

# The Report of the IUT Leading House for Iran-Switzerland Academic Activities



**Relying on Innovation towards  
sustainability**

Swiss Desk - The Iranian Leading House for Science and Technology Cooperation with Switzerland

Isfahan University of Technology (IUT)

<http://international.iut.ac.ir>

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**The Report of the IUT  
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## ➤ **History of political and trade relations between Iran and Switzerland**

➤ The history of political and trade relations between Iran and Switzerland dates back more than a century and a half ago. The two countries have given a formal form to this relationship since the Qajar period. In 1873, a treaty of friendship was signed between Iran and Switzerland. According to the eighth chapter of the treaty, the consular representation of the consular representatives of Switzerland was recognized in Iran. By 1919, the two countries still have not embassies in each other's capitals. Finally, in January 1298, one year before the Reza Khan coup, the Iranian Embassy was established in Bern. During the first Pahlavi period, relations between Iran and Switzerland were the same as the treaty on friendship and trade between the two countries. In 1936, Switzerland expanded its consulate in Iran, which was established in 1298, to the embassy level. Following the elimination of the capitulation, a new contract was signed in Bern on May 5, 1934, on the basis of the Equal Rights Act, "The Treaty of Accession and the Final Act" between the two countries. The relations between the two countries in the Reza Khan era, saw a significant improvement and expanded from the economic sector to the other sectors.

➤ In the years after the Second World War and during the reign of Pahlavi II, effective steps were taken to develop relations. As economic relations expanded, political relations also improved. In April 1956, two countries decide to upgrade their agents from the embassy to the great embassy level. The two countries showed a greater willingness to promote political cooperation, following the promotion of economic relations. In 1972, in the wake of Iran-Iraq relations, Switzerland took over the protection of Iran's interests in Baghdad. In December 1975, the Swiss foreign trade chief traveled to Iran at the head of the delegation and expanded his economic ties with Iran. In total, relations between the two countries have been based on understanding and friendly relations. Swiss political relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran have been very positive and friendly despite the many ups and downs, in comparison with other Western European countries. Immediately after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Switzerland officially recognized the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, thus embassies of the two countries continued to function ambassadorial. Compared to the unfriendly conflicts of the Western powers, Switzerland has had a more balanced relationship with our country, and this friendly and stable relationship has led to certain political partnerships. Also Switzerland took over the interests of Iran in these countries, during the breakdown of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Egypt and South Africa in the course of apartheid. Switzerland also secured its interests in Tehran after losing ties with the United States.

➤ Switzerland has been keen on expanding its bilateral economic and political ties with Iran over the past few years, and by publishing a joint statement in 2016, the two sides have expressed their willingness to develop and institutionalize a framework for joint and long-term cooperation in the field. Bilateral, regional and multilateral declarations.



## Iran, Switzerland roadmap of bilateral relations



Iran and Switzerland have released full text of the roadmap of Tehran-Bern long-term relations in mutual, regional, and multilateral fields that was announced during a joint statement on Sat. in Tehran.

In this joint statement which was published simultaneously in the capitals of both countries, the road map of relations of Tehran and Bern was elaborated on in 13 paragraphs.



Part of the road map is as follows:

### **ROAD MAP FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION**

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Swiss Federal Council (hereafter “the Participants”),

Mindful of the friendly relations existing between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Swiss Confederation, based on the principles of mutual respect and dialogue on all issues of common concern;

Recognizing the significance of a broad dialogue and an enhanced cooperation for the strengthening of the mutual understanding between the Participants;

Aiming at a better mutual understanding on all matters of common interest with a view to contribute to the strengthening of international peace, stability, security and economic well-being;

Expressing their wish to further strengthen their bilateral relations and reinforce their cooperation;

Welcoming the adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between Iran and the E3/EU+3 and supporting its implementation;

Reiterating that both countries are bound by the principles and aims enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and adhere to the prevalence of international law,

Hereby declare their common intention to institutionalize a framework for cooperation on matters of mutual interest in bilateral, regional and multilateral matters and to establish dialogues on political, economic, financial, legal, security, cultural and scientific matters as well as other areas.

### **Paragraph 6 – Science, Research and Technology**

Based on the principles of scientific excellence, mutual interest and bottom up initiative and in full respect of the autonomy of the concerned institutions the Participants declare their interest for cooperation in the fields of science, research and technology in particular in the following areas, inter alia:

- Expansion and development of educational, research and technological relations in the fields of mutual interest and within the framework of the prevailing local laws and regulations of the two countries;
- Direct cooperation between the Participants' universities, higher education and research centers;
- Exchange of scientists, professors and researchers to implement joint research and educational projects.
- Holding of joint scientific seminars, educational workshops and conferences;
- Exchange of students for long-term or short-term courses by making efforts in granting scholarships based on the proposed program of the two countries;
- Relations between science and technology parks and growth centers of the two countries;
- Exchange of professors and Ph.D. students for research opportunities;
- Expeditious deployment of official scientific fact finding missions to the respective partner country, in order to explore opportunities for cooperation;
- Exchange of information and documents in the field of higher education, in order to foster clear understanding on the respective national systems and regulations.

## ➤ IUT Swiss Desk



### **Opening of Swiss desk at Isfahan University of Technology**

Following the official visit of IUT delegates to some Swiss universities such as ETH, UZH, and EPFL, and due to established and long term academic cooperation between IUT and universities in Switzerland, Isfahan University of Technology has been appointed as the "**National Swiss Contact Point**" by Ministry of Science, Research and Technology.

Hence, on developing the academic relations with Switzerland, Isfahan University of Technology established the "Swiss Desk" in 2017.

Swiss Desk is responsible to provide required educational/ research information about promoting the academic collaboration and joint research projects.

### **Contact information:**

#### **Head of Swiss Desk: Prof. Dr. Sima Fakheran**

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➤ **A review of the activities of the IUT Swiss Desk since its establishment in January 2017**

1. IUT has been appointed as National Contact Point in Scientific Collaboration with Switzerland By the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) – January 2017
2. IUT established the “Swiss Desk” with the aim of building a coherence and Integrated program for the developing the scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges with Swiss universities – February 2017



3. Providing consulting service for Iranian universities about the ways of expanding mutual collaboration with Swiss scientific institutes
4. Contacting with Iranian Embassy at Switzerland for introducing IUT Swiss Desk to Swiss Universities
5. Corresponding with Swiss major Universities and announcing the establishment of the Swiss desk at the Isfahan University of Technology as the national Leading House for scientific cooperation with Switzerland
6. Lunching a website at <https://iscoweb.iut.ac.ir/en/content/iut-swiss-desk> for brief introduction of Swiss universities and preparing some information for universities of Iran about available opportunities for cooperation with Switzerland.



7. Approving motivational policies at Isfahan University of Technology to encourage faculty members and PhD students to expand their scientific collaboration with Swiss higher education institutes and research centers in order to create a successful model for other universities.
8. Consulting and negotiating with Swiss leading institutes with the aim of putting the available MOUs into action as well as finding new opportunities for expanding mutual collaborations between Iranian and Swiss universities
9. Collecting and publishing some general information about Switzerland and the rules of obtaining visa, residence permit and academic information through brochures and Swiss Desk website.
10. Coordinating bilateral scientific tours for some scholars and scientists from selected universities in Switzerland and Iran in order to visit the universities in the two countries and to closely explore the areas of cooperation.
11. Informing about Swiss educational and research opportunities to the Iranian academic community through the Swiss Desk website and brochures.
12. Asking Iranian universities to introduce one of their faculty members who is familiar with Switzerland's educational and research environment for pursuing mutual fields of interest with the Swiss Universities.
13. Establishment of the Working Group of Scientific Cooperation with Switzerland with participation of several universities and research centers in Iran.
14. Holding a meeting with presence of some university International affairs directors of which are members of Working Group of Scientific Cooperation with Switzerland.
15. Organizing scientific trips for visiting highly ranked higher education and research institutes of Switzerland for Iranian researchers and faculty members who are interested to mutual collaboration.
16. Trying to attract financial support from Swiss scientific foundations and organizations for defining joint interdisciplinary research projects between Iranian and Swiss universities.
17. Trying to attract financial support from Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and Vice Presidency for Science and Technology for defining joint projects and scientific trips and workshops between Iranian and Swiss universities.
18. Increasing the number of faculty members who spend their sabbaticals in Switzerland (15 short sabbaticals during the past 2 years)

19. Defining joint PhD and Master thesis between IUT and Swiss Professors
20. Increasing the number of joint scientific papers between IUT and Swiss Professors (based of WOS, 160 paper in 2018 and 70 papers till May 2019).
21. The Head of Swiss Desk, Prof. Dr. Sima Fakheran had a mission trip to Switzerland in summer 2017, with the aim of developing scientific communication through implementing joint programs. During her trip, Prof. Dr. Fakheran follows several programs including:
  - Meeting with officials and faculty members of several Swiss universities.
  - Meeting with Iranian scientists and researchers who are working in Switzerland to encourage them for joint research activities with top scientists in Iran.
  - Meeting with Iranian PhD students and Post-Doc researchers at Switzerland.
  - Meeting with ETH contact point responsible for collaboration with Iran.
  - Collecting information on how to set up joint Iranian-Swiss startups and innovation centers.
  - Meeting with officials of Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), the Leading House for scientific collaboration with South Asia and Iran for discovering the possible research opportunities, financial supports and scholarships.
  - Consulting with the Leading House at ZHAW to develop a joint Strategic Plan.
  - Convincing Swiss authorities as well as the Leading House of South Asia to support the organization of scientific tours for faculty members of the two countries in order to make them more aware of the feasibility of joint research.
  - Meeting with representatives of Swiss financial support foundations.
  - Meeting with the head of international affairs of the Swiss National Science Foundation and discussing about joint research programs and the availability of financial support.



- 22.** Organizing the first meeting of the Scientific Cooperation Working Group of Iran and Switzerland at the Isfahan University of Technology with the participation of the member universities representatives in January 2017.



- 23.** Meeting of the Minister of Science of Iran and his deputy minister in International Affairs and the president of Isfahan University of Technology, with the Swiss Ambassador in Tehran, with the aim of pursuing scientific and academic communications and cooperation between Iran and Switzerland.



24. Inviting the Swiss Scientific Chancellor to Isfahan University of Technology to present the Swiss scientific institutes and to identify the problems and unevenness of consular affairs, etc.
25. Meeting with representatives of the ETH –Singapore Future Cities Research Center to define joint interdisciplinary projects as well as joint PhD courses
26. Holding a scientific seminar entitled **“Sustainable future cities, through science, by design, in place”** at IUT by the representatives of ETH –Singapore Future Cities Research Center
27. Signing a Joint Statement between the Foreign Ministries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Switzerland on Scientific Cooperation - July 2017 (Appendix No. 3)
28. Hosting Prof. Bernd Scholl, the professor of the faculty of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering of ETH Zurich for a scientific lecture about **“The strategies of sustainable development in transportation and settlements and spatial planning in Switzerland”** and planning for a joint workshop in this regard.



Visit of Prof. Scholl from IUT and his Lecture at the department of Natural Resources in May 2017

29. Definition of five types of instruments for joint research activities with consultation and close collaboration with leading house of South Asia and Iran including:
  - Seed money grants
  - Bridging grants
  - Mobility grants
  - Innovation and partnership grants
  - Symposia and workshops grants

For more information in this regard please see Appendix No. 1.

### 30. Announcement of Mobility Grant

This program has been announced in February 2018 and a total number of 7 applicants apply in the program till April 19. Finally, 3 PhD students from Isfahan University of Technology and the University of Shiraz has been selected by the Grant Committee and the result has been announced in late April 2018.

### 31. Visit of officials of the Swiss Ministry of Science and Research, representatives of several Swiss universities, High delegate's from SERI and the head of the scientific department of the Swiss Embassy in Iran from several Iranian universities and Isfahan University of Technology in May 2018.



### 32. Organizing a workshop on joint research activities between Iran and Switzerland in May 9, 2018.

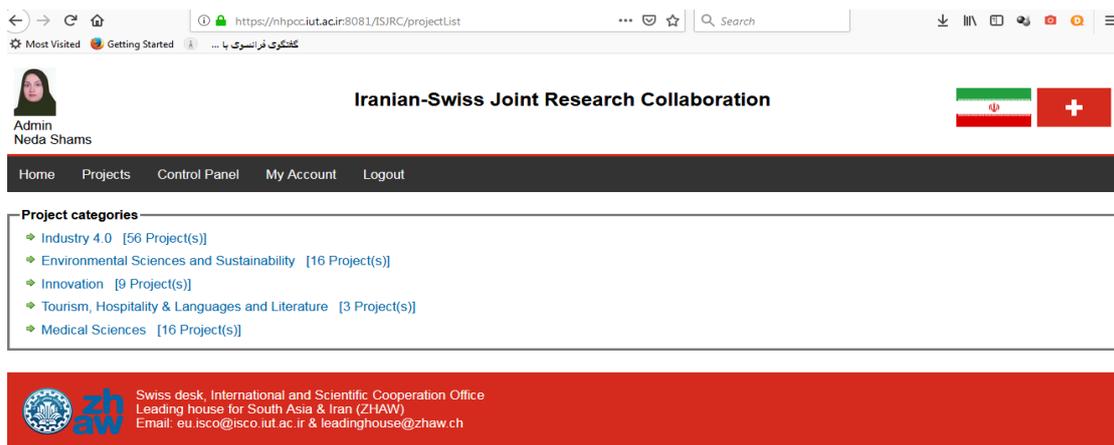
Scientific workshop about joint research opportunities between Iran and Switzerland with participation of 20 distinguished representatives from Swiss universities and 600 participants from Iranian universities has been held at Isfahan University of Technology in May 9, 2018. The professional meetings were held in the 5 different subjects including Industry 4, Medical Science, Environmental Sciences and Sustainability, Tourism and Hospitality, Innovation and Language and Literature.

During the workshop, extensive discussions were held on ways to develop joint cooperation between Iran and Switzerland, and finally a call was announced for applying proposals for winning Seed Money Grants.





### 33. Announcement of Seed Money Grant for joint Scientific Collaboration between Switzerland and Iran.



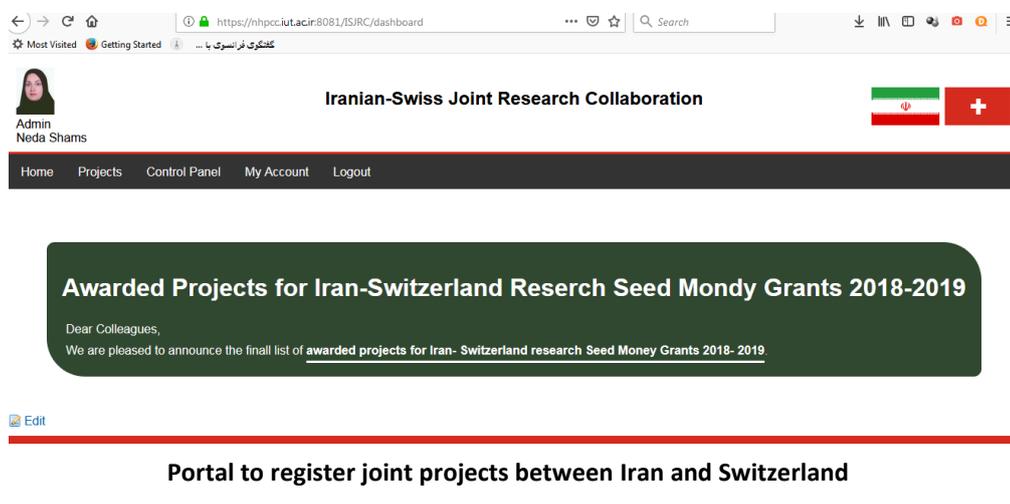
Full details of Seed Money Grants for Joint Projects was delivered on the Swiss website at <https://iscoweb.iut.ac.ir/en/content/call-seed-money-grants-switzerland-2018>.

Afterward, the portal was set up to register proposals for projects at: <http://nhpcc.iut.ac.ir:8081/ISJRC/login> to meet the deadline on August 9, 2018. During

this period, 100 projects were uploaded onto the portal, and 80 projects were sent to the Swiss Leading House by Swiss colleagues. Therefore, a total number of 180 joint project proposals were collected. The received proposals was assessed and finalized by the selected reviewers at both Leading Houses. The list of selected proposals published on the IUT Swiss desk website on October 21, 2018. This list was also posted to the member universities by the virtual media and sent to all participants in this project via e-mail.

Among 180 received proposals, 16 projects from 15 Iranian Universities selected, of which 6 projects was related to the Medical Universities, and the rest were among the universities under supervision of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT). In some of these selected projects, more than one Iranian universities participated. The total share of MSRT in contributing to these projects is CHF 89300. (The list of selected projects is in Appendix No. 2.)

Total number of received proposals	No. of selected proposals	No. of selected Swiss Universities	No. of selected Iranian Universities	Total requested amount(CHF)	Switzerland Share (CHF)	Iran Share (CHF)	Ministry of Health Contribution (CHF)	MSRT Contribution (CHF)
180	16		15	394240	269590	124650	40750	73900



34. Tracking the financing of selected projects from the MSRT – February 2019
35. Signing contract for joint research projects affiliated to the MSRT and deposit the MSRT Share to the selected executive universities- March 2019
36. Making arrangements for the one week workshop on spatial planning scheduled for April 2019. This workshop supposed to be held at IUT and with the presence of professors and students from Iran and Switzerland.

- 37.** Coordination for the sending of 15 postgraduate students to conduct joint research between Iran and the ETH University and the University of Wroclaw, Poland.



Meeting to Organize Workshop on Spatial Planning

November 2018



Visiting the head of SERI and Switzerland ambassador in Iran  
Isfahan University of Technology- May 2018

Participation of the IUT academic members of the Natural Resources faculty in teaching Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) programs in collaboration with ETH University of Zurich, Switzerland, in the fields of Landscape Ecology. Landscape Ecology is being introduced for the first time in the world as a MOOC.

Home > All Subjects > Environmental Studies > Landscape Ecology

### Landscape Ecology

This is the first MOOC to teach Landscape Ecology. Participants learn theory, methods and tools to understand the landscapes we live in and to solve landscape-related environmental problems.

**ETH zürich**

**Meet the instructors**

 <b>Felix Kienast</b> Lead Instructor & Adjunct Professor for Landscape Ecology ETHZ / WSL ETH Zurich & WSL	 <b>Gregor Martius</b> Course Designer and Coordinator ETH Zurich & WSL	 <b>Janet Silbernagel</b> Prof. University of Wisconsin- Madison
 <b>Sima Fakheran</b> Prof. Isfahan University of Technology	 <b>Loïc Pellissier</b> Prof. ETH Zurich & WSL	 <b>Harini Nagendra</b> Prof. Azim Premji University
 <b>Josef Senn</b> Lecturer Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL	 <b>Shekoufeh Nematollahi</b> PhD Candidate Isfahan University of Technology	 <b>Selina Gosteli</b> Course Assistant ETH Zurich
 <b>Thomas C. Edwards</b> Prof. USGS Utah Cooperative		

The first international online education program in Landscape Ecology,  
 Jointly coordinated by IUT and ETH Zurich University

- 38. Conducting the necessary contracts for joint research projects with the Ministry of Science of Iran and paying the contribution of the Ministry to the executers
- 39. Announcing the second call of Mobility grants for PhD students

- 40. Signing an adjunct professor contract with Prof. Dr. Hans Wernher van de Venn, Head of Institute of Mechanic Systems IMS, ZHAW School of Engineering.

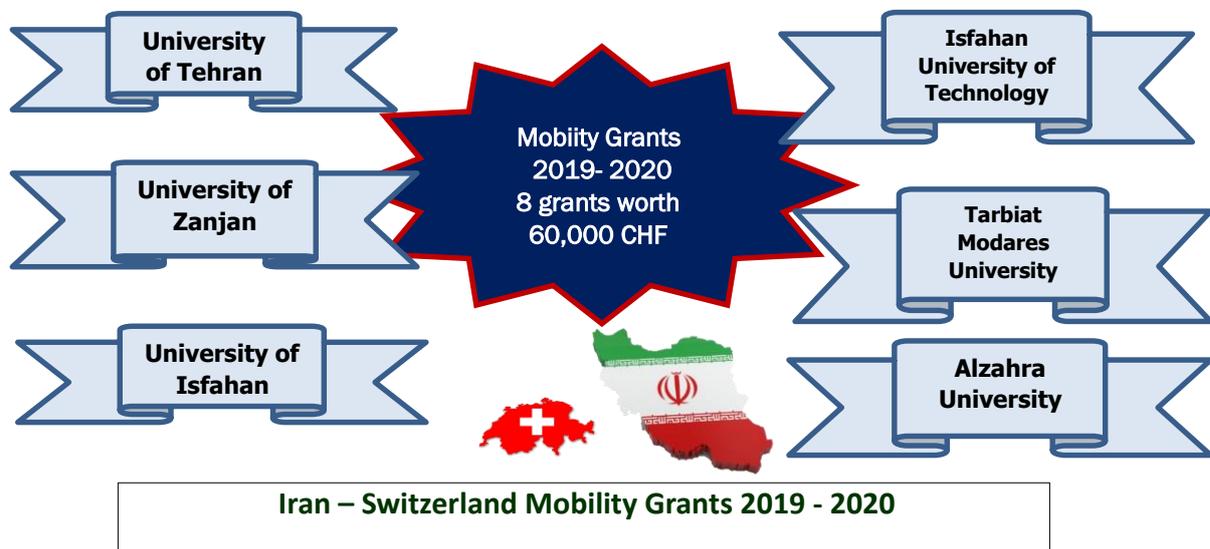


- 41. Organizing a Seminar Week on Spatial Planning jointly by ETH, IUT and the University of Tehran during April 27 till May2, 2019, with participation of more than 30 professors, experts and the students of Master of Advanced Studies in Spatial Planning from ETH and more than 30 Iranian professors and students from several universities of Iran. During this seminar week, the Iranian and Swiss students, in the form of five teams, work jointly on transportation & urban planning issues in the city of Isfahan. At the final ceremony, which has been held with the presence of highly ranked officials of the city of Isfahan, they present their ideas for solving the problems in the city. (For more information please see Appendix No. 5)

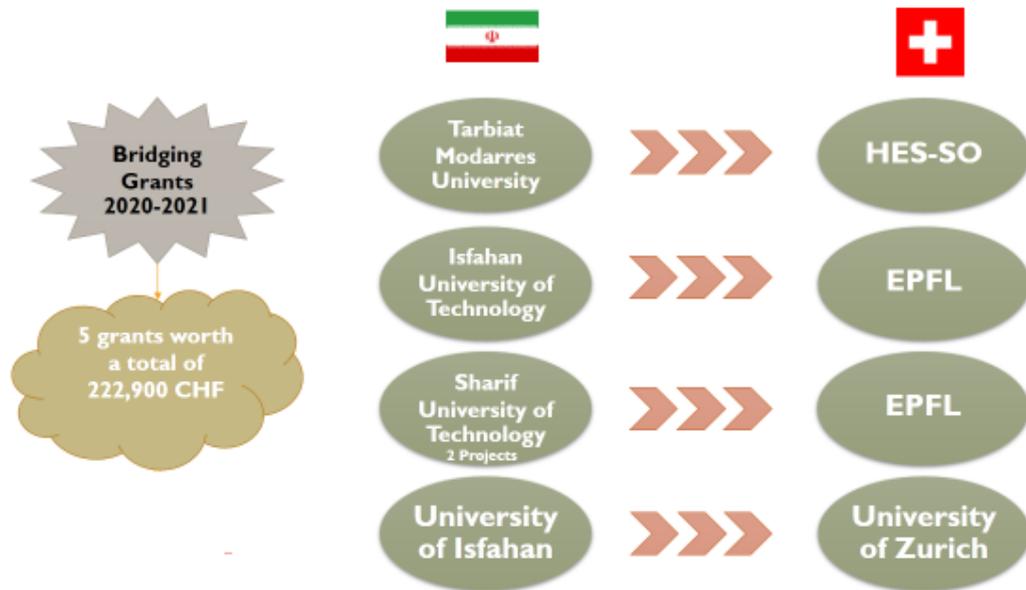


- Organizing a scientific trip to Switzerland for senior officials of Iranian Ministry of Science for visiting Swiss scientific centers, universities and research centers, June 17-19, 2019 (Appendix 6).
- Organizing a joint scientific workshop for Iranian and Swiss scientists in the field of Environmental Technologies – June 20, 2019 (Appendix 7).
- Announcement of the results of Mobility Grants 2019

According to the results reported by ZHAW in summer 2019, from the total 115 applications received by Iranian students, 8 grants with worth of 60 thousand Swiss francs have been granted to some students from 6 Iranian Universities.

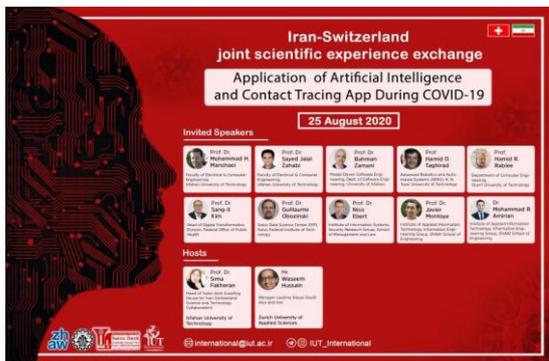


- Acceptance of Isfahan University of Technology as a full member of one of the CERN experiments (CMS) as the first Iranian University. (Appendix 8)
- Joining two Iranian researchers in CERN to the IUT Faculty of Physics as academic members.
- Joining two Adjunct Professors from ZHAW School of Engineering to IUT. (Appendix 9)
- Defining the first joint course between IUT and ZHAW in Industry 4. (Appendix 10)
- Negotiations for the establishing of the Iran-Switzerland Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Chamber at the Iranian Embassy in Bern.
- Announcing the 5 joint Iran-Switzerland research project in the framework of Bridging Grants (one from IUT), to be jointly funded by SERI, MSRT and Iranian Universities



Results of Iran-Switzerland Bridging Grants

42. Organizing a joint webinar on "Application of Artificial Intelligence and Contact Tracing Apps During COVID-19" with collaboration of ZHAW. (Appendix 11)



43. Visit of the representatives of IUT with Federal Councilor Ignazio Cassis and Ambassador Markus Leitner. Federal Councilor Ignazio Cassis, head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and Markus Leitner, ambassador of Switzerland in Iran, made a visit to Isfahan on September 5, 2020 and had an official meeting with representatives of Isfahan University of Technology (IUT) as the Swiss Desk, Iranian Leading House for Science and Technology Cooperation between Iran and Switzerland. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid, Acting President for International Affairs and Technology Infrastructures, Prof. Dr. Sima Fakheran, Director of

International Scientific Cooperation Center and Head of Swiss Desk at IUT, Prof. Dr. Mahmud Ashrafizadeh and Prof. Dr. Peiman Mosaddegh, IUT faculty members from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at IUT as grant winners of joint research projects and scientific collaborations between Iran and Switzerland from IUT attended this meeting.



His Excellency the Swiss Foreign Minister, appreciated the international scientific activities of IUT as a reference for scientific cooperation between Iran and Switzerland and emphasized on the stability and development of this cooperation. Explaining the views and policies of Switzerland on international scientific interactions and emphasizing the development of scientific diplomacy between the two countries, he described scientific diplomacy as a way for countries to have more interactions. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid, Acting President of Isfahan University of Technology for International Affairs and Technology Infrastructures, also presented a report on grants and support tools for joint research by Iranian and Swiss scientists and the development of future collaborations.



Prof. Dr. Sima Fakheran, Head of the Swiss Desk and Director of the International Scientific Cooperation Center of IUT, pointed to the history of scientific cooperation between Iran and Switzerland and presented a brief report on the process of establishing the Swiss Desk as a national reference for international scientific cooperation between the two countries. Expressing interest on the issue of scientific diplomacy, she mentioned that the consortium of the top universities of Isfahan (IUN) and the municipality of Isfahan city have also applied scientific diplomacy for fostering relations with Isfahan's sister cities. She added that despite the existing political constraints, scientific communication can provide a stable and safe path for interactions between the two countries. Prof. Dr. Fakheran explained that determining the joint science day of Iran and Switzerland is a special proposal of Isfahan University of Technology on behalf of the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology for further considerations by the foreign ministers of the two countries.



- 44.** Signing an adjunct professor contract with Prof. Dr. Prof. Andreas Bruder, Group leader at the Laboratory of Applied Microbiology, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland in January 2021.



## Swiss Desk Future plans

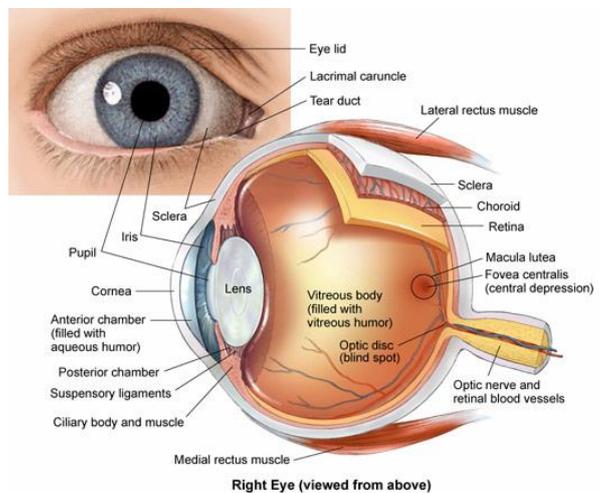
- Implementing remaining funding instruments from joint research activities with collaboration of leading house of South Asia and Iran
- Holding a joint meeting with the members of the Scientific Cooperation Working Group of Iran and Switzerland
- Inviting Swiss officials and experts for holding a workshop about educational and research opportunities in Switzerland
- Defining research priorities to be carried out with each of Switzerland's prestigious universities
- Planning the scientific tour for Swiss specialists for visiting prestigious Iranian universities and research institutes which are interested to joint academic collaboration with Switzerland.
- Organizing the Swiss Academic Relations Committee and the Swiss Friendship Association (with the presence of representatives from Iranian and Swiss universities and research institutes) for the exchange of information and opportunities and holding periodic meetings.
- Considering the establishment a network of innovation and entrepreneurship centers between the two countries to move towards the implementation of Innovation Partnership Grants
- Trying to admit Ph.D. Students from Switzerland for sabbatical leaves
- Defining joint innovative interdisciplinary courses
- A collaborative effort to implement a research structures focused on sustainable development and building green campuses.
- Joining the International Network of Sustainable Universities, for expanding cooperating with leading Swiss universities in the field of sustainable development (see Network Information in Appendix No. 4).



Iran –Switzerland Joint Workshop on Transport Engineering in Zurich



Workshop on the introduction of joint research opportunities between Iran and Switzerland



**Joint research projects with Switzerland**

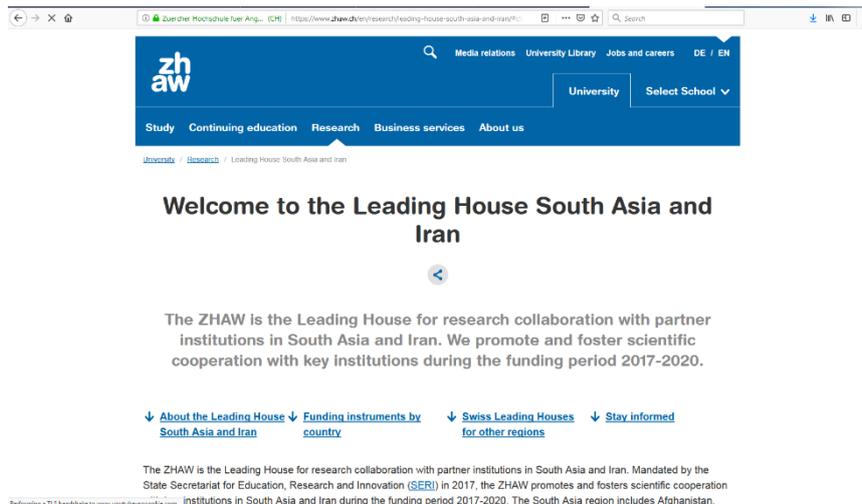
THE REPORT OF THE IUT LEADING HOUSE FOR IRAN-SWITZERLAND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES



# Appendixes

## Appendix 1, About the **Leading house for South Asia and Iran**

The ZHAW is the Leading House for research collaboration with partner institutions in South Asia and Iran. Mandated by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation ([SERI](#)) in 2017, the ZHAW promotes and fosters scientific cooperation with key institutions in South Asia and Iran during the funding period 2017-2020. The South Asia region includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with Iran as an additional country.



All scientists from Swiss federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education, as well as public research institutions, are eligible to apply. Calls are open for activities in all scientific disciplines and fields of research.

## Funding instruments

### Seed money grants

Seed money grants are a useful way to develop new partnerships, especially with institutions in countries where research partnerships are so far underexplored. As there is no notable research collaboration between the Swiss scientific community and its counterparts in the designated countries other than India, seed money grants will be utilised to stimulate partnerships in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



Applicants should be able to demonstrate that the project will be sustainable by gaining access to external funding when the grant period comes to an end.

Available for research collaboration with partners in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

### Bridging grants

Bridging grants offer Swiss researchers who have already successfully completed a project with a partner in South Asia or Iran the possibility to continue joint research in order to prepare a grant application for a full joint research project (e.g. through the Swiss National Science Foundation, EU funding or a national or regional funding body). Bridging grants may also enable the intensification of joint teaching or curriculum development.



Available for research collaboration with partners in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

### Symposia & workshops

The Leading House will organise symposia in order to explain and, if required, refine the academic focus area of an upcoming call. Symposia will be closely coordinated between the Leading House and the foreign partner agencies. The Leading House will provide information about planned symposia as soon as this is available.



Workshops and conferences need to be initiated and organised by Swiss researchers in collaboration with partners in the South Asia and Iran region according to their mutual interests and needs.

### Mobility grants

Mobility grants enable the young generation of scientists (i.e. those with a Master's degree but no PhD yet and with not more than 6 years of professional research experience) to integrate in international collaboration. They help to build up new partnerships through personal contacts and thereby make such partnerships more sustainable.



Mobility grants are aimed at attracting young talent to Switzerland, and they encourage Swiss researchers to enhance their careers by spending time in an academic environment abroad.

Available for research collaboration with partners in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

### Academia-Industry Training

Academia-Industry Training allows young scientists to validate their innovative concepts in direct contact with business representatives in Switzerland and India. The objective is to enable researchers to gain a better understanding of the potential market viability of their research concept and thereby allow them to refine their concept accordingly.

In addition, it allows them to develop their own entrepreneurial skills, which can be an asset if they choose to start up their own business. Available for research collaboration with partners in India.



Appendix 2- Awarded projects for Iran-Switzerland Research Seed Money Grant 2018-2019

Awarded Projects for Iran-Switzerland Research Seed Money Grants 2018-2019

No.	Country of application	Project title	Institute in Switzerland	Researcher in Switzerland	Institute in Iran	Researcher in Iran
1	Iran	MEMS-based sensor for vibration detection in drilling operation in the Oil and Gas industry	EPFL	Luis Guillermo Villanueva	Urmia University	AmirMousa Abazari Ghader Rezazadeh
2	Iran	A feasibility study to develop an OCT-based ocular health kiosk to diagnose Diabetic Retinopathy	University of Basel	Azhar Zam	Isfahan University of Medical Sciences	Hossein Rabbani
3	Iran	Iranian Language Teachers as Global Citizenship Educators	University of Teachers Education Zurich	Samir Boulos	Shahid Rajaei Teacher Education University Tehran.	Farhad Ghorbandordnejad
4	Iran	The Learning Factory for Cyber Physical Production Systems	Zurich University of Applied Sciences	Hans Wernher van de Venn	Isfahan University of Technology, University of Isfahan, University of Tehran	Ashrafizaadehm , Ghaisari, Mosaddeghm Karimpour et al.
5	Iran	Launching a hydrological decision support dashboard based on system dynamics modelling: Case study the Helmand transboundary river between Iran and Afghanistan	University of Geneva	Christian Bréthaut	University of Tarbiat Modares	Mohammadreza Shahbazbegian
6	Iran	Development a biotic index for Karun River based on macroinvertebrate and fish assemblages	SUPSI	Andreas Bruder	Isfahan University of Technology	Eisa Ebrahimi
7	Switzerland	Genome Wide Association Mapping of Stripe Rust Resistance in Wheat	Agroscope	Mascher	Shiraz University	Dadkhodaie
8	Switzerland	Multifunctional Mineral Binders for the Production of Advanced Wood-Based Products	Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH)	Thoemen	Tarbiat Modares University	Shalbafan
9	Switzerland	Enhanced method for in situ rock burst prediction based on early detection of crack initiation using a novel type of fiber optic acoustic emission sensor.	University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI)	Gardenghi	Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic)	Kamali, Bandpey
10	Switzerland	Antimalarial Drug-Discovery of Natural Compound, Perovskone, with Semisynthetic Modifications	Swiss TPH	Kaiser	Shahid Beheshti University	Moradi, Farimani
11	Switzerland	Distant versus close language-pair bilingualism: does language distance affect the effective connectivity between language and control systems?	University of Fribourg	Annoni	Institute for research in fundamental sciences (IPM)	Radman
12	Switzerland	Blood-brain barrier transport of targeted nanoparticles	University of Basel	Huwylar	Shiraz University of Medical Sciences	Dehshahri
13	Switzerland	Status of the implementation of the World Health Organization multimodal hand hygiene strategy in Iran health care facilities	Geneva University Hospitals	Pittet	Mashhad University of Medical Sciences	Aelami
14	Switzerland	Predicting diabetes: a first step for efficient prevention	University of Lausanne	Marques-Vidal	Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Sciences	Mirzaei
15	Switzerland	Development of a sexual quality of life scale for the postpartum period and assessment of its psychometric properties	Zurich University of Applied Sciences	Grylka-Baesclin	Tehran University of Medical Sciences	Rahmani
16	Switzerland	Investigating the potential causes leading to narcolepsy with cataplexy in Iranian patients	University of Lausanne	Seifinejad Tafti	Tehran University of Medical Sciences	Sadeghniaat Haghghi

Also available on Swiss Desk website in the following address:

<https://iscoweb.iut.ac.ir/en/content/awarded-projects-iran-switzerland-research-seed-money-grants-2018-2019>

**Appendix 3-** Statement signed by Foreign Ministers of the two countries of Iran and Switzerland on scientific cooperation

DECLARATION OF INTENT

BETWEEN

THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,  
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

AND

THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY OF  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

*The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research of the Swiss Confederation  
and  
The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
(hereafter referred to as "the Participants")*

DESIRING to further promote the close and friendly relations existing between their two countries,

RECOGNISING the benefit to be derived by both countries from the development of scientific, research and innovation relations, and

AFFIRMING their commitment to further strengthen cooperation in science, research and innovation,

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

Based on the principles of scientific excellence, mutual interest and bottom up initiative, and in full respect of the autonomy of the concerned institutions, the Participants reaffirm their interest for cooperation in the fields of science, research and innovation.

The Road Map for the enhancement of the bilateral relations between the Swiss Confederation and the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter referred to as "the Road Map"), agreed in Tehran on 27 February 2016, provides the Participants with a suitable framework for future cooperation in the fields of science, research and innovation.

The Road Map is enabling direct cooperation between the Participants' universities, higher education and research centres. Since 2016, several Memoranda of Understanding have been signed, dedicated to joint research and/or mobility.

In line with the Road Map, an official scientific fact finding mission, led by State Secretary Mauro Dell'Ambrogio, was deployed from Switzerland to Iran (5-9 May 2018).

The Participants reaffirm the benefits for such official scientific fact finding missions, as they allow researchers, institutions and universities to explore for themselves cooperation opportunities and to create direct contacts. In this context, an Swiss-Iranian Joint Research Collaboration Workshop, organised by the Leading House for Iran (Zurich University of Applied Sciences) and the Leading House for Switzerland (Isfahan University of Technology), was held in Isfahan (9 May 2018). The aim of the workshop was to develop joint research projects and to prepare these for funding submission. The aforementioned organisers intend to evaluate the workshop and to decide whether a second workshop, to take place in Switzerland, would add value and whether it can be organised within their existing financial framework.

A reciprocal official scientific fact finding mission is intended to be deployed from Iran to Switzerland in the near future, again with the aim to explore cooperation opportunities and to create direct contacts between researchers, institutions and universities. On the occasion of such a mission to Switzerland, the Participants intend to hold a formal meeting in Berne in order to take account of past achievements and to review available instruments to further develop cooperation in the fields of science, research and innovation.

*The foregoing represents the discussions held between the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research of the Swiss Confederation and The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran and does not create legally binding rights or obligations.*

Berne, 3 July 2018

For the Federal Department of  
Economic Affairs, Education and  
Research of the Swiss Confederation



Johann N. Schneider-Ammann  
Federal Councillor

Federal Department of Economic  
Affairs, Education and Research of  
the Swiss Confederation

For the Ministry of Science, Research  
and Technology of the Islamic  
Republic of Iran



Mohammad Javad Zarif  
Minister

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Islamic Republic of Iran

#### Appendix 4- International Sustainable Campus Network



The International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) provides a global forum to support leading colleges, universities, and corporate campuses in the exchange of information, ideas, and best practices for achieving sustainable campus operations and integrating sustainability in research and teaching.

The ISCN is managed by the network's Secretariat, operated by [Sustainserv Inc.](#), and its strategic development is guided by the Board including representatives of the seven schools who generously host the ISCN.

#### ISCN Co-Host Schools



## Sustainability in Connected World

Appendix 5: Short Report of Iran-Swiss Joint Seminar Week 2019

## Rail and City: Isfahan

### Joint Seminar Week 2019

**The joint scientific seminar on the subject of Rail and city was held at the Innovation Center of Isfahan University of Technology (IUT).**

The joint scientific seminar on the subject of Rail and city was held at the Innovation Center of Isfahan University of Technology, on 27 April-02 May, 2019.

The seminar was held for a week and with the participation of 80 professors and researchers from university of ETH - Zurich, Isfahan university of Technology (IUT), University of Tehran, and University of Mazandaran, on the subject of urban development and transportation in Isfahan; it was with researchers, to solve the challenges of transport development. And the traffic problems of the city of Isfahan.

In this seminar, researchers have come up with solution of challenges on transportation development and traffic problems in the city of Isfahan.

The main purpose of this seminar was to present ideas that are practical and applicable to the conditions of the city of Isfahan, by using the knowledge and the latest technologies of the World and the expertise and experience of Iranian and Swiss directors and researchers.



This noticeable event ended with organizing of the first international specialized idea show in Isfahan, on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the presence of senior officials, private sector executives, professors and students at the Sheikh Bahae'i Hall of the IUT.

In this ceremony, the President of Isfahan University of Technology (IUT), expressed his pleasure at hosting and holding this joint scientific seminar between Iran and Switzerland in the field of Transportation and Urban Planning in Isfahan. He described the workshop as one of the strategic achievements of the Isfahan University of Technology. He expressed his hope that this workshop would achieve valuable and effective results. He added: "fortunately, based on the decision which has been made by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MSRT), to appointed IUT as the leading house for all scientific cooperation with Switzerland, communications has accelerated and with the attention of given the strong support of the University to expand cooperation with this country, our collaborations with various Swiss universities are growing and developing."



Prof. Dr. Sayed Mahmoud Modarres Hashemi, IUT President, with the emphasis on the quality of scientific education at IUT, added: "The main credibility of this university is derived from qualitative educational activities, innovation, creativity and research activities. Referring to the fact that the Strategic Plan of Isfahan University of Technology has identified the prospect of this university on the 1404 horizon, one of the main goals of this university is internationalization". He also said: "Although international relations have always existed in recent years, internationalization is something that requires more efforts and more planning."

On the sideline of the ceremony, Director of the IUT International Scientific Cooperation Center announced: "the joint seminar was held between IUT, University of Tehran and University of ETH Zürich, focusing on the development of the Railways, and young entrepreneurs with novel ideas, in collaboration with executive experts and experienced professors, focused on issues such as transportation difficulties and traffic of Isfahan, the Isfahan-Tehran subway, and the location of the train station to connect the subway to the Isfahan transportation network."



Prof. Dr. Sima Fakheran, referring to the students in five groups from Isfahan University of Technology, University of Tehran, University of Mazandaran and University of ETH Zürich, said:

“The owners of ideas with consideration of environmental issues, urban traffic knots, finance, land ownership, etc., prepared their team ideas to improve the city's traffic situation, and each group finally presents an original idea”. She said: “In this idea show all groups tried to focus on a community problem by presenting a true urban challenge solution using experts and authorities, she added:

“During the program, in order to observe the real situations and better understanding of them, the participants were in touch with local executives and city officials and people and visited the train stations, terminals and other related sites.”



Deputy Head of Coordination of Economic Affairs and Development Resources of the Governorate of Isfahan was another honorable speaker of this ceremony. He said the sustainability of development is one of the main issues in this province. He said: with the attention of this fact that the climate change has been arisen, this issue needs more and serious attentions.

Dr. Seyed Hassan Ghaziaskar, emphasizing the improvement of quality of urban life in Isfahan province, added: "Developing solar energy, developing rail transportation and optimizing water and energy consumption are some of the important issues that can be effective in realizing this issue." He pointed out that: "The Switzerland is one of the few examples of sustainable developments, Management, environmental preservation and proper development as one of the most prominent features of this country." He added: "We can use the appropriate experiences of Switzerland universities in this area,"



At the end of these speeches, Professor Brend Scholl, the distinguished emeritus professor of Departments of Civil Engineering, Natural Resources and Geosciences, ETH Zürich, gave an informatics speech regarding the program. He said: "All of the presented ideas were the result of team works and group studies and that is the most valuable matter. Therefore, none of them would be announced as a top idea". He also hoped that this review will be the beginning of further studies and further actions in the near future.

The other speakers of this program were Dr. Chantal Delli from the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, Prof. Dr. Anita Gramms and Dr. Patrick Bonzanigo, from ETH Zürich, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Azizi, and Dr. Shahab Kermanshahi Assistant Professor Urban planning at Tehran University and Mrs. Mahdokht Soltanieh, the coordinator of this program and PhD candidate of ETH Zürich, who presented lectures during the ceremony.

Finally, each group provided a comprehensive description of their findings and studies and offered their ideas to the audience.

This program was one of the results of the scientific cooperation between IUT and ETH Zürich which has been extended and strengthened during the last three years.

**Appendix 6- Short Report of the second meeting of Iran- Switzerland Scientific & Technological Working Group. (Science Tour in Switzerland)- June 17-20, 2019**

**The second meeting of Iran-Switzerland scientific and technological working group in Switzerland**

An Iranian highly ranked delegation headed by Prof. Dr. Hossein Salar Amoli, Acting Minister for International Affairs, and the Head of the MSRT Center for International Scientific Collaboration had a formal trip to Switzerland during June 17- 20, 2019. This trip was in response to the visit of the Swiss Federal Minister of Education, Presidents and representatives of 19 Swiss universities and research institutes in Tehran, in 2017. During this trip the Iranian delegation had several programs which will be listed in follow:

- **Participating at the second meeting of the Scientific-Technical Working Group of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Switzerland.** The meeting was hosted by Her Excellency, Ms. Martina Hirayama the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) of Switzerland. The meeting was held at the SERI building in Bern in June 17, 2019.



During this meeting the participants who were the representatives of Iranian and Swiss top universities, had negotiations about the mutual fields of interests and the ways of expanding scientific and technological cooperation. Dr. Fakhran, head of Swiss Desk, and Prof. Dr. Jean-Marc Piveteau, the President of Zhaw, presented a report on the activities of both Iranian and Swiss Leading Houses during 2017-2019.

- **Visit from EPFL and the University of Geneva in June 18, 2019.** At the second day of their formal trip to Switzerland, the Iranian delegation had visits from EPFL and the University of Geneva and had meetings with the authorities of these universities.
- **Visit from CERN in June 19, 2019.** During this visit, the Iranian delegation had a meeting with the CERN authorities and had visit from the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). The IUT officials who were present at this meeting announced the official readiness of IUT to join CERN as a full member.



- **Visit From ETH University in June 19,2019.** As their last visit, the Iranian delegation visited ETH University and had a meeting with these university authorities.

## Appendix 7- Short Report of the Iranian-Swiss workshop at ZHAW

### Iranian-Swiss joint workshop on Environmental Technologies at ZHAW

A joint scientific workshop on Environmental Technologies has been held at ZHAW School of Engineering with participation of Iranian and Swiss academics and specialists in this field on Tuesday June 20, 2019.

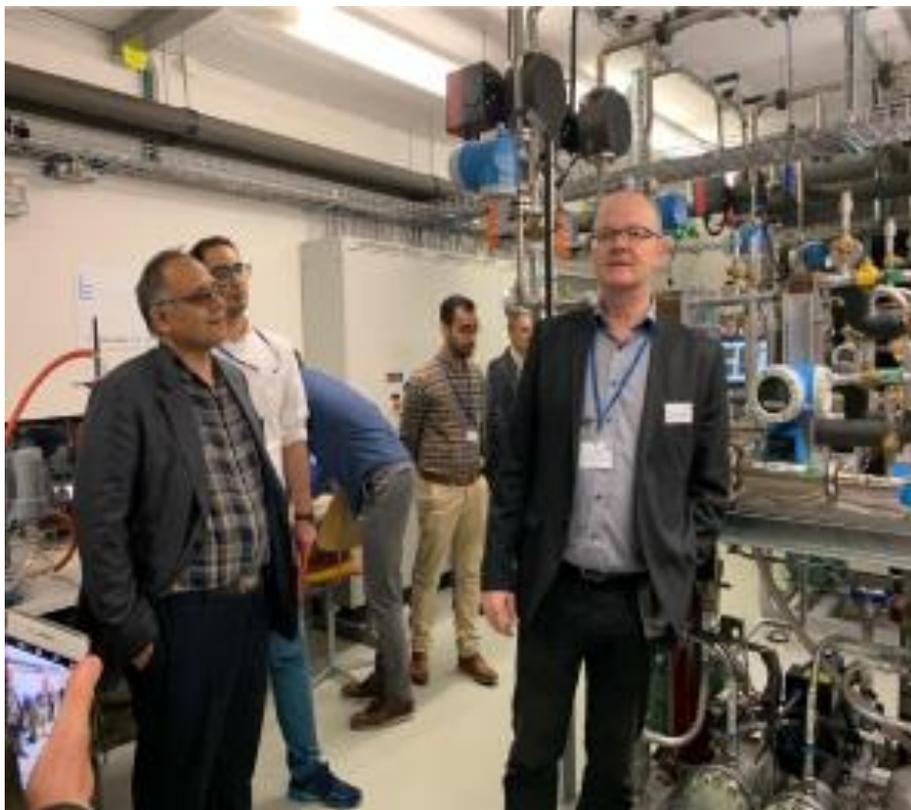


This workshop was planned with close collaboration of Swiss Desk and the Swiss Leading House of South.Asia and Iran at ZHAW.

The goal of this workshop was networking and develop and deepen previous collaborations between the academic members of two countries. Defining new joint projects and implementing basis for Bridging Grant for mutual projects between Iran and Switzerland were other objectives of this workshop.



A team of officials and highly ranked academic members from 9 Iranian Universities including the University of Shiraz, Sharif University of Technology, Isfahan University of Technology, Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, Tarbiat Modarres University, Shahrood University of Technology, University of Zanjan and Shahid Beheshti University, who have had previous cooperation with Swiss scientists in the field of Environmental Technologies participated at this workshop accompanied by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid, IUT deputy for Research and Technology and Prof. Dr. Sima Fakheran, the head of Swiss Desk. During the workshop, they had meetings and discussions with Swiss academics and scientists as well as Iranian researchers working at Switzerland in the field of Environmental Technologies.



### Appendix 7- Joining CERN as a full member in CMS as the first Iranian University

#### **Isfahan University of Technology has been accepted to be a CERN Member**

Based on official letter from CERN, Isfahan University of Technology has been accepted to be a full member in one of the CERN experiments (CMS) as the first university in Iran.

Iran has been only connected to CERN through "the Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM)", and now Faculty of Physics at IUT is the first faculty out of Tehran that sent students to CERN in the field of Fundamental Particle Physics for scientific cooperation.



### Appendix 9- IUT Adjunct Professors from Switzerland

With the aim of expanding mutual academic collaboration with Swiss Universities, and as a result of successful research cooperation four professors of the Swiss accredited universities joined IUT as Adjunct Professors.

Prof. Dr. Joseh Senn, is IUT adjunct professor from Switzerland who is the professor of Natural Resources at ETH University.

Prof. Dr. Hans Wernher van de Venn, the director of Institute of Mechatronic Systems of ZHAW School has become the adjunct professor of the faculty of Mechanical Engineering of IUT. Prof. Dr. Alireza darvishi, professor of the Information Technology of ZHAW joined IUT faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering as an adjunct professor.

Prof. Dr. Prof. Andreas Bruder the Group leader at the Laboratory of Applied Microbiology, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland joined IUT as an adjunct professor in January 2021.



Prof. Hans Wernher von de Venn,  
Director Institute for Mechatronic Systems IMS

Prof. Alireza Darvishi,  
professor of the Information Technology



Prof. Joseh Senn  
Professor of Natural Resources



Prof. Andreas Bruder  
Group leader at the Laboratory of Applied Microbiology, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland

## Appendix 10- Defining the first joint course between IUT and ZHAW

### Definition of the first Joint Course between IUT and ZHAW

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Isfahan University of Technology and ZHAW school of Engineering defined their first joint course. This course entitled "Industry 4" and the graduate students in the fields of Mechanical, Electrical, Computer and Industrial Engineering could apply for it. This course has been planned to be conducted before Spring 2020 but because of the outbreak of Coronavirus it has been post-pond to the first semester of the Academic year 2020-2021. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Ashrafizaadeh, Prof. Dr. Peyman Mosadegh from IUT and Prof. Dr. Hans Wernher von de Venn from ZHAW will teach this course.

قابل توجه دانشجویان تحصیلات تکمیلی  
دانشگاه صنعتی اصفهان و  
دانشگاه اصفهان

رشته های مهندسی مکانیک - برقی و کامپیوتر - صنایع

دانشگاه مهندسی مکانیک برگزار می نماید:

درس نسل چهارم صنعت (Industry 4.0)

# Industry 4.0 Course

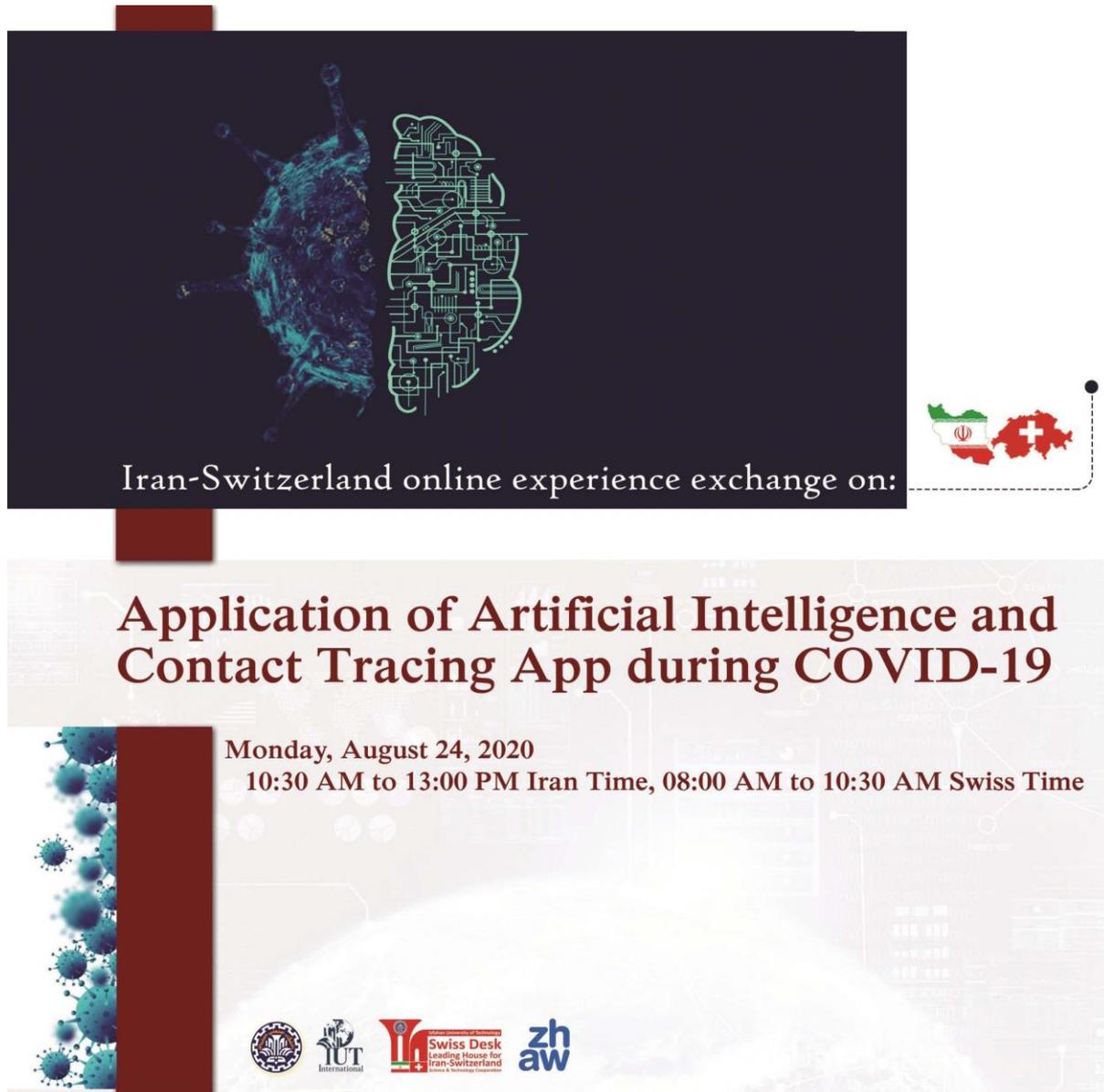
مدرسین:  
دکتر محمود اشرفی زاده و دکتر پیمان مصدق از دانشگاه صنعتی اصفهان  
پروفسور Hans Wernher van de Venn از دانشگاه ZHAW کشور سوئیس

به اطلاع می رساند درس نسل چهارم صنعت (Industry 4.0) در قالب درس مباحث ویژه با همکاری دانشگاه ZHAW سوئیس برای ترم آینده (۲-۹۸) ارائه می گردد. این درس به صورت مشترک بین دانشکده مکانیک دانشگاه صنعتی اصفهان و دانشکده مکانیک دانشگاه ZHAW سوئیس در صورت رسیدن به حدنصاب برگزار می گردد. علاقمندان درخواست خود را تا تاریخ ۱۳۹۸/۱۱/۲۳ با تأیید دانشکده مبنی بر موافقت با اخذ این درس به صورت درس اختیاری برای کلیه گروه ها به دفتر تحصیلات تکمیلی دانشکده مکانیک ارائه و یا با شماره ۰۳۱-۳۳۹۱۵۲۶۶ تماس حاصل نمایند.

مرکز همکاری های علمی بین المللی دانشگاه صنعتی اصفهان

<https://iscoweb.iut.ac.ir/> | @IUT\_International | isfahan university of technology

**Appendix 12- Iran Switzerland Joint Webinar on Application of Artificial Intelligence and Contact Tracing Apps During COVID-19:**



The graphic features a dark blue background with a glowing virus particle on the left and a brain composed of circuitry on the right. Below this, the text 'Iran-Switzerland online experience exchange on:' is displayed. To the right, there is a small graphic of the Iranian and Swiss flags. The main title 'Application of Artificial Intelligence and Contact Tracing App during COVID-19' is written in a large, bold, serif font. Below the title, the date and time are specified: 'Monday, August 24, 2020' and '10:30 AM to 13:00 PM Iran Time, 08:00 AM to 10:30 AM Swiss Time'. At the bottom, there are logos for IUT International, the Swiss Desk (Leading House for Iran-Switzerland Science & Technology Cooperation), and zhaw.

Iran-Switzerland online experience exchange on:

## Application of Artificial Intelligence and Contact Tracing App during COVID-19

Monday, August 24, 2020  
10:30 AM to 13:00 PM Iran Time, 08:00 AM to 10:30 AM Swiss Time

# Webinar Poster

**Iran-Switzerland**  
joint scientific experience exchange

**Application of Artificial Intelligence  
and Contact Tracing App During COVID-19**

**24 August 2020**

**Invited Speakers**

 <b>Prof. Dr. Manshaei H.</b> Faculty of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Isfahan University of Technology	 <b>Prof. Dr. Sayed Jalal Zahabi</b> Faculty of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Isfahan University of Technology	 <b>Prof. Dr. Bahman Zamani</b> Model-Driven Software Engineering, University of Isfahan	 <b>Prof. Hamid D. Taghirad</b> Advanced Robotics and Automated Systems (ARAS), K. N. Toosi University of Technology	 <b>Prof. Hamid R. Rabiee</b> Department of Computer Engineering, Sharif University of Technology
 <b>Prof. Dr. Sang-Il Kim</b> Head of Digital Transformation Division, Federal Office of Public Health	 <b>Prof. Dr. Guillaume Obozinski</b> Swiss Data Science Center, EPFL, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology	 <b>Prof. Dr. Nico Ebert</b> Institute of Information Systems, Security Research Group, School of Management and Law	 <b>Prof. Dr. Javier Montoya</b> Institute of Applied Information Technology, Information Engineering Group, ZHAW School of Engineering	 <b>Dr. Mohammad R. Amirian</b> Institute of Applied Information Technology, Information Engineering Group, ZHAW School of Engineering

**Hosts**

 <b>Prof. Dr. Sima Fakheran</b> Head of Swiss desk (Leading House for Iran-Switzerland Science and Technology Collaboration), Isfahan University of Technology	 <b>Mr. Waseem Hussain</b> Manager Leading House South Asia and Iran, Zurich University of Applied Sciences
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[international@iut.ac.ir](mailto:international@iut.ac.ir)



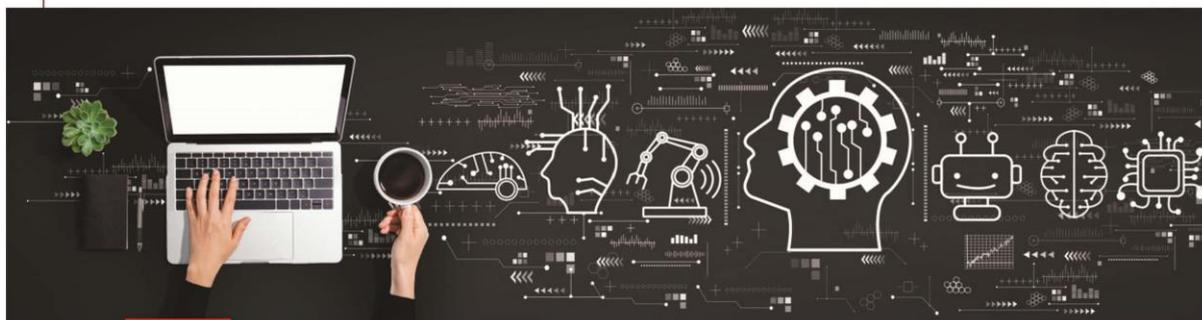
 IUT\_International

## Introduction

With the outbreak of COVID-19, researchers in different sciences have made attempts to conduct research and invent methods to prevent further spread of this disease and fight this pandemic. Since artificial intelligence has a wide range of applications in different sciences and it will definitely have an effective role in future research, the Swiss Desk at Isfahan University of Technology continued its research cooperation with the Swiss Leading House for South Asia and Iran, through holding a mutual webinar on:

### **"Application of Artificial Intelligence and Contact Tracing App during COVID-19"**

The webinar was held on **August 24, 2020** in which 4 lectures from Iran and 4 lectures from Switzerland were given by scholars and researchers in this field. Also, 20 Iranian participants from different universities of Iran and 20 participants from Swiss universities participated in this webinar who were faculty members invited through a call for participation and introduced by each university. During the first part of the webinar, the speakers of the two countries presented their research, and in the second part, there was a Q & A session together with an exchange of ideas.



# Schedule

## Iran-Switzerland online experience exchange

on:

### Application of Artificial Intelligence and Contact Tracing App during COVID-19

Monday, August 24, 2020, 10:30 AM to 13:00 PM Iran Time, 08:00 AM to 10:30 AM Swiss Time

I. Opening meeting by Dr. Sima Fakheran Head of Swiss Desk and Mr. Waseem Hussain Director of Leading House South Asia and Iran (~5mins)

#### II. Scientific Talks:

Title	Presenter	Duration	Email
A) Text Mining for Covid-19: Health Forums, Social Networks, and Research Articles	Prof. Dr. Mohammad Hossein Manshaei and Prof. Dr. Sayed Jalal Zahabi, Faculty of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Isfahan University of Technology	15 mins	manshaei@iut.ac.ir Zahabi@iut.ac.ir
B) A Privacy Preserving Protocol for Covid-19 Contact Tracing Applications: A Blockchain Approach			
Introduction to the Swiss CovidApp	Dr. med. Dipl. Inf. Sang-Il Kim, Head of Digital Transformation Division, Federal Office of Public Health	15 mins	digitaletransformation@bag.admin.ch
Automatic Generation of COVID-19 Dashboard Location-based Mobile Apps	Prof. Dr. Bahman Zamani, Model-Driven Software Engineering Research Group, Dept. of Software Engineering, University of Isfahan	15 mins	zamaniu@live.com
Modeling approaches and dashboards for forecasting Covid cases and death curves at the country/state level globally	Dr. Guillaume Obozinski, Swiss Data Science Center, EPFL Swiss Federal Institute of Technology	15 mins	guillaume.obozinski@epfl.ch
An efficient multi-level localization and proximity estimation framework for Covid-19 infected	Prof. Hamid D. Taghirad, Advanced Robotics and Automated Systems (ARAS), K. N. Toosi University of Technology	15 mins	taghirad@kntu.ac.ir
Self-reported acceptance, motivations and concerns for a Privacy Preserving Contact Tracing App in the Swiss population	Dr. Nico Ebert, Institute of Information Systems, Security Research Group, School of Management and Law	15 mins	nico.ebert@zhaw.ch
Rapid Detection of Coronavirus with Explainable AI from Chest CT-Scans	Prof. Hamid R. Rabiee, Department of Computer Engineering, Sharif University of Technology	15 mins	rabiee@sharif.edu
Deep learning based medical image analysis for COVID-19 Diagnosis	Dr. Javier Montoya & Mohammadreza Amirian, Institute of Applied Information Technology, Information Engineering Group, ZHAW School of Engineering	15 mins	javier.montoya@zhaw.ch mohammadreza.amirian@zhaw.ch

III. Group discussion, idea share and experience exchange (~20 mins)

IV. Closing talks (~5 mins)

## Hosts

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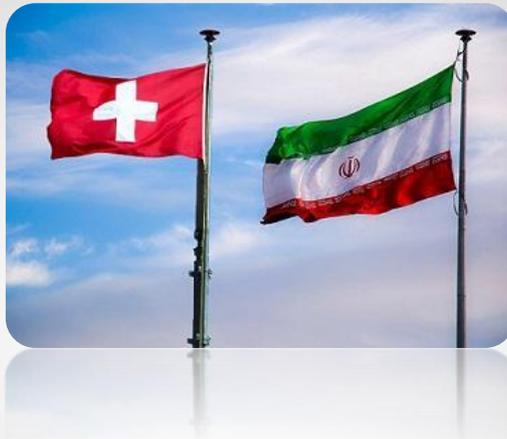


**Appendix 12- Negotiating for establishment of the Iran-Switzerland Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Chamber at the Iranian Embassy in Bern.**

**Negotiations for the establishment of the Iran-Switzerland Science and Technology Cooperation Chamber in Switzerland**

Swiss Desk, with the aim of focusing and accelerating its activities in Switzerland is trying to establish the Iran-Switzerland Science and Technology Cooperation Chamber in one of the offices of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Switzerland. For this purpose, Swiss Desk has held extensive talks with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology. We hope that these efforts will pave the way for the establishment of the Iran-Switzerland Science and Technology Cooperation Chamber in Switzerland within 2020.





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