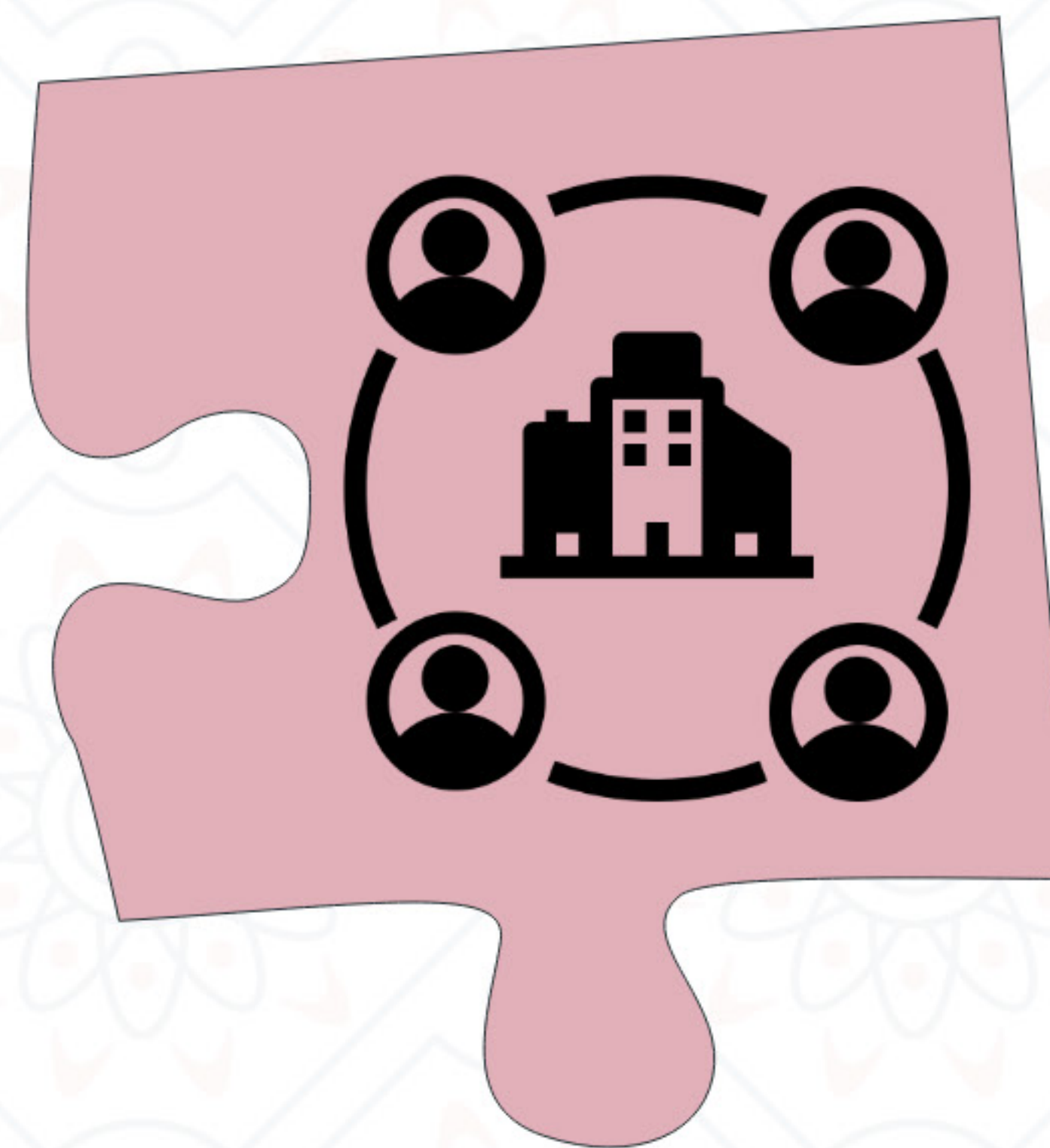
The 6th round of the exciting "Risk" strategic board game competition was held with the aim of strengthening negotiation skills and strategic thinking, in collaboration with the Diplo-House.

In this energetic event, students and AMF interns competed in two teams within a friendly and educational atmosphere.

"Risk" is one of the most popular strategic board games worldwide and is widely used in leading universities as a tool for teaching strategic thinking and negotiation skills.



Member Cities

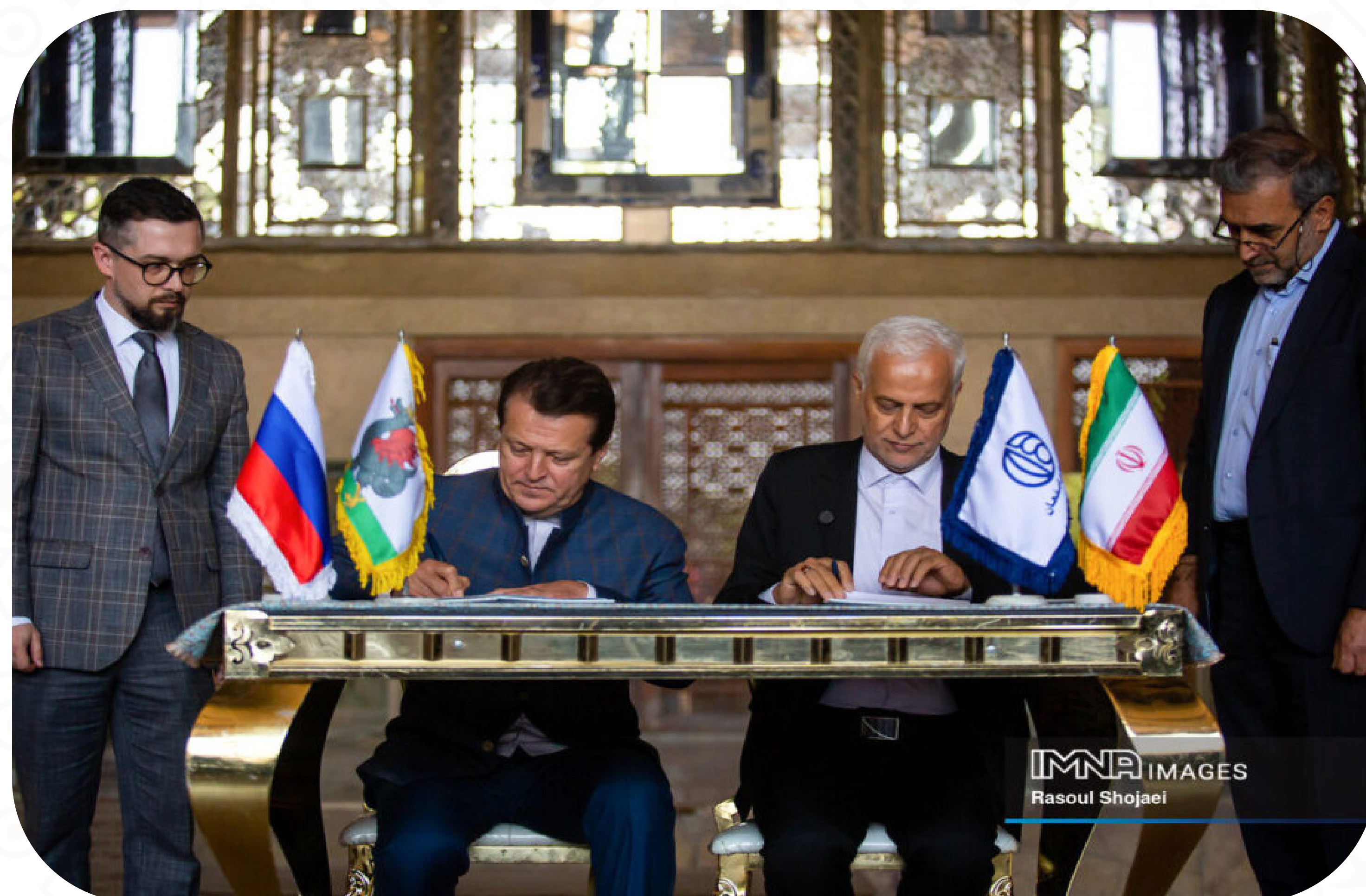


Isfahan signs twinning agreement with Kazan



Isfahan, an AMF member, has signed a twinning agreement with Kazan, the capital of Russia's Republic of Tatarstan. The agreement was formalized on April 9, 2025, during a ceremony at the historic Chehel Sotoun Palace in Isfahan, with mayors Ali Ghasemzadeh and Ilсур Metshin in attendance.

This twinning marks Isfahan's 16th sister-city partnership and aims to strengthen collaboration in culture, tourism, sustainable urban development, and education between the two historic cities.



Qazvin, Russia's Gorodetsky ink twinning MoU

Qazvin and the Gorodetsky District of Russia have signed a sister-city agreement on the sidelines of the first General Assembly of the "BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities."

The agreement was signed by the Mayor of Qazvin Mr. Mehdi Sabbaghi and the head of the local government of Gorodetsky, Alexander Yurievich Mudrov. The agreement is set to pave the way for cooperation between the two cities in various urban sectors.

Qazvin is a member of the Asian Mayors Forum, and its mayor participated in the event in Maricá, Brazil, as part of a delegation from the Forum.



Technical committee secretariat opens in Arak



The Secretariat of the "Public Participation and Social Responsibility" Committee of the Asian Mayors Forum was inaugurated in Arak on April 30, 2025.

The event took place at Arak's Cultural Center with the participation of representatives from the Asian Mayors Forum, Governor of Markazi Province Mehdi Zandieh Vakili, Arak Mayor Alireza Mahmoudi, city council members, and UNESCO Iran Secretary-General Hassan FartousiZadeh. Mehdi Fallahi Panah, Director of Committees Affairs at AMF, stated that the organization uses all its resources to support member cities' goals and highlighted Arak's positive role in advancing social responsibility among Asian cities.

Arak was selected in March 2025 as the Secretariat of the Forum's "Public Participation and Social Responsibility" Committee.

AMF SG meets with Kermanshah municipal official

AMF has hosted Mr. Iman Derakhshi, Head of the Cultural, Social, and Sports Organization of Kermanshah Municipality.

The late-April meeting focused on upcoming international events as Kermanshah serve as the "Cultural Capital of Asian Cities" in 2025.

Topics included organizing cultural events, establishing sister-city ties with other Asian cities, and hosting various cultural and social gatherings. The overall event calendar for 2025 was also reviewed.

In addition to being named Cultural Capital, Kermanshah also chairs the Committee on Public Participation and Social Responsibility.



“Capital of Environment” plaque awarded to Antalya



AMF Secretary General has presented the “Asian Capital of Environment” award to the Esteemed Mayor of Antalya Muhittin Böcek.†

Taking place at the opening ceremony of the 10th Urbanization and Technologies Symposium in Antalya, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh hailed the city’s efforts in sustainable urban development and officially awarded the title to the city.†

AMF has named Tabriz (Iran) and Antalya (Turkey) as joint winners of the Capital of Environment title in 2025, honoring their leadership in sustainability.

Isfahan receives plaque of Asia Tourism Capital

AMF Secretary General has presented the “Asian Capital of Tourism” award to the honorable Mayor of Isfahan, Mr. Ali Ghasemzadeh.

In a ceremony held at the historic “Bagh-e Zereshk” mansion in Isfahan, attended by a group of city officials, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh praised the achievements of Isfahan Municipality in the field of tourism. He congratulated the city on being chosen as the “Asian Capital of Tourism” and presented the official plaque and statue to the mayor. He expressed hope that this recognition would contribute to the development of tourism in Isfahan and the entire country, and foster greater cooperation across Asia.

After reviewing applications submitted by Asian cities, the Asian Mayors Forum selected Kermanshah as the Cultural Capital, Tabriz and Antalya jointly as the Environmental Capitals, and Isfahan as the Tourism Capital of Asian Cities for 2025.





AMF, Dushanbe to boost cooperation

AMF Secretary General has met with Deputy Mayor of Dushanbe.

In a meeting held on the sidelines of the “Kermanshah, Cultural Capital of Asia” festival in the western Iranian city, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Ms. Dilbar Odizoda discussed expanding cooperation between the Forum and Dushanbe, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the organization. One of the key topics of the meeting was establishing sister-city agreements between the Tajik capital and other member cities of the Forum, including Kermanshah and Isfahan.

The Tajik delegation has traveled to Iran at the invitation of the Forum to participate in the Kermanshah cultural festival.

Iranian, Indian mayors discuss improving cooperation

Mayors of several AMF members from Iran have held a meeting with municipal officials from India.

Organized on the sidelines of the 1st General Assembly of BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities in Brazil’s Maricá, the meeting brought together mayors of Isfahan, Rasht, Qazvin and Arak with urban leaders from Indian cities of Jaipur and Kalapur.

The meeting was led by AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG) Deputy Director General Ravi Ranjan Guru and explored venues of cooperation between the cities of the two organizations.

The 1st General Assembly of BRICS+ Cities and Municipalities was held in Brazil’s Maricá late May with representatives from 26 countries.



Tehran's Deputy Mayor for Social and Cultural Affairs, has met with Dilbar Odilzoda

Amin Tavakolizadeh, Tehran's Deputy Mayor for Social and Cultural Affairs, has met with Dilbar Odilzoda, Deputy Mayor of Dushanbe, and Nizomiddin Zohidi, Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran, to discuss expanding cooperation between the two capitals. The officials highlighted shared cultural and historical ties and proposed joint initiatives in tourism, sports, and youth programs. Tavakolizadeh introduced Tehran's "City Championship" event and cultural programs, suggesting broader collaboration with Dushanbe. Both sides expressed interest in hosting cultural weeks in each other's cities, aiming to deepen municipal ties in line with the broader diplomatic goals of Iran and Tajikistan. The Tajik delegation is visiting Iran upon an invitation by the Asian Mayors Forum to attend a festival in Kermanshah as the Cultural Capital of Asia in 2025. The meeting also marked the 30th anniversary of Tehran-Dushanbe sister city relations.



Deputy Secretary-General of AMF Meets Dushanbe Delegation

The Deputy Secretary-General of the Asian Mayors Forum has held a cordial meeting with a delegation from the Municipality of Dushanbe. During the meeting, Najmeh Khatami and Ms. Dilbar Adilzoda, Deputy Mayor of Dushanbe, discussed ongoing collaborations between the Forum and the capital of Tajikistan, as well as future plans for expanding relations and launching joint projects.

The delegation from Tajikistan had traveled to Iran to participate in the "Kermanshah, Cultural Capital of Asia" festival, held from June 7 to 9. Dushanbe currently holds the rotating presidency of AMF.

AMF Secretary-General Meets Russian Youth Diplomacy Academy Chairwoman to Expand Cooperation

AMF Secretary-General has met with Chairwoman of Youth Diplomacy Academy from Russia. The meeting held at the Secretariat of the Asian-Mayors Forum, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Dilbar Sadikova reviewed current joint activities and projects and discussed ways to expand their cooperation.

The Asian Mayors Forum and the Youth Diplomacy Academy signed a co-operation agreement in 2024. According to this memorandum, the Asian Mayors Forum was designated as the Iranian partner of the Academy. Organizing joint events and introducing Iranian youth to BRICS-related programs have been among the key initiatives of the two organizations.

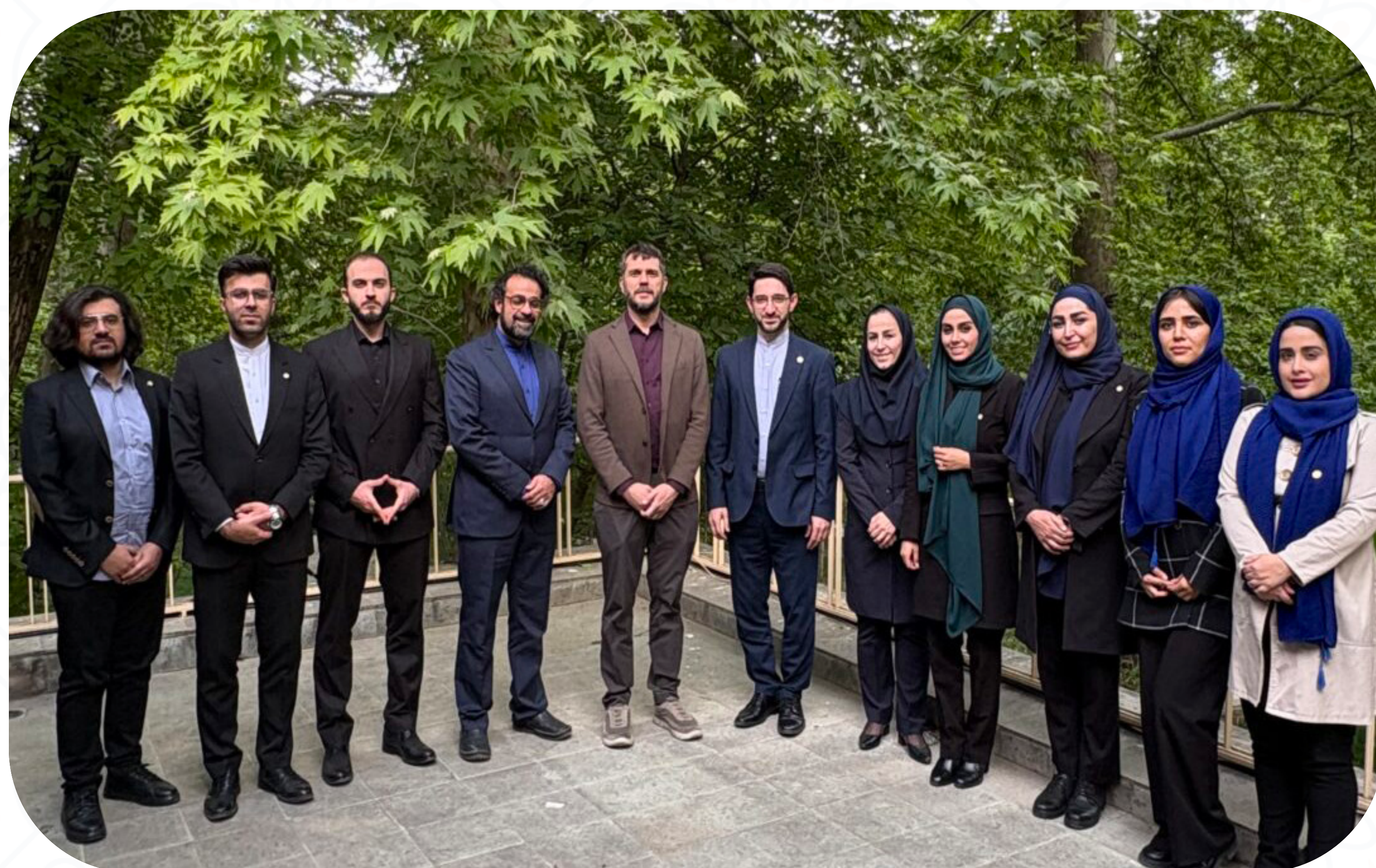


AMF SG hosts a counterpart from Metropolis

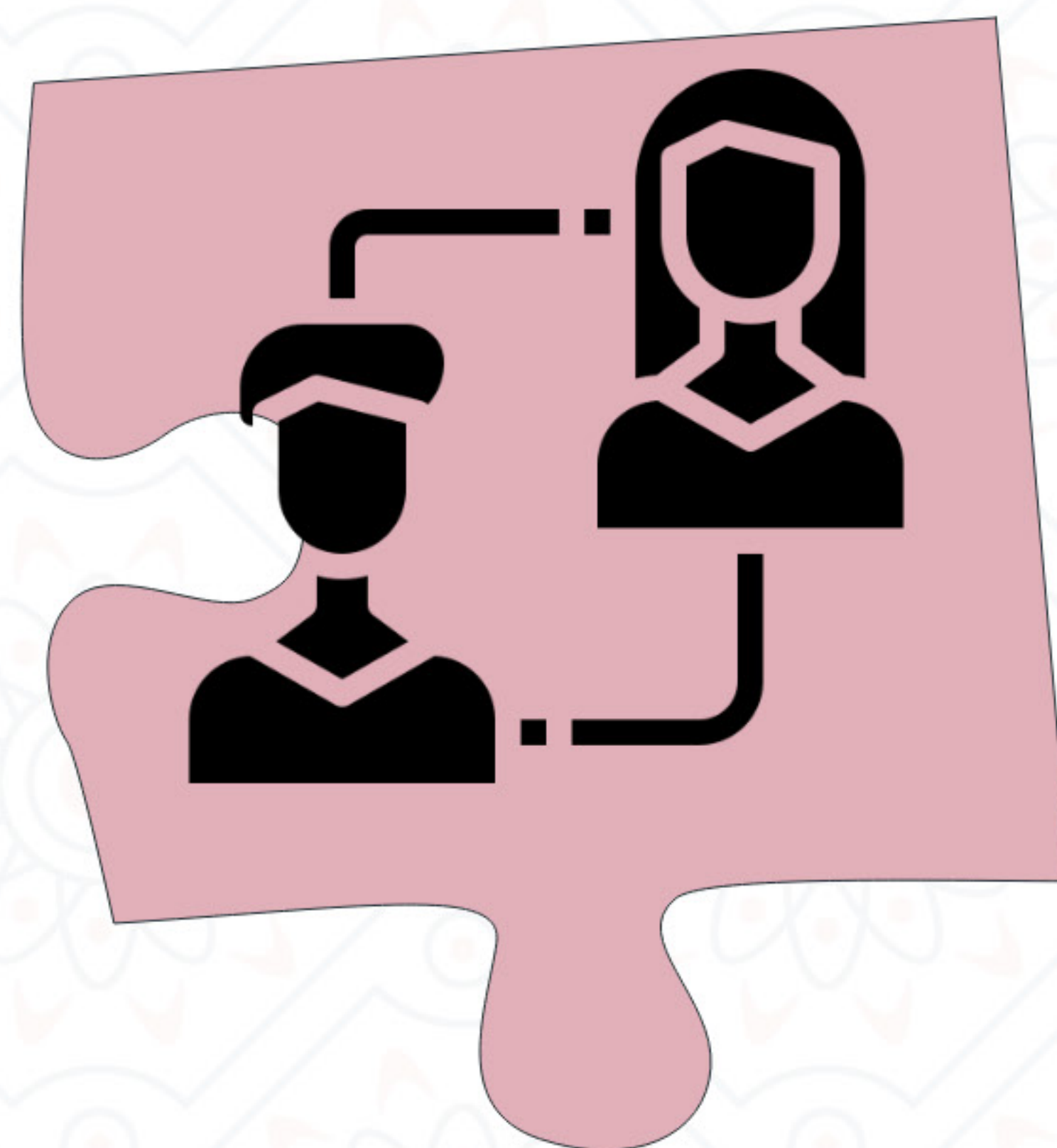
On May 1st, the Asian Mayors Forum hosted Mr. Jordi Vaquer, Secretary General of Metropolis – the World Association of Major Metropolises. The visit, held in a warm and constructive atmosphere, included a cordial meeting with AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh.

During the meeting, both sides emphasized the importance of inter-organizational collaboration and engaged in productive discussions on strengthening cooperation between the two networks. Key topics included maximizing the potential of member cities, sharing successful experiences in urban management, and identifying opportunities for joint innovative initiatives.

The dialogue also highlighted the need to enhance the global role of metropolises, promote urban diplomacy, and expand regional and international platforms for collaboration.



Interns





AMF Interns Conduct Third 'City Studies' Session, Focusing on Kermanshah

The third session in the "City Studies" series was held with the participation of trainees from the Asian Mayors Forum. Dedicated to the city of Kermanshah, the meeting explored the city's key features, challenges, and pressing urban issues. Topics also covered cooperation between the Forum and Kermanshah, urban-management concerns, infrastructure and public-service projects, and potential joint initiatives.

AMF Interns Hold Fourth 'City Studies' Session on Gaziantep's Urban Challenges and Cooperation Opportunities

The fourth session of the "City Studies" was held by the AMF interns, focusing on the Turkish city of Gaziantep. The session began with an exploration of Gaziantep's urban characteristics, challenges, and key issues. This was followed by a discussion among the interns on potential avenues for improved collaboration between the Forum and the city, highlighting existing capacities to strengthen mutual relations. The session concluded with a review of Gaziantep's urban management issues, development and service projects, as well as the city's interactions with international organizations.



• 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.



Asian Mayors Forum

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