



Exhibitions Help Introduce Iran's Latest Achievements: Velayati

Staging exhibitions in different branches of humanities and science areas will help introduce Iran's latest developments in different science and humanities areas, Ali Akbar Velayati, head of the founding board of the Islamic Azad University, said on Thursday.

"The Iranian people should be familiarized with the latest achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in cultural and scientific areas," Velayati said while attending the 30th Tehran International Book Fair.

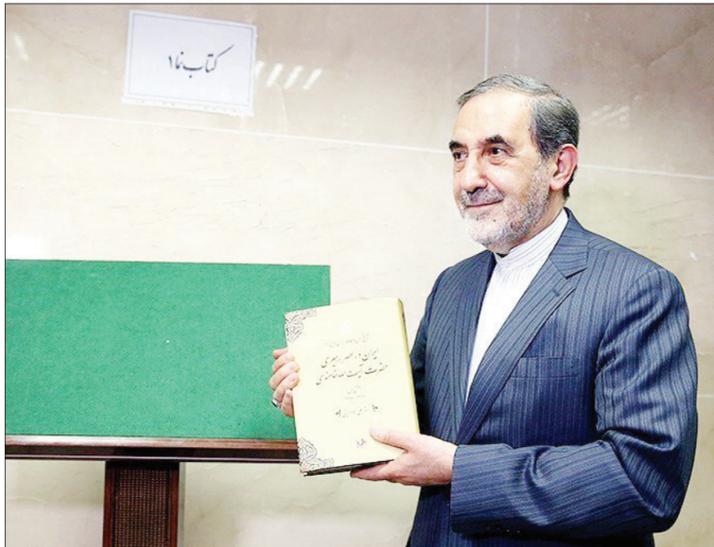
"It would be impossible to achieve the goal unless exhibitions are held where different foreign and domestic publication companies participate," he said.

The veteran politician and physician made the remarks as his 14-volume collection "The Old and Contemporary History of Iran" was unveiled in the book fair.

The collection chronicles the political, social and cultural history of Iran from ancient times to the contemporary era.

A number of cultural officials including Deputy Culture Minister for Press Affairs Hossein Entezami attended the ceremony.

The ceremony began with a brief speech by Entezami, in which he called Velayati an expert on cultural



Ali Akbar Velayati holds a copy of his 14-volume collection "The Old and Contemporary History of Iran" at the 30th Tehran International Book Fair on Thursday.

issues and Islamic civilizations as well as a foreign policy expert and a professional physician.

Velayati said the collection has taken him 16 years to complete, while 15 experts have collaborated with him in completing each volume of the book. Twelve volumes are now available at bookstores and the last two volumes will appear on bookshelves within a month.

The 30th Tehran International Book Fair, which started on May 3 at Shah-e Aftab Fairground, was closed on Saturday, May 13.

The closing ceremony was attended by Deputy Culture Minister Abbas Salehi, Italian Cultural Attaché Carlo Cereti and a number of Iranian cultural officials and publishers. Italy was the guest of honor at the fair this year.

Chinese Huawei, Telecommunication Company of Iran Launch Project

Telecommunication Company of Iran (TCI) and with Chinese networking and telecommunications equipment and services company Huawei Technologies have launched a new project to integrate and upgrade landline and mobile telecommunications network.

According to Babak Tarakome, chairman of the board of directors of TCI, Huawei has started workshops for Iranian technicians who will assist the Chinese firm in project implementation, local technology website CITNA reported.

"The deal with Huawei will not be the last in this area and several other contracts with other foreign firms for integration and upgrading Iran's telecoms network will be signed in the near future," he said. "The project will guarantee the future of

TCI in Iran," he maintained, adding it will also enable telecoms companies to provide services whenever and wherever there is demand through an integrated and fully automated system.

"When the project bears fruit it will vastly improve the domestic telecoms network," Tarakome stated. Tarakome said, "In several municipalities, including Tehran, individual projects have been launched... The new scheme will integrate and increase the pace of the implementation of the project."

Integration of the country's mobile and landline networks will cut operational costs and enhance the quality of services. Currently, TCI is purchasing and importing the required equipment for the project, he said, without providing details of the equipment.

Iran to Send Two Homegrown Satellites into Space

Iran will soon send two domestically-made satellites into space, Communications and Information Technology Minister Mahmoud Vaezi announced on Wednesday.

"Now, we have two satellites ready for launch, one being Amir Kabir sensing satellite and the other Nahid telecommunication satellite," Vaezi said in an interview with ISNA. Expressing hope that the two satellites would be launched into orbit within the next few months, Vaezi said over 97 percent of the job has been accomplished.

The two home-made satellites, as well as a space tug, were unveiled for the first time in Feb.

The three space crafts were unveiled during a ceremony in Tehran attended by President Hassan Rouhani on the occasion of Space Technology Day.

In recent years, Iran has made great technological advances in manufacturing satellites. In Feb. 2009, the country launched into the orbit its first homegrown data-processing satellite, dubbed Omid (Hope).

In Jan. 2013, Iran sent a monkey to an altitude of about 120km (75 miles) on a Pishgam (Pioneer) rocket for a sub-orbital flight before returning intact to Earth.

Iran also sent another monkey into space at the end of 2013, as part of a program aimed at manned space flight.

IAU Acting Chancellor Urges Theses on Resistance Economy

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"The university has to direct its activities toward promoting the resistance economy," he added.

The university has already taken great strides to materialize the goals of resistance economy, establishing knowledge-based companies and encouraging innovation and creativity in its science and technology parks. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has coined the term "resistance economy" which puts great emphasis on domestic resources in running the country and reducing vulnerability in the face of foreign economic pressure.

In March, the Leader criticized a slow pace in economic recovery despite the

Ali Mohammad Nourian insists that all branches of the Islamic Azad University have to play a more consequential role in the field of resistance economy through accomplishing theses on social and economic subjects.

lifting of sanctions calling on President Hassan Rouhani's government to take more steps for greater self-sufficiency.

"Of course the government has taken

remarkable steps but if the resistance economy had been implemented fully and widely, we could have witnessed a tangible difference in people's lives," the Leader noted.

Most sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear program were lifted in 2016, in exchange for Iran curbing its nuclear work under a deal with six major powers in 2015.

He declared 1396 the year of "the Resistance Economy: Action and Implementation", and said the Islamic Republic should take steps to reduce its vulnerability to the plots of its "enemies".

Iran's calendar year 1396 began on March 21.

3,000 Knowledge-Based Firms Established in Iran since 2010

More than 3,000 knowledge-based firms have been established in Iran since 2010, Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari said on Saturday. Sattari provided data on academic and knowledge-based economic growth in Iran at the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council.

"Since 2010, 3,000 Iranian knowledge-based companies have been established," he was quoted as saying at the session.

"Iranian knowledge-based businesses generate \$9.1 billion annually," the vice president said.

The commission provides the UN General Assembly with advice on relevant science and technology issues. The CSTD brought together over 200 people from 60 countries, including science and technology ministers, renowned scientists, and representatives from national governments, private sector, civil society, regional

and international agencies, and the academia to the Swiss city for the meeting.

Iran has accelerated the shift from a resource-based economy to one based on knowledge over the past years.

By erecting barriers to foreign imports and encouraging knowledge-based enterprises to localize production, they have helped small and medium-sized enterprises develop their business.

The government first articulated its policy of developing a knowledge economy in 2005 in the document Vision 2025, its recipe for turning Iran into the region's leading economy by 2025.

Even the economic plan adopted by a decree in 2014 for an 'economy of resistance' in response to the increasingly tough sanctions regime essentially reasserts the goals of Vision 2025.

Vision 2025 foresees an investment of US\$ 3.7 trillion by 2025 to finance the transition to a knowledge economy. Much of this amount is to

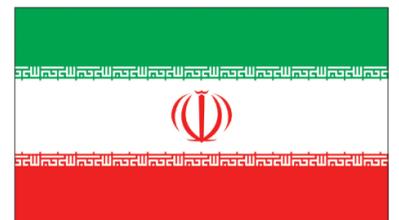
go towards supporting investment in R&D by knowledge-based firms and the commercialization of research results.

A law passed in 2010 provides an appropriate mechanism, the Innovation and Prosperity Fund. According to the fund's president, Behzad Soltani, 4600 billion Iranian rials (circa US\$ 171.4 million) had been allocated to 100 knowledge-based companies by late 2014. Public and private universities wishing to set up private firms may also apply to the fund.

The Fifth Five-Year Economic Development Plan (2010-2015) set out to secure second place for Iran behind Turkey in the region in science, technology and innovation (STI). Within the plan, a national development fund was established to finance efforts to diversify the economy.

Highlight: Iran first articulated its policy of developing a knowledge economy in 2005 in the document Vision 2025, its recipe for turning Iran into the region's leading economy by 2025.

Iran, China to Boost Technological Ties



Iran National Science Foundation and National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) held a meeting last week to explore ways to expand cooperation in technological fields.

Highlighting the importance of bilateral ties and the need for boosting capabilities, the sides reached agreements on future cooperation, including a memorandum of understanding on supporting research plans, holding educational workshops and exchanging researchers.

The sides also agreed on a mechanism to identify research priorities.

During the meeting, the Iranian side expressed readiness to hold post-doctorate programs for Chinese researchers in Persian language and literature, biochemistry, pharmacology, biotechnology and other priority fields.

Additionally, more meetings were held with authorities of Sharif University of Technology and Amir Kabir University in order to familiarize the Chinese delegation with research mechanism of Iranian universities.

The NSFC is an independent governmental organization which receives over 190,000 research proposals annually and fund a great part of research supports budget of Chinese Academy of Sciences. The organization also represents China at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

Iranian universities are experiencing increasing international presence particularly after the signing of the historic nuclear deal which removed sanctions against the country in exchange for limits on its nuclear program.

Isfahan Medical University Signs MOU with Japanese Side

Isfahan University of Medical Sciences and Kagoshima University of Japan inked a tentative agreement on boosting bilateral collaboration.

This is the first time Iranian and Japanese universities enter into joint scientific ventures, Mohsen Shahriari, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences vice chancellor for research affairs, told IRNA last week. The agreement makes it easier for the

sides to exchange university professors, hold workshops and stage joint conferences and seminars.

Kagoshima University consists of medical, and nursing and comprehensive hygiene programs, he added.

Isfahan University of Medical Sciences maintains international cooperation with other universities like the ones from Germany and the Netherlands.