

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

On behalf of Iran and its honorable people, I extend my warm greetings and deep respect to the distinguished audience. I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers and participants of this meeting. Furthermore, I would like to offer special thanks to the officials from the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and the Center for Language Education and Cooperation for providing this opportunity for discussion.

As you are aware, Iran is a country with a rich history spanning thousands of years, and the scope of the Persian language is beyond the current geographical borders of Iran. Iranians have always maintained close ties with various nations. Among these connections, one of the oldest and most enduring relationships has been with China. The association between these two great nations dates back over a millennium, and today we witness extensive commercial, economic, cultural, and educational exchanges between the two countries.

The bond between Iran and China is so strong that the people of both nations have long interacted daily, reading poems of Sa'di, Ferdowsi, and Shahriar while enjoying a cup of tea, or trading various agricultural products that were once transported from Iran to ancient China.

The exchanges, both historical and ongoing, between Iran and China encompass cultural, artistic, educational, and economic aspects, highlighting the depth of the relationship. In line with these exchanges, the purpose of this meeting and discussion is to establish the necessary foundation for cultural, educational, and research cooperation between the Center for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC) and Iran Language Institute (ILI).

Iran Language Institute, as the oldest and largest foreign language teaching institute in Iran, has served millions of individuals since its establishment in 1925. Currently, our organization offers courses in English, French, German, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Turkish, and of course Chinese, across 31 provinces and 135 cities in Iran. With over 300 education centers, we educate more than 1.2 million language learners annually.

Additionally, Iran Language Institute produces educational materials and offers support in teaching foreign languages as well as teaching Persian to non-Persian speakers. Furthermore, in collaboration with reputable institutions from other countries, we administer international language proficiency tests, including Spanish DELE, French DELF and DALF, Italian CELI, and Russian TORFL. We are currently in the process of seeking authorization to conduct TOEFL and IELTS examinations. These educational and research endeavors are made possible through the ceaseless efforts of our dedicated workforce, comprising 5,000 experts committed to their craft.

This workforce includes 3,500 foreign language instructors and 1,000 administrative and executive personnel. It is important to note that Iran Language Institute (ILI)

operates under the umbrella of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, which is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Presently, the Iranian Ministry of Education is responsible for providing educational needs of over 15 million students in Iran.

At Iran Language Institute (ILI), our education system and curriculum are designed to cultivate national identity, patriotism, cultural cohesion, and Islamic solidarity. Key principles within this education system include learner autonomy, teacher authority, and attention to learner differences, lifelong learning, and integration of educational elements.

To attain our educational goals, we adopt a balanced approach to teaching the four core language skills (listening, reading, speaking, and writing). To this aim, our language learners are exposed to a wide range of vocabulary and grammar concepts.

Official Chinese language education in contemporary Iran commenced in 1996, offering academic courses. Tehran University, as the country's leading university, took a good step by introducing Chinese language courses. Other schools and individuals have also shown interest in this field. Recognizing our position as the largest and most prestigious language school in the country, Iran Language Institute made the decision to offer Chinese language training courses and initiated its activities in the winter of 2020.

In addition to providing insight into the perspectives of 1.5 billion people, Chinese language education offers academic and job opportunities for our people. Most importantly, it allows individuals to get familiar with the millennia-long social experiences of this populous nation.

At Iran Language Institute, we are committed to expanding Chinese language education in Iran. Currently, the Chinese language education program at Iran Language Institute consists of four stages: Beginner, Elementary, Intermediate 1, and Intermediate 2. By successfully completing these stages at Iran Language Institute, language learners can readily fulfill their daily communication needs at an advanced level and even pursue bachelor courses at selected universities in China.

Undoubtedly, the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between Iran Language Institute and the Center for Language Education and Cooperation, along with our meeting and discussions today, brings great potential for enhancing Chinese language education in Iran and contributes to significant advancements in this field.

As outlined in the Memorandum, it is vital for us to take important steps such as developing a comprehensive program, building a large pool of qualified teachers, creating Chinese language textbooks and educational resources, promoting cultural immersion, fostering scientific research, and ensuring quality monitoring. Iran Language Institute, with the support of the Institute for the Intellectual Development

of Children and Young Adults, is fully prepared to undertake these endeavors and welcomes the signing of this Memorandum.

Moreover, I believe it is essential to suggest another opportunity for collaboration to major foreign language education centers in China and potential investors interested in this field. Iran Language Institute currently offers high-quality language learning with the most competitive prices for language learners. With the cooperation of international partners, we can extend our services globally. In addition to our existing pool of 3,500 active teachers of Persian and nine other languages, we have the capacity to recruit 7,000 more Iranian professional teachers.

Furthermore, our online education platform and software enable us to provide both the necessary instructors and the technological infrastructure. We are eager and ready to receive proposals and requests for collaboration from investors who are interested in developing affordable, high-quality foreign, as well as Persian, language education. We undoubtedly offer the most competitive prices for teaching Persian and other languages at the global level. Therefore, we are ready to engage in partnerships with the aim of expanding language education at regional and global levels.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for attentively listening to my presentation. I sincerely hope that in the near future, we can establish extensive cooperation in the realm of expanding Chinese language education in Iran. I wish you all good health and prosperity. May God protect you.