

# ASIAN MAYORS FORUM



## RETROSPECT & PROSPECTS





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## Message from the Mayor of Tehran

In the Name of the Most High

Dear Colleagues,

As you are informed, the first Asian Mayors Forum, held on November 19th and 20th, 2008, in Tehran and hosted by the Tehran Municipality has been one of the most significant events in the field of urban management in the ancient continent of Asia. The attendance of more than 89 Asian mayors, governors and high-ranking state officials and some of the Asian urban management thinkers and executives indicated the convergence and participation of municipal authorities to solve urban problems in Asia.



The Final Declaration of this meeting underlined the urgent necessity of good governance, sustainable development and citizens' prosperity at national, regional and global levels and aimed at revitalizing the sovereignty and splendor of the great Asian civilization and moving towards higher standards in development.

I would like to express my gratitude towards all the distinguished guests who participated in the first meeting of this forum and to all

those who expressed their interest and solidarity but could not attend.

I am pleased to inform you that with the implementation of article 15 of the final declaration, the Secretariat of Asian Mayors Forum launched its work in Tehran and this important and basic step towards achieving the objectives of the said meeting has successfully been taken.

Presenting to you the attached report, prepared by the Secretariat, on the first meeting of the Forum, I would like to solicit your valuable viewpoints on this new movement. Undoubtedly, your ideas and inputs on establishing closer relations and cooperation with the Secretariat will play a valuable role in achieving the goals of this new continental body. We are all looking forward to the day when the ancient and rich continent of Asia achieves its rightful global status via sympathy and joint efforts of its leaders and citizens.

Taking the opportunity, I wish health, success and prosperity for Your Excellency and the esteemed citizens of your city.

Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf

Mayor of Tehran

## Executive Summary

On November 19th, 2008, Tehran was host to mayors and delegations from 89 cities who attended the first meeting of Asian Mayors Forum. The theme of the meeting was Asia for Citizens: Integration for Better Life and the outlined goals were to explore new perspectives on local governance and urban development throughout Asia. The meeting also sought to stimulate ideas and discussions on networking between major cities as a step towards further integration in the interest of all the citizens of Asia.

This report, tells the story of how the Asian Mayors Forum and its first meeting in Tehran came to be. Objectives and themes of the first meeting will be reviewed. A brief report of the first meeting of the Forum in Tehran will be given, followed by an account of some of the outcomes of the first meeting. The Asian Mayors Forum Secretariat will be introduced and its roles, responsibilities and plans will be discussed. In conclusion, Tehran's views on the future outlook of the AMF, potentials and capacities will be expressed.

## Background

In today's world, collaboration between cities and municipalities around the world has proven to be a productive way of more effectively dealing with the ever-growing challenges of the management of modern cities. More optimal ways of allocation of resources, exchange of know-how and best practices and improvement of city management capacities have been some of the areas in which such collaborations have been successfully used.

At the turn of the new millennium, UN Development Program estimated the number of official global city-to-city links to be between 15,000 to 20,000 (UNDP, 2000). A few examples of such partnerships include: expansion of the rapid bus transit system in Kunming, China through collaboration with Zurich, Switzerland; housing development projects for impoverished neighborhoods of Sao Paulo, Brazil through collaboration with Toronto, Canada and small business developments in Nepal through collaboration with London, UK. There are already different local and international organizations that espouse such partnerships such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Arab Towns Organizations (ATO), Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and National League Cities (NLC), to name a few.

In the 2007 meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in Tehran, Tehran's mayor, Dr. Ghalibaf, proposed the formation of Asian Mayors Forum, an institution that would foster partnerships and collaboration between cities and municipalities across Asia and offered to host the first of the annual meetings in Tehran in 2008. The proposal was received warmly.

Since then, Tehran started preparing itself to host the first meeting of the AMF in November, 2008. Official invitations were sent to many municipalities around Asia and some honorary guests outside Asia. The newly opened Milad Tower and conference center were chosen as the site of the meetings.



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## Theme and Objectives

### Theme: Asia for Citizens: Integration for Better Life

Despite the fact that in the past years, creation of convergence in political, economic and cultural fields in Asia seemed to be an unlikely issue, the spread of communication tools as well as certain universal notions and concepts particularly in the political and economic fields have paved the way for such a convergence.

We are all aware that mega-cities with their evolving roles leave certain impacts that are beyond the impacts left by some countries in the global economy. In many places around the world, mega-cities act as the driving engines of the country's economy and play an effective role in economic development and regional cooperation. Mega-cities provide their inhabitants with a better environment for work, a higher quality of life, improved security, promote spirituality and provide more leisure time. Of course, advanced techniques and internet communication tools are needed for having such achievements in order to promote the status of citizens in the society.

Nowadays, the increasing role of mega-cities and city management systems has become quite clear in forming convergence and sustainable development at the regional level. Moreover, the process of formation of mega-city networks has taken the borders of mega-cities beyond

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their metropolitan borders. Cities are in need of further interaction and convergence in order to obtain their new identity that encompasses all political, economic, social, cultural and geographical elements in a consistent and target-oriented manner. Cities are currently moving towards further welfare and promotion through interaction and following the common goal of having an active and effective presence at the global level.

The 1st Asian Mayors Forum chose the theme of integration for a better life so as to take a step forward for improving the living condition of Asian citizens through the exchange of experiences in Asia

## Objectives

The aim of the first-ever meeting of the Asian Mayors Forum was to explore new perspectives on local governance and urban development throughout Asia. The meeting sought to stimulate ideas and discussions on networking among major cities

as a step towards greater integration in Asia

## Topics

### 1. Local governance and public participation

The issue of public contribution in running the local affairs has been taken into consideration since a decade ago as an essential factor

for development studies. Local governance can be considered as a reliable tool for having public contribution in decision-makings related to the administration of cities and communities. With the involvement of public institutions in the administration of cities, the process has become dynamic and grounds have been paved for full contribution by the people at a higher level.

The public aspect of local governance is manifested within the framework of councils, associations, local assemblies, board of trustees and is tasked with making decisions about affairs that are directly related to the people on people's behalf and supervise the quality of performance by institutions and local governance. Such institutions constitute the most important part of the concept of local governance and reflect the views, ideals, wishes and the demands of local people. People's massive involvement in managing metropolitan affairs is among the most genuine methods of national growth. Because such a useful experience in the administration of public affairs encourages the people to perform major tasks at the national level

The 1st Asian Mayors Forum made efforts so as to make use of successful experiences by Asian mega-cities in running the metropolitan affairs through the involvement of public institutions

### 2. Common challenges to the management of Asian metropolises: Rapid Expansion of Urbanization, public transportation, air pollution, etc.

More strength is needed to manage bigger challenges in Asia that can be gained through convergence and unity. Awareness about the capabilities, capacities, shortcomings and problems in mega-cities (with regard to their role in the formation of national and global economies) will be helpful in eliminating such difficulties. Mega-cities in Asia face common issues such as environmental issues, expansion of urbanization, air pollution, public transportation, urban health and hygiene, cultural diversity, energy consumption, etc.

Expansion of urbanization is not limited to any particular area and is a trend that can be observed throughout the world. Currently, just over half of the world population is living in urban areas and that population is increasing on an annual basis. The spread of poverty and class differences in the society from the economic point of view has made the movement to suburban areas of cities, inevitable. The increasing urbanization in recent decades reflects the ever-increasing importance of using advanced science, technology and successful experiences in city management. Using modern methods of energy consumption particularly in public transportation (that can reduce air pollution) has been on the agenda of public transport management

Through the exchange of information, knowledge and new technologies, the 1st Asian Mayors Forum sought to attain common achievements for countering major metropolitan challenges.

### 3. City to city cooperation

Global developments have led to the emergence of cities as new players in the course of trans-national interactions and besides age-old

players such as international organizations and governments, cities have achieved an effective and important status in the management of international affairs and global governance. In the era of information, raising awareness about the significance of urban life and its necessities and obligations at the individual and social levels has led to the citizens demanding from their local governments and municipalities to put improvement of quality of life issues in cities and good governance very high on their lists of priorities.

The urban nature of mega-cities cannot fulfill human and social demands of citizens. Citizens are seriously looking for a city based on humanitarian relationships and social spirit in order to achieve security, welfare and happiness. Such ideals have created common opportunities and challenges for big cities in different parts of the world and have turned cooperation among them into an inevitable issue. Therefore, a new level of reciprocal relationship has been created among these cities that are worth analyzing at local, national and trans-national levels and can even be considered as practical models. It goes without saying that Asia enjoys tremendous capacities and capabilities for developing cooperation among mega-cities. There are many such successful experiences throughout Asia.

The 1st Asian Mayors Forum sought to prepare fertile grounds for discussing these successful experiences and innovative ideas for enhancement of cooperation among cities in Asia.

## The First Meeting

### Opening Ceremony

The meeting formally commenced on the morning of Wednesday, November 19th, 2008 by opening remarks of the Secretary of the meeting, Dr. Mahmoud Mohammadi and a message from the Secretary Gen-



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eral of the United Nations. The President of Islamic Republic of Iran and former mayor of Tehran, Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadi Nejad, delivered his speech and the mayor of Tehran, Dr. Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf welcomed the attendees of the Forum and expressed his views on the potentials of city-to-city collaborations in Asia.

#### **Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadi Nejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

“All cities shall get their identities from their own citizens and their structures shall represent identities, histories and cultures of its residents. What they shall have in common is perfectionism, psychological security and peace, interaction and relationship based upon ethical values, kindness, spirituality and the drive towards human perfectionism.”



#### **Dr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Mayor of Tehran**

“History of Asia is the root history of human societies. Geography of Asia, is the world’s vastest and has the most attractive geographical landmarks. Asia is the cradle of ancient civilizations, origin of noble cultures and beautiful exhibitions of different languages, colors



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and human races. Economy of Asia is one of the most prominent and essential axes of the global economy. Politics in Asia is complex, stable and is highly effective and influential due to its history and background. “

**Message of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of United Nations, Delivered by Dr. Mohamed Halfani, UN-HABITAT Distinguished Representative**

“Local authorities are close partners of the United Nations system. As we have reaffirmed to your umbrella organization, the United Cities and Local Governments, we will continue to work with you in pursuing our common agenda of development and peace. UN Habitat, the focal point for local authorities within the UN system, provides the necessary space for contributing to global decision-making.”



**Dr. Mahmoud Mohammadi, Secretary of the Meeting**



“It goes without saying that the warm welcome extended by you, the talented directors and researchers of the urban management from Asia, Europe and Africa, to this meeting is a valuable asset which encourages us to turn this forum into a permanent reliable body in Asia.”

## General Assembly

Following the opening ceremony, the General Assembly began its meeting and thirteen of the attending dignitaries delivered their speeches in morning and afternoon sessions:



**Distinguished Guest of the Forum, Mr. Dominique de Villepin  
the Former Prime Minister of France**



“Isolated acts are doomed to fail and any progress requires exchange of experiences. In the long run all political measures shall be adopted based on real and diverse expertise services.”

**Mr. Bassam Raad, Mayor of Baalbek**

“We believe that having the present meeting in the Islamic Republic of Iran, will provide us with a fresh and dynamic power in the course of history of Asian nations, more towards a better life; the move and the drive whose outcome will be very tangible and decisive for the future of the people living in this region to the extent that we can get a clear view of our states in the world as well. “

**Ms. Deuntenduang Na Chiengmai, Mayor of Chiang Mai,  
Thailand**

“Only through exchange of information, knowledge, new technologies and public awareness concerning the positive impacts of integration in economic and social fields can we achieve the goal of sustainably, pleasant environment and hence a better life.”



**Mr. Mazhar Hossein, Deputy Mayor of Islamabad**



“Presently the city (Islamabad) has demand for 150000 housing units per a year but the present system is able to provide only half of these and this demand is increasing by 5000 units every year. This pressure is also giving rise to unplanned settlements in and around the cities in the form of unplanned villages and urban slums.”

**Mr. Ahmet Selamet, First deputy chairman of Istanbul Municipality, Turkey**

“Istanbul links Asia to Europe and has played its deserved role as the main economic coordinator between these two continents. Especially in recent years and by holding and hosting different international political, economic, and sports events, Istanbul demonstrated its high capacities in the world.”



**Mr. Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, Mayor of Kolkata**



“We have to have access to the latest technology and at the same time, to go for capacity building programs. The employees who were habituated with the archaic systems of the world, they are not willingly going to accept the modern technology, but we have to make them to accept that for which the capacity building is one of the most important aspects of the whole system.”

**Dr. Mahmoud Kilic Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC)**



“Working hand in hand, parliaments and municipalities can develop ideas and enact relevant and necessary legislations to protect the environment. For this high goal, I wish that this meeting will strengthen ties among municipalities.”

**Mr. Majid Milad Aljazayeri, Head of Manameh City Council**

“It is through such meetings that we can seek and find a unified definition and the norms of the best urban management or the best local governance even at international level; the definitions and the norms through which we can identify and select the best cities.”



**Mr. Zaki Alghul, Mayor of Qods Al Sharif, Palestine**

“You may be surprised if I tell you that I live in the capital of Jordan, since I am not allowed to live in my own hometown, the town in which according to my identification documents and deeds, for the past 800 years my ancestors have lived there.”



**Ms. Janet Micheal, Mayor of Ramallah**



“I carry with me, grief and difficulties of the Ramallah Municipality and my colleagues in Palestine. Ramallah, this peaceful city is the window of Palestine to the outside world. Ramallah is adjacent to the Holy Qods. It is the place where all Palestinians, who live in different parts of the world, can get together and meet each other.”

**Mr. Mahdi Chamran, Distinguished Head of Tehran Islamic City Council**

“In a study at the glance we can see that our cities and megacities in Asia are not free from challenges. In order to overcome these challenges, to succeed and to go through a healthy, well-developed, and I add, a well-dignified city, a utopia, we should make great efforts.”



**Mr. Naoki Inose, Deputy of the Governor of Tokyo**

“By hosting the world’s most compact and environment- friendly Games[2016 Summer Olympics, for which Tokyo is a candidate], Tokyo hopes to disseminate to the world urban model for the 21st century. We would greatly appreciate your kind support toward this end.”



## Expert Sessions

On the morning of Thursday, November 20th, 2008, Expert Sessions in three parallel sessions were held. Dr. Masoud Islami, the Chairman of the Expert Committee, supervised the sessions and Dr. Mozafari, Director of the International Relations Department of the Municipality of Tehran was in charge of coordinating the agenda of these sessions.

### Session 1: City to City Cooperation

Chair: Ms. Arti Mehra, Mayor of New Delhi

Co-chair: Dr. Karbasian, Urban Services Deputy of Tehran Municipality

### Session 2: Local Governance and Public Participation

Chair: Ms. Deunteuduang Na Chiangmai, Mayor of Chiang Mai

Co-chair: Dr. Pour Mousavi, Adviser to Mayor of Tehran

### Session 3: Common Challenges to the Management of Asian Metropolises

Chair: Mr. Majid Milad Aljazayeri Head of City Council of Manama

Co-chair: Dr. Vaeze Mahdavi, Coordination and Planning Deputy of Tehran Municipality

### Highlights of the speeches by members of the Expert Sessions:

The first speaker, Dr. Ameli, professor at Tehran University delivered a talk titled "Tehran Virtual City", which aims at providing a virtual metropolis where citizens can have access to most urban services without having to physically travel to the service provider. In addition he mentioned that a virtual city must resemble a real city and must contain all the same elements.

Mr. Salaheddin Yildirim of UCLG-MEWA was the next speaker in the panel, who addressed the issues of cities, cooperation, and coexistence of many cultures. He said, "Half of mankind live in cities, and half of them are not living in good conditions» and then he emphasized the importance of human nature in relation to spirituality and development of moral and spiritual senses and values.

The podium was next given to Dr. Rafiee, who emphasized the association of good governance with five major principles: Fairness, Accountability, Performance, Direction and Legitimacy. At the end, she

recommended enhancing social capital and public trust by increasing the quantity and quality of social responsibilities of municipalities.

Moments later Mr. Mehmet Demirci, Mayor of Tuzla, Turkey, introduced a project called, “360 degree performance evaluation and management system», in which efforts of all municipality staff including the mayor are evaluated by the people through a questionnaire, and the feedback is returned to them.

Dr. Mohammad Taghi Razavian, professor at Shahid Beheshti University, expressed and emphasized that the general objective of the city-to-city cooperation projects is to transfer the knowledge and expertise of cities and offer an inexpensive yet efficient management system adapted to local conditions. Dr. Razavian commented that city-to-city cooperation should be based on two main parameters, i.e., “mutuality and equality» He suggested more cooperation in promotion of modern urban management techniques in cities.

Dr. Ebrahimi elaborated on socio-economic challenges and Dr. Assadi, focused on urban health equality which is a moral value in our religious beliefs.

## Final Declaration

In a workshop consisting of mayors and experts of public metropolis authorities, the draft of the final declaration, in 15 articles, was reviewed, discussed, approved and ultimately prepared for presentation in the closing ceremony. The final declaration was adopted by the general assembly on November 20th. The following is the text of the final declaration:

*We the Mayors and Authorities of 89 Asian cities convened in Tehran, and kindly hosted by the people and municipality of Tehran, on 19-20 November 2008, for the first meeting of the Asian Mayors Forum representing our respective Municipalities and Localities do hereby:*

*1. Appreciate the pioneering role of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in promoting a comprehensive approach to regional cooperation in Asia and recalling its Tehran Declaration of 2007 encouraging “Asian local governments, city councils, and mayors to exchange information and experience with a view to promoting cooperation and integration in Asia;”*

2. Welcome the initiative by His Excellency Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf the Mayor of Tehran for organizing the Asian Mayors Forum as a new institution aiming at promoting and facilitating further cooperation and networking among Mayors and Municipalities of Major Cities throughout Asia;

3. Acknowledge the contribution of Asian Major Cities, as the cradles of civilization, to the development of human society at large; Underscore the essential role of cities in realization of good governance, sustainable development, and human prosperity, at national, regional, and global levels;

4. Underscore the essential role of cities in realization of good governance, sustainable development, and human prosperity, at national, regional and global levels;

5. Envisage Asian Major Cities as coherent cities which are historically significant; economically strong; socially prosperous; culturally diverse; politically influential; technologically advanced; environmentally clean; and internationally proactive;

6. Recognize that further interaction and integration among Asian

Major Cities, will facilitate urban development and pave the way for higher standards of living throughout Asia;

7. Recall the enormous potentials of Asian Major Cities for city-to-city cooperation in areas such as urban planning and management, urban tourism and architecture, trade and investment, energy, science and technology;

8. Express concern about the common challenges facing Asian Major Cities, including rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, vulnerable socio-cultural identity, uneasy transportation and mobility, underdeveloped health and safety, urban inequality and poverty, unstable financial resources, and natural disasters;

9. Support the development of new networks among Asian Cities for the exchange of information, organization of expert conferences, and initiating joint research projects as well as training programs, to meet the common challenges facing the efficient urban management in Asia;

10. Express satisfaction with growing awareness vis-à-vis the effectiveness of local governance and public participation in the improvement of urban services in the Asian Major Cities;

*11. Determine to promote policies and practices providing greater role for public participation in decision-making processes of urban management;*

*12. Resolve to collaborate with regional, international, and Asian sub-regional organizations and fora in promoting further cooperation and integration across the continent;*

*13. Decide to establish and maintain an information portal on the Internet linking all Asian Cities with a view to promote further communication and facilitate “virtual cities” as effective infrastructural means for city good governance;*

*14. Decide to convene annually in the meeting of the Asian Mayors Forum to be hosted by a volunteer city in order to discuss matters of our common interest and coordinate efforts in meeting our common challenges;*

*15. Appreciate the generous initiative by the Municipality of Tehran to set up and host the Secretariat of the Asian Mayors Forum in order to facilitate future networking activities and follow up the realization of this Final Statement.*

## Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony was held on the afternoon of Thursday, November 20th. The following are highlights of the given speeches:

### **Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the I.R. Iran Parliament**



“Strategic view to the international scene gives a historic opportunity to Asia, using which requires ingenuity, rational behaviour and Asians’ convergence around common interests and avoiding superficial differences, so that in this period of transition of power poles, they can find their rightful place.”

### **Mr. Hadi Al Bakkush, Former Prime Minister of Tunisia**

“From a geographical point of view, Asia is far from us, but from a historical and sentimental point of view, our two continents are very close to each other. Historical and religious borders bring us closer to each other.”



**Mr. Mahdi Chamran, Head of Tehran Islamic City Council**

“I hope we can construct the union of Iranian mayors as a basis for the union of Asian mayors as proposed by the I.R.I. president. I hope this forum initiates a vast range of ideas and thoughts which would result in the formation of the union of Asian Mayors.”



The final declaration was recited by Ms. Arti Mehra, the Hon. Mayor of New Delhi, in English and by the Dr. Mahmoud Mohammadi, the Hon. Secretary of the Meeting in Persian. It was simultaneously interpreted to English, Arabic, French, Russian and Japanese.

**Mr. Djoko Ramadhan, Mayor of West Jakarta**

“The suggestion of the second Asian Mayors forum was mentioned in Jakarta and as A.P.A is supposed to hold a summit there. It is my privilege to inform your Excellencies, that I will have the honor to render this suggestion to H.E. Governor of Jakarta for further evaluation and decision making. I am pretty sure that H.E. the Governor would cherish and agree with this suggestion.”



At this point, the mayor of Tehran, Dr. Ghalibaf, delivered his closing remarks and annulled the meeting’s memorial stamp.



**Asian Integrity Anthem Closing Performance**



## Farewell Dinner Ceremony at Islamic Republic of Iran Parliament



*The pyramid-shaped building of The Iranian Parliament*

In the evening of Thursday, November 20th, a farewell dinner ceremony was hosted by and held at the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Majlis). The Secretary of the Meeting delivered a report to the Head of the Executive Board of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Hon. Hojjat al-Islam Abutorabi Fard and other distinguished representatives and mayors. Mr. Abutorabi Fard expressed his gratitude to the mayor of Tehran, the Forum organizers and all the distinguished

guests. He also expressed his gratitude to the Palestinian mayors for their participation and conveyed his sympathy especially to the mayor of Holy Qods for the hardships and oppression of the Palestinian people.



*Hojjat al-Islam Abutorabi Fard, Iranian Parliament member and the head of the executive board of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly*

## Post-meeting Visits

### V.I.P. Meetings

Many bilateral and multi-lateral meetings were held among the participating dignitaries.



*Meeting of Governor General of Tokyo and Mayor of Tehran*



*Meeting of Former Prime Minister of France and Mayor of Tehran*

**Visit of Hon. Guests to the Mausoleum of Imam Khomeini (RA)  
the Founder of The Islamic Republic of Iran**



**Visit to Exhibitions**

- Common Identity
- Achievement and operation of municipality of Tehran

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**Visit to Municipality of Tehran Traffic Control Center**



**Visit of Distinguished Guests to**

- Mehr News Agency
- Tehran Municipality
- Sama News Agency

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**Trip of Distinguished Guests to Shiraz, City of poetry and literature by the Invitation of Hon. Mayor of Shiraz**

The city of Shiraz, located in the southwest of Iran, with more than 4000 years of history is one of the richest historical and cultural centers in Asia. With its exquisite gardens, tombs and monuments of Persian literary luminaries such as Saadi and Hafez, it is also a short drive from Persepolis. Persepolis was the capital of Achaemenid Empire. The earliest remains from Persepolis date back to 515 BC and the ruins of this ancient city are one of Iran's prime touristic attractions.



*Tomb of Hafez, Persian Sufi Poet of 14th Century C.E.*



*Tomb of Saadi, Persian Poet of 13th Century C.E.*



*Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire (550-330 BCE)*

## Participating Cities

Ahwaz, Iran	Hamedan, Iran	Paris, France
Al Wakrah, Qatar	Hims, Syria	Qalqilyah, Palestine
Aleppo(Halab), Syria	Ilam, Iran	Qazvin, Iran
Ankara, Turkey	Isfahan, Iran	Qom, Iran
Arak, Iran	Islamabad, Pakistan	Qubairi, Lebanon
Ardebil, Iran	Istanbul, Turkey	Qods, Palestine
Ar Rayyan, Qatar	Jakarta, Indonesia	Ramallah, Palestine
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Kabul, Afghanistan	Rasht, Iran
Astana, Kazakhstan	Karachi, Pakistan	Rome, Italy
Athens, Greece	Karaj, Iran	Saint Petersburg, Russia
Baalbeck, Lebanon	Karbala, Iraq	Sanandaj, Iran
Baghdad, Iraq	Kerman, Iran	Sari, Iran
Bandar Abbas, Iran	Kermanshah, Iran	Semnan, Iran
Basra, Iraq	Keserouan, Lebanon	Shahr-e-Kord, Iran
Bikfaya, Lebanon	Khorram Abad, Iran	Shiraz, Iran
Birjand, Iran	Khujand, Tajikistan	Tabriz, Iran
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Kolkata, India	Taizz, Yemen
Bojnord, Iran	Kotte, Sri Lanka	Tokyo, Japan
Bushehr, Iran	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Tripoli, Lebanon
Caracas, Venezuela	Kuwait City, Kuwait	Tunis, Tunisia
Chiang Mai, Thailand	Lahore, Pakistan	Tuzla, Turkey
Chok Jakarta, Indonesia	Lagos, Nigeria	Tyre, Lebanon
Damascus, Syria	Manama, Bahrain	Urumiyeh, Iran
Delhi, India	Manila, Philippines	Yasuj, Iran
Dushanbe, Tajikistan	Mashhad, Iran	Yazd, Iran
Dubai, United Arab Emirates	New Delhi, India	Zagreb, Croatia
Galle, Sri Lanka	Nicosia, Cyprus	Zahedan, Iran
Gorgan, Iran	Octav, Kazakhstan	Zanjan, Iran

## Asian Mayors Forum Secretariat



With the initiative of the Tehran Municipality and as acknowledged in the last article of the Final Declaration of the first meeting of AMF, Tehran was to host the Secretariat of the AMF in order to “facilitate future networking activities

and follow up the realization of this Final Statement.”

The Secretariat was soon set up after the Tehran meeting. Mr. Mohammad Khodadadi, a former Iranian diplomat with vast international experiences around the globe and the Senior Adviser to the Mayor of Tehran on international relations, was appointed by Dr. Ghalibaf as the Acting Director of the newly formed office.

The Secretariat has various responsibilities including: coordination of the general assembly’s meetings and planning of their agendas, creating budget forecasts for various activities of AMF and offering financial reports on expenses and budget, preparation of AMF activity reports and presentation to the members and the general assembly, monitoring the progress of AMF work groups and collecting their activity reports and presentation of all the agreements of the Forum to the members and all the involved and interested parties.

The Director of the Secretariat will be responsible for all communications, financial affairs and other executive activities of the Secretariat.

Currently, the AMF Secretariat office is located at:

**Number 6, Anahita Ave., Africa Blvd.  
Tehran, Iran  
19176-43383**

and can be reached at:

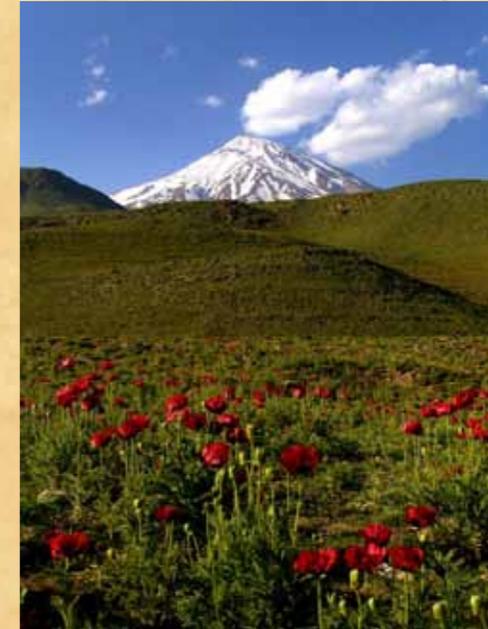
**+ 98-21-88-67-41-50 (phone)    + 98-21-88-67-52-50 (fax)  
info@asianmayors.org            www.asianmayors.org**

## Future Outlook

As has been discussed throughout this report and elaborated on by many speakers of the first meeting, the similarities of common challenges among different cities in Asia create vast opportunities for Asian cities to help each other by exchanging their knowledge, experiences and technologies in the field of urban management. By doing so, they can work together in achieving higher qualities of life for Asian citizens and in the process, creating deeper and stronger bonds among Asian nations.

In order to identify priorities and areas in which there are more immediate needs and potentials for cooperation, Asian cities can share the fields in which they are more readily available and interested to engage in such collaborations. Exchanges of such information could be facilitated through the Secretariat of the Forum.

The wide adoption of electronic communications has made it possible that in near future, more and more exchanges of information and technical knowledge and the coordination of further engagements could



Mount Damavand

be accomplished by using the myriad possibilities of digital communication and the Internet.

It is our vision and hope that this new initiative, the Asian Mayors Forum, along with the common desire of all humans to achieve higher standards of life, tranquility and more harmony with our neighbors within our borders or across national borders and more harmony with our environment, will succeed in bringing about tangible improvements to the lives of Asian citizens and bringing us closer and elevating this continent to levels of excellence felicitous for Asian citizens and the generations that will come after us.