



Asian Mayors Forum

AMF Quarterly

Issue No 10:
July- September 2025



● **International Affairs**



● **Domestic Affairs**



● **Member Cities**



● **Interns**

International Affairs



The 8th Urmia Grape Festival Concludes



The 8th Grape Festival of Urmia concluded with the participation of several ambassadors from Asian countries.

The closing ceremony of this ten-day festival, held at the Chichest Cultural Complex, was attended by the ambassadors of Uruguay, the Philippines, Uzbekistan, as well as diplomatic representatives from the embassies of Kyrgyzstan and Sri Lanka with the support of the Asian Mayors Forum.

The event featured a handicrafts exhibition, the introduction of diverse grape varieties and related products, folk music, and other cultural performances.

During their stay in Urmia, the Asian diplomatic delegation also visited historical sites of the city and held meetings with local and provincial officials.

Urmia is a member of the Asian Mayors Forum and was recently appointed as the Chair of the Committee on Urban Economy and Entrepreneurship of this organization, in line with expanding cooperation.



Iranian Delegation Shines at BRICS Youth Festival in Kazan, Russia

The BRICS Youth Festival, with the active participation of an Iranian delegation, concluded today in Kazan, Russia. The week-long event brought together 150 teenagers from 13 BRICS+ countries.

The Iranian delegation, consisting of eight young participants introduced by the Asian Mayors Forum, seized this unique opportunity to present Iran's cultural and social capacities as ambassadors of peace and culture. They also voiced their solidarity with the children of Gaza, calling for a world filled with peace and justice for all children.

The delegation's program included a meeting with Kazan's Mayor Il-sur Metshin, participation in dialogue sessions, cultural exchanges, and involvement in scientific Olympiads. A notable achievement of the Iranian team was winning a bronze medal in the Mathematics and Programming Olympiad, proudly registered in Iran's name.



Peace Day event brought youth together at AMF

The Asian Mayors Forum has hosted a gathering of young people, activists, and peace enthusiasts on the occasion of the International Day of Peace.

The event, held on September 22, with the theme "Roots in the Soil, Hearts in Peace", created an atmosphere filled with empathy, creativity, and hope. Throughout the program, participants engaged in group and creative activities centered on promoting a culture of unity and cooperation, each sharing their thoughts and aspirations for a more peaceful world.

The event concluded with planting a sapling as a symbol of collective cooperation and commitment to spreading peace, making the day truly memorable.



AMF webinar explores role of local economies in sustainability

The online expert meeting “Local Economies, Sustainable Cities: A New Development Discourse in Asia” was held on September 17, 2025, with the participation of mayors, senior urban managers, and representatives of international organizations from various countries.

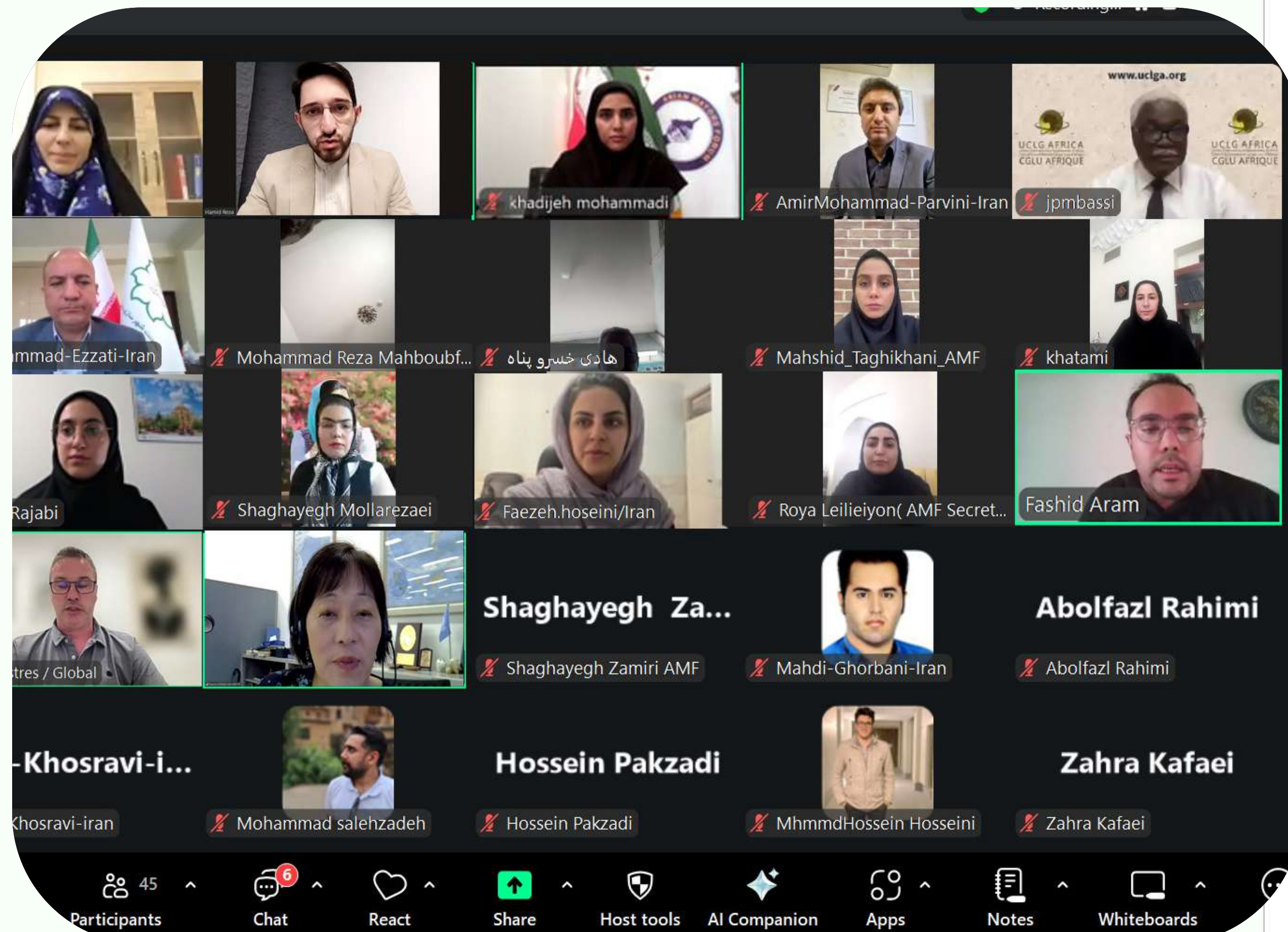
In this webinar, a number of prominent international and urban figures presented their views, including:

- Dr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, Secretary-General of the Asian Mayors Forum
- Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary-General of UCLG Africa
- Kazuko Ishigaki, Regional Director of UN-Habitat for Asia and the Pacific
- Xavier Matres Riera, Global Coordinator of WFLED
- Dr. Maryam Ardabili, Director General for Women’s Affairs, Tehran Municipality
- Dr. Mohammad Ezati Gharibdoosti, Deputy for Urban Development and Architecture, Tabriz Municipality
- Amir Mohammad Parvini, Head of the International Affairs Department, Kermanshah Municipality
- Farshid Aram, SG to Advisory Council of UAUR ORG

The main themes discussed were economic development in the context of rapid urbanization, UN-Habitat’s strategic plan, the role of periodic markets in local economies, and revitalization of historic urban cores.

The speakers also highlighted the role of women in urban management and their place in achieving sustainable development.

In conclusion, participants emphasized that strengthening local economies is a key tool for improving quality of life and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They also underlined the importance of regional and international cooperation in building sustainable cities.



 **AMF**
Committee on Urban Economy and Entrepreneurship presents:





L - R
Dr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh
Secretary-General of AMF
Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi
Secretary-General of UCLG-Africa
Kazuko Ishigaki
Regional Director, of UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
Xavier Mestres Riera
Regional Coordinator of WFLED
Dr. Farshid Aram
Secretary-General of the Advisory Council of UAUR ORG
Dr. Maryam Ardebili
Director General of Women's Affairs at Tehran Municipality
Dr. Amirmohammad Parvini
Head of International Affairs at Kermanshah Municipality
Dr. Mohammad Ezzati Gharibdoosti
Deputy Mayor for Urban Planning and Architecture at Tabriz Municipality
Khadijeh Mohammadi
Moderator

Webinar on Local Economies, Sustainable Cities
A New Development Discourse in Asia

Registration:
mayors.asia

AMF SG stresses role of local governments in tackling SDS



AMF Secretary-General has emphasized the need for national and cross-border cooperation to address dust storms at the conference "Addressing the Challenges of Sand and Dust Storms in Cities: Strategies for Resilience and Sustainability." Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, speaking at the event hosted by the Tehran Disaster Prevention and Management Organization on September 6, emphasized the urgent need for national and cross-border cooperation to tackle this growing environmental crisis.

He highlighted that dust storms are not limited to Iran, and many countries in the region face the same challenges. With some storm sources located in neighboring countries, regional collaboration is more crucial than ever.

Dr. Gholamzadeh also stressed the pivotal role of municipalities, whose agility and rapid response allow them to act effectively on the frontlines. He noted that sharing experiences and best practices between cities can strengthen urban resilience and help cities better respond to environmental crises like sand and dust storms.

The conference was organized in collaboration with the Tehran Municipality, the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, UN-Habitat, and the Asia-Pacific Disaster Information Management (APDIM) Center.

AMF hosts farewell ceremony for ECO SG

The preparatory meeting for the upcoming national conference on “Urban Resilience and Sustainability in the Face of Sand and Dust Storms (SDS)” was held in partnership with the Asian Mayors Forum, Iran’s Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, APDIM, and UN-Habitat. During the online meeting held last week, the speakers underlined the urgency of action as sand and dust storms affect 70% of Iran’s population, with Khuzestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Hormozgan most exposed to transboundary storms from Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The event focused on sharing scientific solutions, strengthening regional cooperation, and advancing the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan on SDS. Officials, experts, and representatives from affected provinces participated in discussions and exchanged practical recommendations. The main in-person conference will take place in September in Tehran.



Webinar on Women’s Roles in Crisis and Society

The event featured Ladan Ranjbar, Director of the Women’s Network of the Asian Mayors Forum; Dr. Mahdieh Mohammadtaghizadeh, Head of the Women’s Studies Department at Allameh Tabataba’i University; and Dilyara Sedriova, Russian women’s rights activist. The discussion focused on the roles of women in both ordinary and crisis situations within societies.

Key topics included women’s influence within the home and family, their constructive role in countering psychological warfare during Iran’s recent imposed war, and their contributions to restoring normal conditions after crises.

This seminar is part of a series on women’s issues, which will continue to explore their vital role in society.



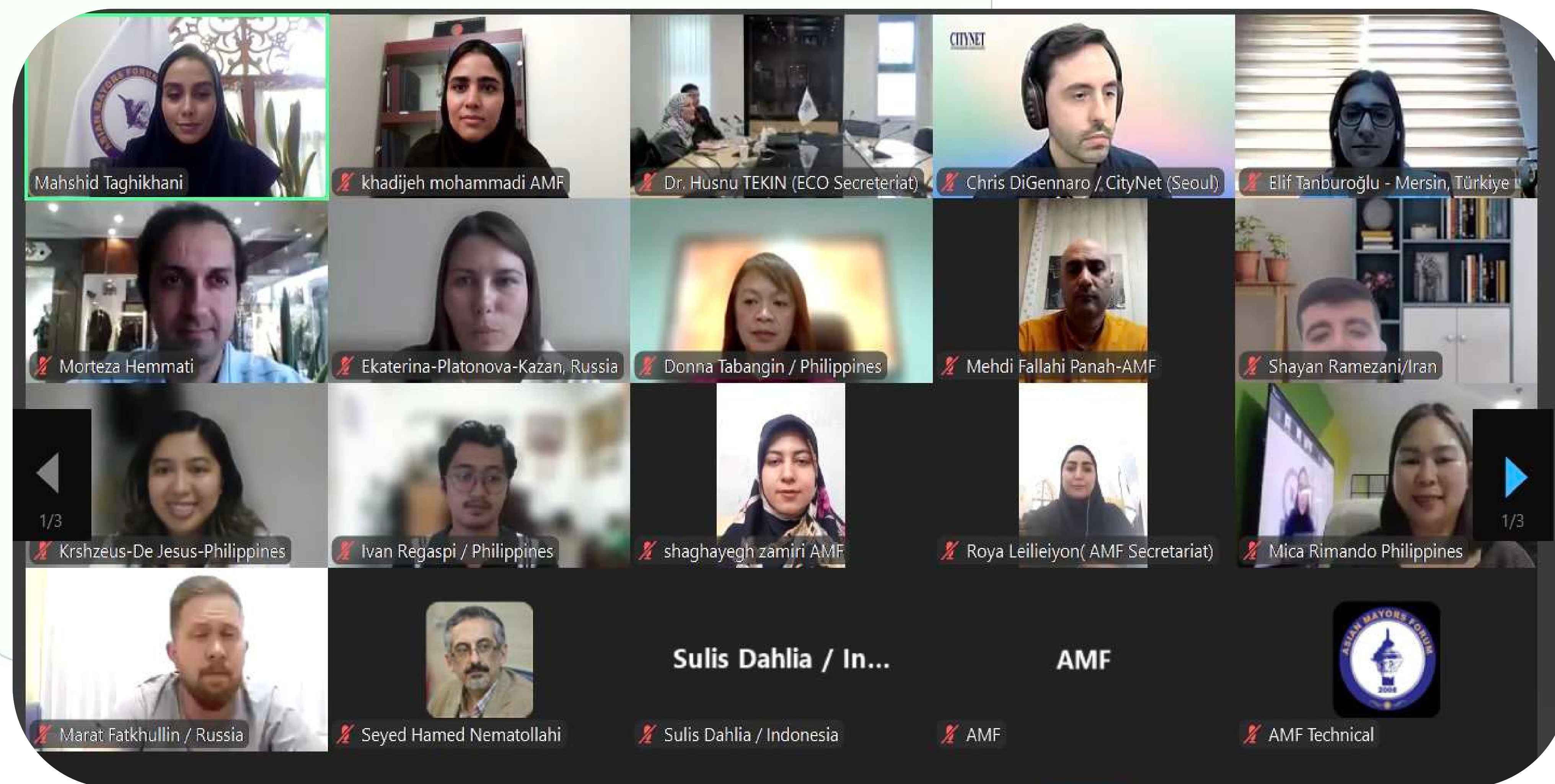
AMF holds specialized webinar on digital twin, city simulation

The international expert meeting “Digital Twin and Urban Simulation: The Key to Decision-Making” was held on August 19 with the participation of urban experts and city officials from various countries.

Representatives from Mersin Municipality (Turkey), Anantapur Municipality (India), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), CityNet, Nizhny Novgorod Municipality (Russia), Baguio City (Philippines), the Urban Transformation Center in Kazan (Russia), and the University of Tehran took part in the event.

Key topics included the role of artificial intelligence in urban management, the application of digital twins in decision-making, data-driven planning, infrastructure optimization, and strengthening urban resilience.

Ethical considerations, transparency, and accountability in the use of this technology were also emphasized. Experiences from countries such as South Korea, Russia, Turkey, India, and the Philippines were shared, outlining future opportunities for international cooperation in developing smart cities.



AMF, ECO SGs discuss cooperation

AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh has hosted H.E. Mr. Asad Majeed Khan, esteemed Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and his accompanying delegation today, July 22.

The main focus of the meeting was the development of joint cooperation with an emphasis on the economic growth and prosperity of cities. Both sides stressed the importance of leveraging regional capacities and emphasized the need to continue these constructive engagements through regular meetings aimed at achieving shared goals. The key role of mayors in linking local policies with regional strategies for sustainable development was also highlighted.

Furthermore, the organization of the ECO mayors and Economic heads was discussed and reviewed during the session.



Urmia, Şanlıurfa ink twinning agreement

With the efforts of the Asian Mayors Forum, the Iranian member city of Urmia has signed sister city agreement with Turkish city of Şanlıurfa.

The agreement was signed during an online meeting between the mayors of the two cities, aiming to strengthen cultural, economic, tourism, and agricultural ties, as well as to expand bilateral cooperation in urban development.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Mayor of Şanlıurfa, Mr. Kasım Gülpınar, condemned the Zionist regime's attacks on Iranian cities and outlined a new vision for mutual collaboration under this agreement. The Mayor of Urmia, Mr. Aydın Rahmani Rezaieh, described the MoU as the beginning of joint cooperation between the two cities. AMF Secretary General Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, and the Forum's Director of Urban Diplomacy and Member Affairs, Ms. Roya Leilion, were also present at the online meeting.



Milad Tower Hosts Nepal Ambassador's Official Visit

Tehran's iconic Milad Tower recently hosted the newly accredited Non-Resident Ambassador of Nepal to Iran, Mr. Ramesh Chandra Paudel, for a cordial visit. During his official trip to Tehran to present his credentials, Ambassador Paudel toured Milad Tower, a landmark symbol of the Iranian capital. He described the tower as a "stunning structure" offering a "more attractive perspective of beautiful Tehran," and emphasized its potential as a premier tourism destination. The visit was organized by the Asian Mayors Forum.



International women activists express solidarity with Iran, condemn Israeli attacks

In the wake of Israeli regime attacks on Iran, a group of women activists and media professionals from Tunisia and Russia sent video messages to the Women's Network of the Asian Mayors Forum, strongly condemning the strikes and voicing solidarity with the Iranian people and government.

Tunisian poet Mona Bazzawi praised the unity and courage of Iranians, dedicating a poem to them in her message. Tunisian journalist Fadia Al-Husseini congratulated Iran on its victory against Israel's aggression, highlighting the country's role in inspiring nations that support Palestine and Gaza. Media activist Rima Al-Warimi, also from Tunisia, commended the "awareness and unity" of Iranians, calling Iran the "protector of the dignity and honor of Arab nations" in the face of Zionism.

From Russia, Elena Gennadievna Semrikova, head of the Women's Dialogue Movement, underscored the urgent need to safeguard children under all conditions and condemned the killing of Iranian children in the Israeli attacks. Meanwhile, women's rights activist and Modest Russia magazine founder Dilyara Sadrieva denounced war itself, describing solidarity and humanity as the greatest assets of human societies.

International women activists express solidarity with Iran, condemn Israeli attacks

The BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities has condemned the Israeli attacks against Iran, expressing solidarity with the Iranian nation.

In an official statement, the Association has expressed serious concern over the escalation of conflict in the region, denouncing the killing of civilians and destruction of infrastructure.

Calling on the international community to step up diplomatic efforts, the statement has emphasized on dialogue mutual respect and mutual understanding. It has also offered condolences to the people of Iran.

AMF Condemns Arrest of Hebron Mayor Tayseer Abu Sneineh

AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh has strongly denounced the arrest of Tayseer Abu Sneineh, Mayor of al-Khalil (Hebron), by Israeli regime's forces. In his statement, Mr. Secretary General condemned the detention, demanded the mayor's immediate and unconditional release, and reaffirmed the Forum's unwavering support for Palestine. He also slammed the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, urging the international community to take collective action to end it. According to the al-Khalil Municipality, Israeli forces stormed Abu Sneineh's home at dawn, damaging his property before taking him into custody.



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

Secretary General

Date: 3 Sep 2025
REF: 821/2025
Permanent Secretariat
Add: Vali-e-Asr st, Bagh Ferdos,
Ghalamestan Park, Tehran, Iran
Zip Code: 1961813355

Secretary General Statement in Support of the Mayor of Al-Khalil

As the Secretary General of the Asian Mayors Forum, representing cities and municipalities across Asia, I shall express our profound sorrow and deep concern over the ongoing violence and humanitarian crisis in Gaza and strongly condemn the unjust detention of the Mayor of Al-Khalil by the Zionist occupying regime.

Such actions undermine the principles of local governance and justice. We call for the immediate and unconditional release of the mayor and urge respect for the rights of all elected officials. The arrest not only disrupts municipal leadership but also escalates tensions in the region.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Al-Khalil and reaffirm our commitment to peace and cooperation among cities.

In these challenging times, we stand with the Palestinian citizens 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.

Hamid R. Gholamzadeh
Secretary General

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Webinar on Urban Resilience in Wartime

The webinar “Urban Resilience in Wartime” was held on September 30, 2025, hosted by the Asian Mayors Forum. The event, aimed at sharing experiences of urban managers from Iran and Lebanon—both recently affected by Israeli-imposed wars—featured speeches by Ahmad Al-Khansa (Mayor of Ghobeiry, Lebanon), Dr. Fatemeh Tanhaei (Mayor of District 8, Tehran), Dr. Mohammad Hossein Baghkhanipour (representative of Tehran Municipality’s Deputy for Urban Services), and Dr. Omid Bagheri-Dastgerdi (CEO of Isfahan Fire Department). Key topics included the impacts of war on cities, the role of municipalities in crisis management, strategies for pre-, during-, and post-crisis phases, and the need to establish a disaster-response network among Asian cities. The proposed solutions will be compiled into a comprehensive document to support future crisis management in cities.



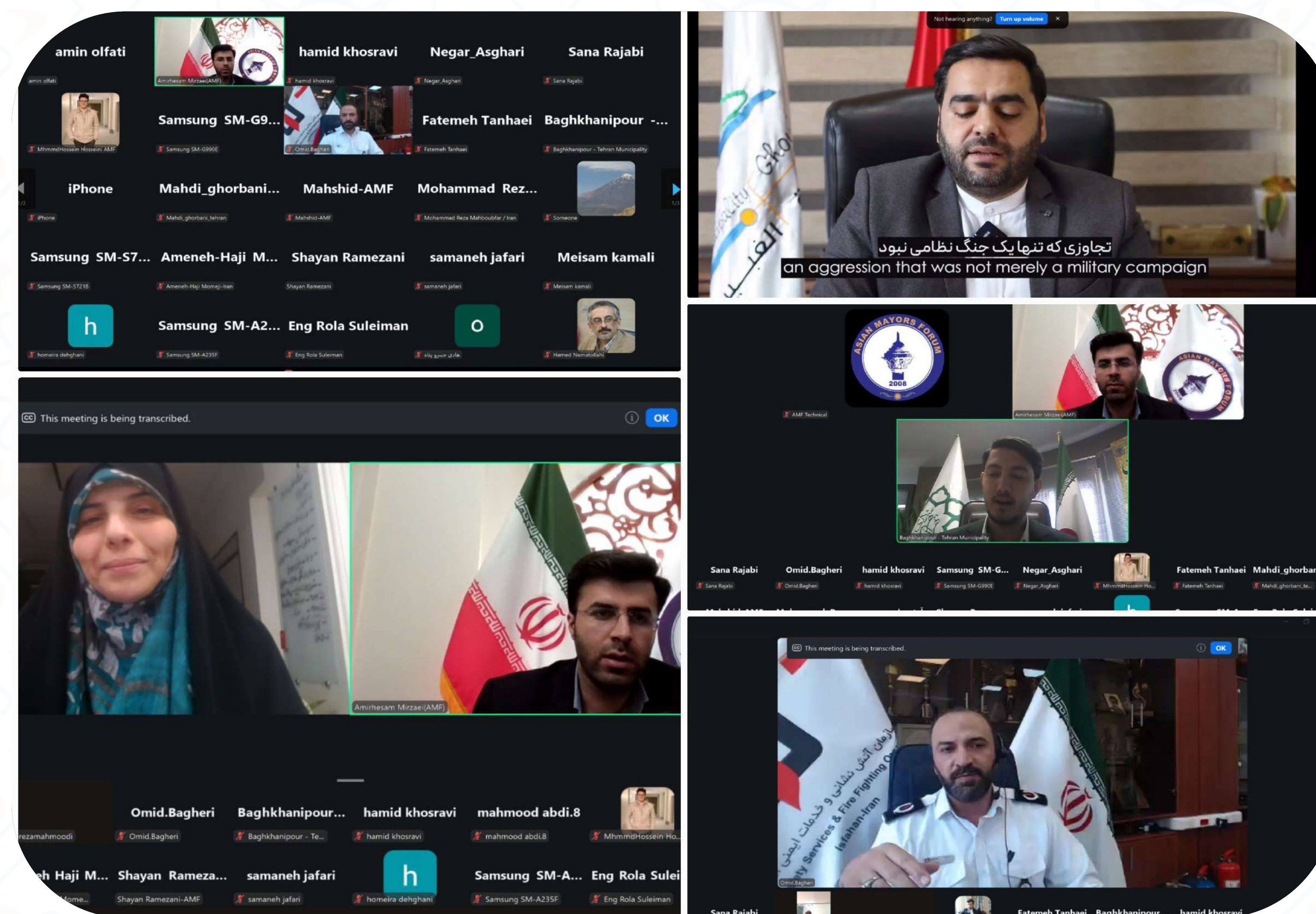
**Webinar on
Urban Resilience in War time**

Speakers:

- Davood Goudarzi**
Deputy of Urban Services and Environmental Affairs of Tehran Municipality
- Alireza Mahmoudi**
Mayor of Arak
- Ahmad Khansa**
Mayor of Ghobeiry
- Omid Bagheri Dasgardi**
CEO of the Fire Department of Isfahan Municipality
- Fatemeh Tanhaei**
Mayor of District 8 of Tehran
- Amirhesam Mirzaei**
Moderator

Date: 10-12 October 1

Platform: Zoom  **Mayors.asia**  **Certificate included** 



Domestic Affairs



Urmia appointed as Sec. of Urban Economy cmte



AMF Secretary General has appointed the Honorable Mayor of Urmia as the President of the Forum's "Committee on Urban Economy and Entrepreneurship." During a one-day trip to Urmia, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh officially presented the appointment decree to Mr. Aydin Rahmani Rezaieh. In this meeting, discussions were held on potential areas of cooperation between the Forum and the city of Urmia, expanding the city's collaboration with other member cities, and leveraging its cultural, economic, historical, and tourism capacities to attract international partnerships.

On the sidelines of this trip, AMF SG also visited Urmia's attractions, including the historic bazaar, the Grand Mosque, and the Chichest recreational village.



AMF SG, Khoy city officials hold meeting

AMF Secretary General has hosted the honorable Mayor of Khoy, Mr. Hassan Nasrollahpour, and the Chairman of the Islamic City Council, Mr. Sajad Chehreh-Ara, on July 13.

In this meeting, Mr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, introduced the organization and emphasized its domestic and international cooperation potential.

Key topics discussed included Khoy's membership in the Forum, collaboration and coordination for signing a sister-city agreement with Van, Turkey, and boosting the city's international relations in upcoming national events such as the Shams Tabrizi Scientific Congress and the its music festival.

Khoy is a historic and picturesque city in West Azerbaijan Province and the second most populous city in the province after Urmia.



Member Cities



AMF congratulates Khorramabad for UNESCO inscription of prehistoric site

The Asian Mayors Forum congratulates the Mayor and esteemed citizens of member city of Khorramabad on the inscription of the Prehistoric Valley of Khorramabad as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The global recognition of this historical site presents an opportunity to further develop and promote the attractions and capacities of this city, especially in its role as President of the Environment and Urban Health Committee of the Asian Mayors Forum.

The Khorramabad Valley was inscribed as the 29th Iranian site on the World Heritage List during the 47th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

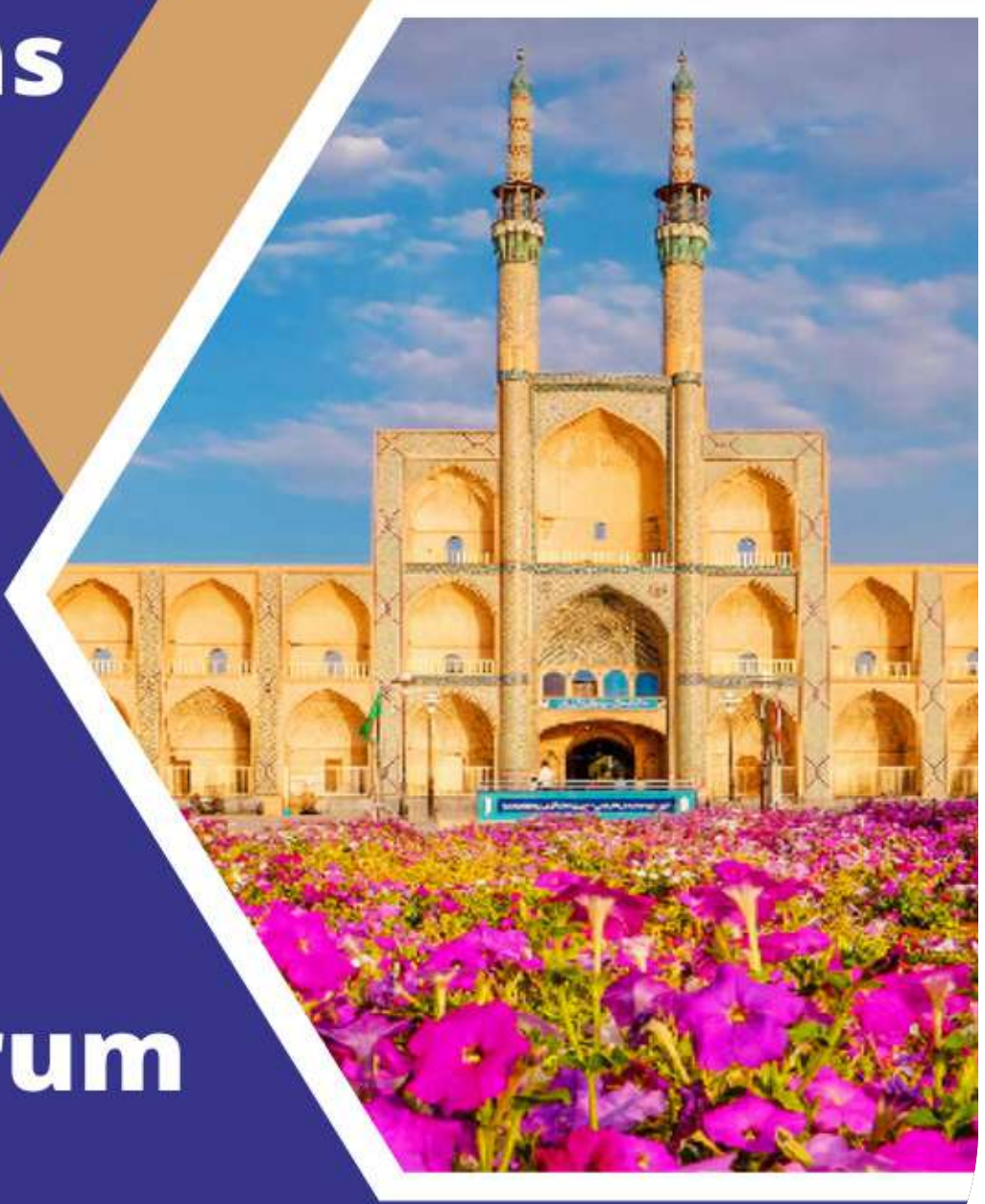
According to the UNESCO committee's report, the Khorramabad Valley was deemed worthy of inscription on the World Heritage List due to its integrity, authenticity, and continuous human settlement from the Middle Paleolithic period to the Iron Age.



New Members!

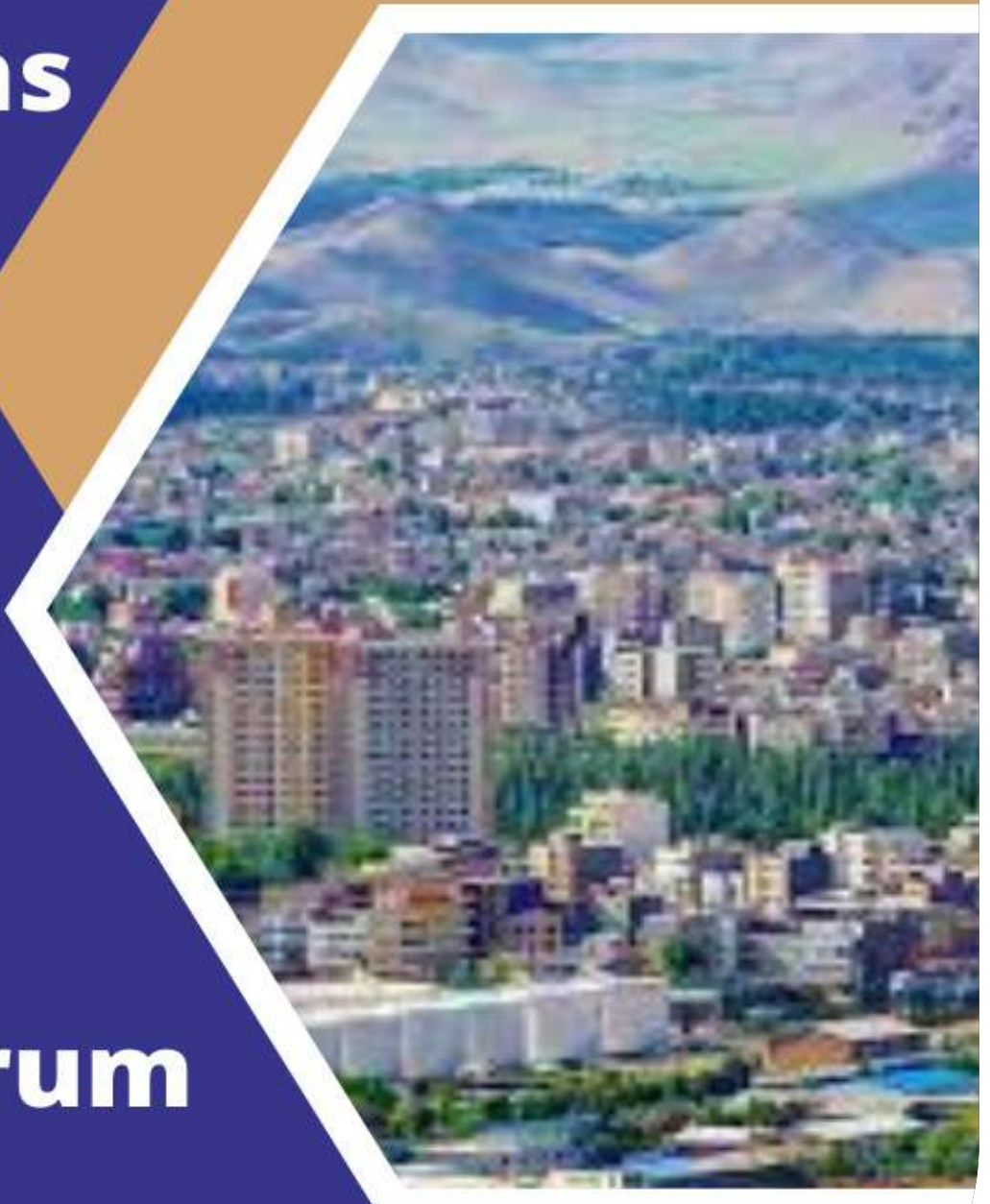


Congratulations
to
Yazd
for joining
Asian Mayors Forum





Congratulations
to
Khoy
for joining
Asian Mayors Forum





Congratulations
to
Abarkuh
for joining
Asian Mayors Forum





Congratulations
to
Semnan
for joining
Asian Mayors Forum



Interns



A delegation from AMF visited the Japanese Embassy



After learning about the embassy's various cultural activities and touring its library and Japan Room, the interns, along with Dr. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, the Secretary-General of AMF, and Ms. Najmeh Khata-mi, the Forum's Deputy SG, met with Ambassador Tsukada at his residence. The Ambassador expressed his pleasure at meeting the young interns and spoke about his experience in Iran and bilateral relations. In addition, he explained areas of cooperation between the two countries and outlined horizons for future collaborations. Following the Ambassador's remarks, a Q&A session took place, allowing the interns to gain knowledge on various topics related to Japan and bilateral relations.

We hope that through continued cooperation between the embassy and AMF, relations between the two countries will expand even further.



AMF Holds English Correspondence Workshop



AMF has officially launched its 8th Internship Program at its headquarters, welcoming a new cohort of dynamic young professionals eager to contribute to urban diplomacy and development. The opening ceremony featured remarks by AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh and Dr. Hassan Fartousi, Secretary General of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO. Both emphasized the importance of youth engagement in shaping the future of cities and outlined the Forum's mission, strategic priorities, and the pivotal role interns play in advancing them. Also, the outgoing 7th cohort was celebrated for their remarkable achievements, including organizing the successful BRICS+ meeting of mayors and organizing a series of cultural and thematic events. As a token of appreciation, participants were awarded international certificates recognizing their contributions and leadership.



A presentation session on the Asian Mayors Forum was held by the organization's new interns. During this session, the interns explored the Forum's structure, key activities, vision, and core objectives, aiming to gain a deeper understanding of its role in fostering urban cooperation across Asia. This session not only served as an opportunity for the interns to enhance their knowledge and awareness, but also provided a platform for direct interaction with the Forum's leadership and valuable feedback exchange.

AMF interns attend protocol training workshop

On August 18, 2025, an international protocol training workshop was held with the participation of Mr. Amir Amouzadeh, Protocol Affairs Expert at the International Affairs Department of Tehran Municipality.

During the session, trainees were introduced to procedures for receiving and seeing off foreign delegations, principles of hospitality, and professional etiquette in the field. Topics such as diplomatic protocols and effective communication with international guests were discussed, enriched by the speaker's valuable experiences.

The workshop helped participants gain a deeper understanding of the importance of urban diplomacy and its role in international relations



• 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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