



Asian Mayors Forum

AMF Quarterly

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Season's Greetings!
Dear Colleagues and Friends!

The year 2025 has come to its end and marks numerous ups and downs in our lives and our world. From manmade disasters, wars and conflicts, to natural disasters and impacts all around the world have been challenges we all faced throughout the past year. Yet... our meaningful collaboration and commitment to building more resilient cities have been key to our survival and success.

As we step into New Year 2026, let us embrace optimism and hope, and a shared determination to strengthen our bonds of cooperation so that we can join hands to shape innovative future of our cities.

May God bless you, your families, colleagues and fellow citizens with abundance of joy, happiness and health.

Hamidreza Gholamzadeh
Secretary General
Asian Mayors Forum (AMF)



International Affairs



Domestic Affairs



Member Cities



Interns

International Affairs



Tehran Urban Summit 2025 kicks off officially



The opening ceremony of Tehran Urban Summit was held in the Iranian capital on November 27, attended by representatives from Iranian and foreign city leaders.

Inaugurated by speeches from Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani, Secretary General of Asian Mayors Forum and Governor of Karbala, the ceremony had urban officials from Russia, Turkiye, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iraq, Senegal and Qatar in attendance.

The event includes 7th General Assembly and 11th Executive Board Meeting of AMF, the 6th edition of Tehran Golden Adobe Award, Urban Leaders Summit, and 2nd Twin Cities Meeting along with technical panels on pressing urban issues.



11th EB Meeting convenes in Tehran



The 11th Executive Board Meeting of the Asian Mayors Forum was held on November 27, 2025, hosted by Tehran.

This meeting, organized within the framework of the "Tehran Urban Summit 2025," handed over the Forum's rotating presidency to Tehran, while Shiraz and Dushanbe were selected as vice-president cities. Khorramabad was appointed as the head of the Culture and Urban Tourism Committee, and Gorgan was chosen as the secretary of the Livability and Resilience Committee. The Tehran Municipality's Organization for Prevention and Crisis Management was also retained in its role as the chair of the Livability and Resilience Committee.

During the meeting, Dushanbe was selected as the Asian Capital of Culture, Baghdad as the Asian Capital of Tourism, and Dubai as the Asian Capital of Environment for the year 2026. It is worth noting that earlier, during a session held on the sidelines of the COP30 in Brazil, AMF also designated Gaza as a special Capital of Environment in order to draw global attention to the ecocide committed there by the Israeli regime.



Tehran hosts 7th AMF General Assembly

The 7th General Assembly of the Asian Mayors Forum was held on November 28, 2025, in the Iranian capital as part of the "Tehran Urban Summit 2025." With participation from Iranian and foreign member mayors and representatives of partner international organizations, the Forum's Secretary-General, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, presented a comprehensive report on activities and announced the new decisions approved by the Executive Board. Member cities exchanged views on the Forum's policies and activities and offered proposals to strengthen cooperation, urban diplomacy, and sister-city relations. The incumbent Secretary-General was also re-elected by majority vote for another term.





TUS 2025 wraps up with Tehran Golden Adobe Award winners announced

The Tehran Urban Summit 2025 has wrapped up, announcing the winners of Golden Adobe Global Award.

The ceremony, attended by Tehran Mayor, foreign envoys and urban leaders from Iran and abroad, announced 15 top projects submitted to Tehran Golden Adobe Global Award in 5 categories of architecture, livability, infrastructure, smart cities and urban economy. Iranian cities of Tehran, Isfahan, Yazd, Shiraz, Qazvin as well as Dubai (UAE), Kazan (Russia), and Baguio (the Philippines) were among the winners.

The statement of the 7th General Assembly of the Asian Mayors Forum was also presented, the Asian capitals of Culture (Dushanbe), Tourism (Baghdad) and Environment (Gaza and Dubai) were announced and the term presidency of AMF was officially handed over to Tehran during this prestigious ceremony.

Tehran Urban Summit was held in the Iranian capital from 27-29 November.



7th GA slams Gaza genocide, urges immediate action

The 7th General Assembly of the Asian Mayors Forum has voiced serious concern over ongoing ceasefire violations and genocide in Gaza.

Convened in Tehran on November 28, the GA in its final statement also denounced the ecocide in Gaza, calling for an immediate end to Israeli attacks, full humanitarian access, and international support for the city's reconstruction.

It also reaffirmed the crucial role of cities in diplomacy, regional stability, and sustainable development. Delegates praised the Secretariat's progress in revitalizing AMF's functions and expanding international engagement. They urged a shift toward practical cooperation through joint projects, economic diplomacy, innovation, and stronger partnerships with the private sector and research institutions.

The Forum reiterated its commitment to peace and city-level collaboration across Asia

Technical meeting gathers TUS 2025 delegates at TDMMO



Delegates of the Tehran Urban Summit 2025 visited the Tehran Disaster Management and Mitigation Organization (TDMMO) to learn about the city's emergency-response systems and resilience programs.

During the visit, which took place on the 2nd day of the Summit, TDMMO specialists showcased Tehran's disaster-preparedness measures, real-time monitoring systems, and community-training initiatives. Delegates also shared insights and experiences, discussing potential solutions and collaboration strategies.

Tehran Urban Summit was held on November 27-29 with more than 100 Iranian and foreign guests.





● TUS 2025 delegates tour Tehran historical sites

Participants of the Tehran Summit 2025 enjoyed a special sightseeing tour amid the energetic discussions of the event. They stepped into the elegance of Golestan Palace, discovering the colors, stories, and history that continue to inspire visitors from around the world.

Iranian teen wins bronze at BRICS Youth Festival

Zoha Sadeghpour, a young Iranian student, won a bronze medal in the individual math competition at the BRICS Youth Festival held in Kazan, Russia.

With an outstanding performance, she shared third place with participants from Russia and South Africa. Competitors from Russia claimed the gold medal, while representatives from Belarus, India, and Uzbekistan jointly received silver.

The scientific Olympiads were among the main sections of the BRICS Youth Festival, which brought together more than 150 teenagers from 13 BRICS+ member countries in early autumn in Russia's Kazan.

Iran's participation in the festival came at the official invitation of Kazan Municipality — an active member of the Forum — and was organized in cooperation with Tehran Municipality's Women and Family Center to identify and support talented youth.

The BRICS Youth Festival was hosted by Kazan from September 19 to 27, featuring a week of scientific, cultural, and social programs celebrating youth cooperation, creativity, and a shared future.



Iranian delegates shine at BRICS Youth Festival



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 Ilсур 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.





Asian envoys partake at Urmia Grapes Festival closing ceremony

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.



AMF Women Coordinator says youth essential players in diplomacy



Ladan Ranjbar, Coordinator of the “Youth, Family, and Women” Network of the Asian Mayors Forum, delivered a speech at the 4th International Conference on “Youth Diplomacy and the New Era Challenges”, hosted by the International Peace Foundation in Russia.

In her remarks, Ranjbar introduced the Asian Mayors Forum and highlighted the vital role of youth in diplomacy and global decision-making. She also referred to initiatives such as peace workshops, internship programs, and the Youth Diplomacy School, emphasizing the need for young people to take a leading role in international affairs.

Ranjbar concluded by honoring the martyrs of Iran and Gaza in recent conflicts and called for international efforts to prevent the recurrence of such human tragedies.

Vietnam’s “Timeless Beauty” celebrated in Tehran



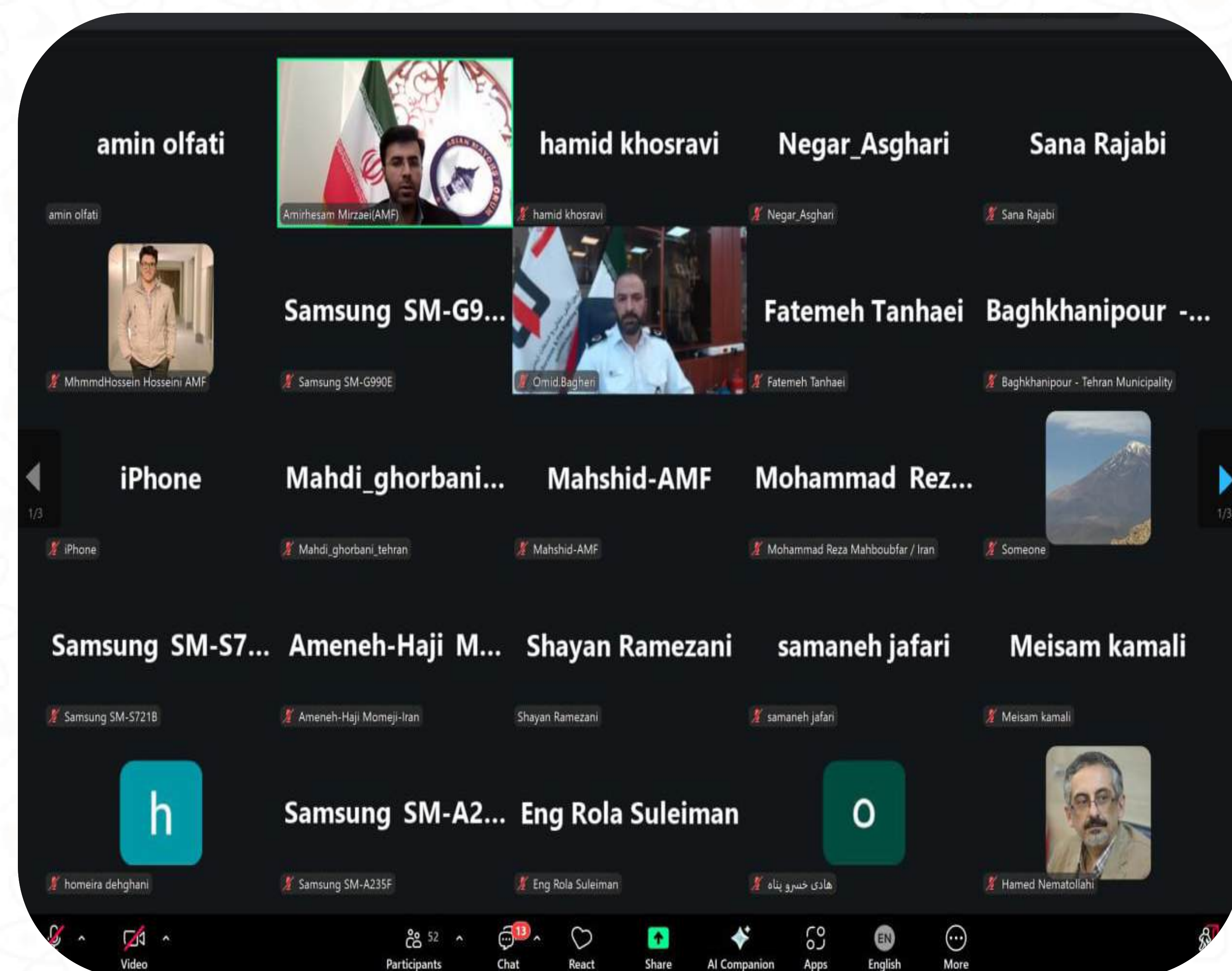
To celebrate the 80th National Day of Vietnam, the Embassy of Vietnam in Iran, in cooperation with Tehran Municipality, the Tehran Metro Operating Company, and the Asian Mayors Forum, organized the photo exhibition “Vietnam: Timeless Beauty and Vitality” at Tajrish Metro Station.

The event aims to strengthen cultural diplomacy between Iran and Vietnam while showcasing how public spaces such as metro stations can serve as platforms for urban and cultural exchange.

Speakers — including Ambassador Nguyen Luong Ngoc and Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, Deputy for International Affairs of Tehran Municipality and Secretary General of the Asian Mayors Forum — highlighted the importance of utilizing public spaces to foster mutual understanding, describing the exhibition as a meaningful step toward connecting citizens with the culture and natural beauty of Vietnam.

Webinar on War and Ecocide held by AMF

The webinar “War, Cities, and the Silent Crisis of Ecocide”, hosted by the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) in cooperation with the House of Diplomacy, brought together experts from various countries to discuss the environmental consequences of modern warfare. Key themes included the impact of war on the environment, the recognition of ecocide as an international crime, and the human and climatic implications of environmental destruction. Participants highlighted the need to address the deliberate targeting of ecosystems—particularly attacks on energy and oil infrastructure—and called for stronger international legal mechanisms to hold perpetrators accountable. The situation in Palestine was cited as a clear example of systematic environmental devastation, including the destruction of agriculture, water resources, and local ecosystems. Speakers concluded by emphasizing that global solidarity in protecting the environment is inseparable from the defense of humanity itself.



Webinar on wartime resilience held by AMF

The webinar “Urban Resilience in Wartime” was held on October 01, 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 War-Torn Cities held by AMF

The webinar “War-Torn Cities: Environmental Consequences and Paths to Recovery” was held on the evening of Wednesday, October 29.

In this international academic event, Professor Mazin Qumsiyeh, nominee for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize and professor at Bethlehem University, Dr. Jad Isaac, director of the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ), and Naomi Raintoul Haynes, professor at Canterbury Christ Church University (UK), were the keynote speakers. They discussed various aspects of environmental destruction in areas targeted by Israeli attacks.

The speakers also highlighted key issues such as addressing challenges and proposing solutions for restoring damaged ecosystems and rebuilding urban environments, as well as the importance of international cooperation, sustainable reconstruction, education, and green technologies in mitigating the long-term environmental impacts of war.

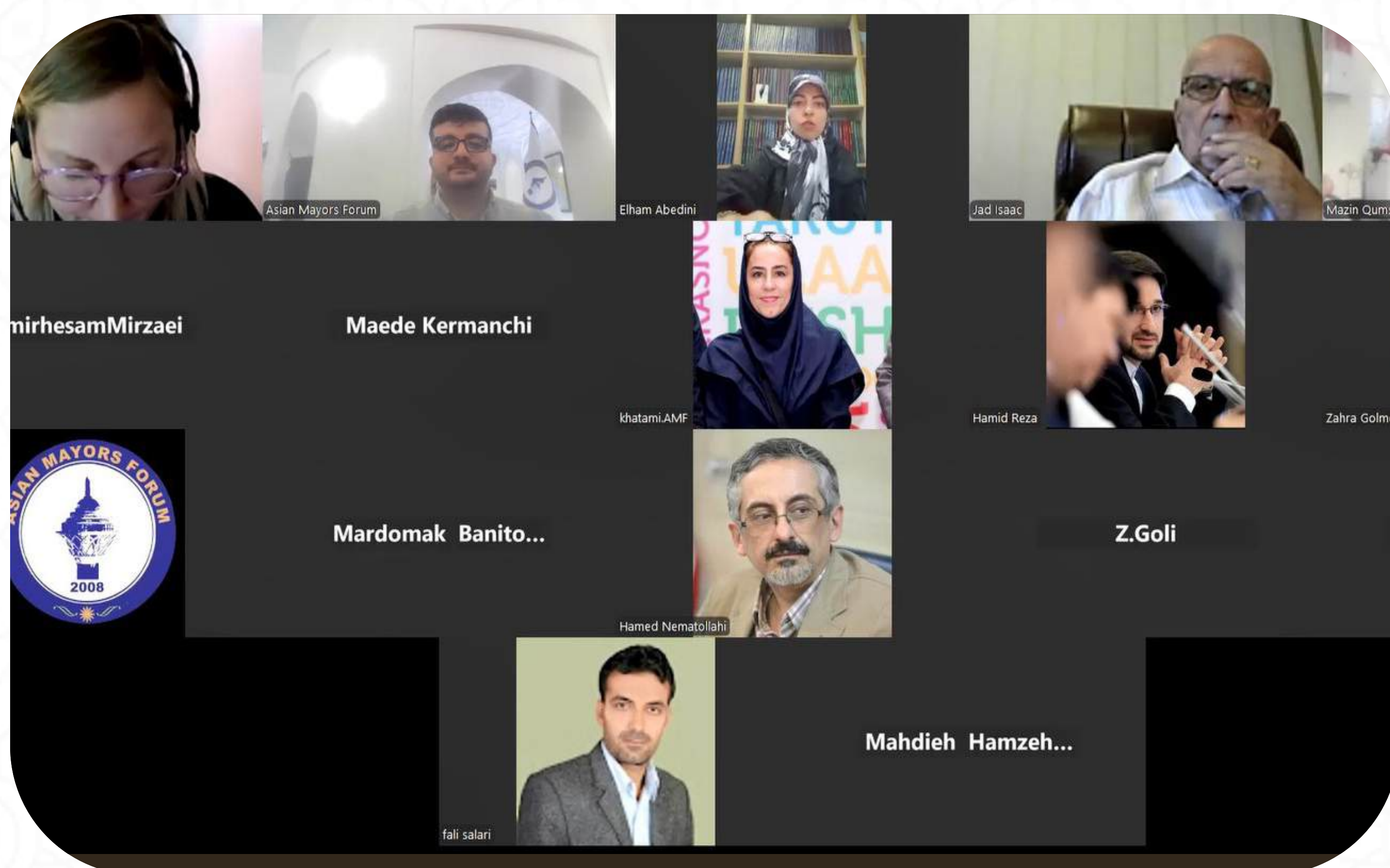
Gaza designated as “Capital of Environment”

The city of Gaza has been designated as the “Asian Capital of Environment” due to the urgent need for focused attention on ecocide carried out by Israel.

The designation was announced during a special event at AMF booth at COP30 in Brazil, attended by prominent figures such as Tim Anderson, Ajamu Baraka, and Angelo Giuliani.

At the event, a video message from AMF Secretary-General was presented, where Hamidreza Gholamzadeh condemned Israel’s genocide and ecocide in Gaza and called on the international community to support the reconstruction of the city.

The Mayor of Khan Yunis also joined via video call, strongly condemning Israel’s environmental destruction in Gaza, identifying Israel as the main agent behind the region’s ecological devastation, and expressing gratitude for the awareness-raising efforts on this issue.



AMF unveils volume on regional ecocide by Israeli regime

The Asian Mayors Forum has unveiled a new volume titled Global Periodic Reports on Environmental Destruction by the Israeli Regime on the sidelines of the COP30 in Brazil.

Prepared for submission to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, this book contains more than 130 documented reports detailing environmental damage resulting from Israeli actions in the occupied territories and the wider region.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by a number of prominent international figures, including:

- Ajamu Baraka, human rights activist and the Green Party's nominee for Vice President of the United States
- Christopher Helali, Russia-based political analyst
- Tim Anderson, Director of the Centre for Counter-Hegemonic Studies, Australia
- Pedro Ricardo Molina, Venezuela's Minister of the Environment
- Bushra Sheikh, political analyst from the United Kingdom

Participants in the event deemed the compilation and presentation of this volume as an important step toward recording, documenting, and raising global awareness of the Israeli regime's extensive violations of international environmental laws and regulations—destruction whose impacts on the ecosystem, natural resources, public health, and human security across West Asia are expanding day by day.



Domestic Affairs



AMF organizes UPR report writing workshop



A UPR Report Writing Workshop led by Dr. Fatemeh Bahram Abadian and Dr. Mehdi Maghsoumi was held on October 13 (21 Mehr) at the Tehran Municipality Communication Center.

The session focused on strengthening report-writing skills and addressing environmental crimes within UN reporting frameworks. Participants also practiced searching for and selecting standard reports. Due to the great enthusiasm and participation, the workshop will be held again on October 23 (1 Aban).

AMF SG hosts counterpart from Iranian Metropolitan Cities Forum

On October 12, AMF Secretary General Hamidreza Gholamzadeh hosted Mr. Mehdi Mohammadi, Secretary-General of the Iranian Metropolitan Cities Forum.

The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between the two organizations. It was agreed to share successful experiences of Asian cities through the technical commissions of the organization to promote innovative urban solutions.

They also discussed organizing a joint meeting with ambassadors and international organizations in Iran to enhance international collaboration in urban management and coordinate upcoming major events.





Happy AMF Day!

Did you know that one of Asia's most influential urban networks was born in Tehran on November 19, 2008? That first gathering of city leaders marked the official launch of the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF)—a platform created by Tehran to bring Asian cities closer together.

Today, the Forum connects over 100 cities across the continent—more than 30 from Iran and around 70 from other Asian countries—all working together on smarter, greener, more livable urban futures.

The decision to celebrate November 19 as Asian Mayors Forum Day was made during the Forum's 10th Executive Board meeting, turning it into an annual reminder of regional cooperation and city-led innovation.

4th Urban Cinema meeting held for students



The fourth “Urban Cinema” event was held on November 15, with the presence of Aqil Bahra, a prominent architect and urban studies researcher.

The program began with a talk on the relationship between narrative and the city, followed by the screening of the documentary Khesht-e Behesht. Afterwards, Bahra presented his expert discussion, explaining the concepts of the “Bilbao Effect” and “city image”. He also analyzed examples such as the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and explored how iconic architecture, urban planning, and media narratives shape both the mental and physical image of cities. The event concluded with a Q&A session.

Asian Mayors Forum takes part in DLA Charity event

The Asian Mayors Forum actively participated in the charity bazaar organized by the Association of Diplomat Ladies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Forum’s booth—presented in collaboration with an Iranian female artisan—featured authentic handmade crafts that attracted strong interest from both local and international visitors.

Embassies from Russia, China, Thailand, India, Nigeria, Uzbekistan, and several others also took part, creating a vibrant multicultural atmosphere.

The Forum’s presence highlighted the value of cultural diplomacy and its role in strengthening connections between nations while supporting charitable causes.





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.

Member Cities



Member cities of Khoy, Konya sign twinning agreement

Two member cities of the Asian Mayors Forum, Khoy from Iran and Konya from Türkiye, have signed twinning agreement.

The signing ceremony was held on December 11, at the Konya Municipality, and the memorandum of understanding was signed by Deputy Mayor of Khoy Bahman Rezanezhad and Deputy Mayor of Konya Mustafa Uzbas.

Training and exchange of knowledge in the fields of tourism, culture, and urban infrastructure are among the main pillars of this agreement.

The agreement was signed in line with AMF goals to facilitate and deepen cooperation between its member cities



Newly-joined member: AMF SG meets Abarkuh Mayor

On October 6, AMF Secretary General hosted the Mayor of Abarkuh, from Yazd Province, as the newest member of the Forum. During the meeting, Hamidreza Gholamzadeh presented an overview of the Forum's history, objectives, and activities, and invited Mr. Khalil Akrami, the Mayor of Abarkuh, to attend the upcoming urban event in Tehran scheduled for November this year. He also outlined areas for potential cooperation. The Mayor of Abarkuh, in turn, highlighted the city's rich historical and cultural background and expressed his willingness to enhance Abarkuh's participation in the Forum's projects and initiatives.

AMF, Andong deepen collaboration with MoU

In a step toward advancing sustainable and people-centered cities, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) and the South Korean city of Andong on the sidelines of the World Humanistic Cities Network meeting.

The ceremony was attended by Roya Leilieiyon, AMF Director of City Diplomacy and Member Affairs, and the Mayor of Andong. Leilieiyon also addressed a panel on “Embracing Humanity in Cities,” sharing Iranian experiences and initiatives that promote well-being, social connection, and inclusivity in urban life.



AMF discusses cooperation with Sri Lanka mayors

AMF Secretary-General has held an online meeting with a group of Sri Lankan mayors to discuss expanding cooperation.

In this meeting—led by Isham Marikkar, Night Mayor of Puttalam City, and attended by 20 mayors, deputy mayors, and city council members from other cities of this Asian country—both sides reviewed opportunities for cooperation through membership, joint projects, and shared events, especially in the field of crisis management.





Environmental Capital of Asia for 2025 plaque presented to Tabriz

During a ceremony at the 1st International Congress of "Green City, Green University" held at University of Tabriz, the Environmental Capital of Asia plaque was presented to the Municipality of Tabriz.

Najmeh Khatami, AMF Deputy Secretary-General, presented the plaque, describing Tabriz as "one of the leading cities in the region in environmental action." She stated that Tabriz's selection as the Environmental Capital of Asia for 2025 is the result of the city administration's continuous efforts and the strong cooperation of its citizens.

The ceremony was held on the sidelines of the two-day event featuring specialized panels and an exhibition showcasing green technologies and innovations.

Armenian Delegation from Yerevan Visits AMF Secretariat



There were two esteemed guests from Armenia at the Tehran Urban Summit: Mr. David Gevorgyan, Head of International Relations of Yerevan Municipality, and Mrs. Vergine Simonyan, Director of the International Relations Department of Yerevan Municipality. They visited the Asian Mayors Forum secretariat one day prior to the event and held discussions with the Director of Urban Diplomacy and the Director of Organizations and Embassies of the AMF.

During this meeting, both sides explored potential areas of mutual collaboration and emphasized the importance of continuing and strengthening international relations and cooperation.

New Members!



Interns





Interns attend international correspondence workshop

The training workshop on international correspondence was held on October 20 with the participation of a number of interested attendees. The workshop, taught by Mehdi Fallahi-Panah, university lecturer and Director of Compliance and Internationalization at the International Affairs Department of Tehran Municipality, focused on teaching the general concepts of English correspondence, different types of correspondence, formal and informal letters, as well as their structure and writing style. The workshop is held at every internship course to help interns gain knowledge on the topic and improve their skills.



7th round of Risk competition challenges AMF interns

The 7th side event of the exciting "Risk" board game competition was held at the AMF Secretariat, aiming to strengthen negotiation, decision-making, and strategic thinking skills.

In this competition, the Forum's trainees were divided into two groups, challenging one another and putting their strategic abilities to the test. "Risk" is considered a simulation of real-world decision-making, which is why this popular board game has long been used in leading universities worldwide as an educational tool for developing strategic thinking.

• 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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