



3 Iranian documents added to MoW

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will add three Iranian works to its list of the Memory of the World (MoW) Program. UNESCO's Executive Board approved Iran's proposal to add the trio. Iran's ambassador to UNESCO said they include the entire great works of famous Iranian poet Jalal ad-Din Mohammad Rumi, also known as Molavi, (including Masnavi, Divan-e Kabir, Majales Sabe, Maktubat and Fihe-Ma-Fih - a collection of mystical sayings), documents on the history of Iran's foreign relations during the Qajar Era and documents related to Sheikh Safi Al-Din Ardabili tomb.

Iran to build cultural route to honor two philosophers

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

Iran is set to create a new cultural route, the Hekmat Highway, which will connect the birthplace and residence of Shihab al-Din Suhrawardi with the place of residence and death of Avicenna, a prominent physician and philosopher. The aim of the project is to "connect the wisdom of two great Iranian and Eastern philosophers," according to Mahmoud Shaloui, head of the National Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization.



In an interview with Iran Daily, Shaloui explained that Hekmat Highway will cover a distance of over 140 kilometers, passing through valleys, and several cultural programs are devised for tourists along the way. It will serve as a cultural, economic, and tourist area, connecting two of Iran's most renowned thinkers.

"Although most people know Avicenna as a skilled physician, he also had a high position in the field of philosophy and was considered the most important figure of the Mashaa'i school of philosophical thought," said Shaloui. "On the other hand, we have Shihab al-Din Suhrawardi, who was one of the great philosophers and mystics of the sixth century AH, and presented the Illuminationist school of philosophy." Shaloui also revealed plans for the construc-

tion of a commemorative building for Shihab al-Din Suhrawardi in Sohrevard, Zanjan Province, as well as other cultural programs to mark the 101st anniversary of the establishment of the National Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization. Hekmat Highway is part of Iran's wider efforts to promote its rich cultural heritage and commemorate its most celebrated figures. The organization has previously worked with municipal governments to build commemorative statues in cities, including the statue of Ferdowsi in Tehran.

"We are proud of our cultural heritage and believe that initiatives like Hekmat Highway will help us share it with the world," said Shaloui. "We look forward to welcoming visitors to this new cultural route and sharing the wisdom of our great philosophers with them."

Khalkhal villages attractive to tourists

Iranica Desk

The city of Khalkhal, in the northwestern province of Ardebil, is neighbor to East Azarbaijan, Gilan and Zanjan provinces. It is connected to Gilan Province through the Khalkhal-Asalem and Punel roads. The city's appropriate geographical location and unique climate have a significant impact on the economic, social and cultural life of its residents. Moreover, Khalkhal, home to a variety of ethnic groups including Turks, Tats and Kurds, offers a unique example of co-existence and tolerance among people. It is known as a suitable place for carrying out anthropological and cultural studies chn. ir wrote.

According to Ali Darvishi, head of the city's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, out of 12 tourist villages of Ardebil Province, five are located in Khalkhal.

Kazaj village

Kazaj village, 57 kilometers from Khalkhal, has unique architectural features. Moreover, its residents attach great importance to the preservation of old traditions and customs passed down through generations. Grapes, walnuts, apples, pears, hawthorns, apricots, cherries, sour cherries, and berries are among the main crops of Kazaj village. Darvishi noted that a large number of Iranian and foreign tourists travel to the region to visit the amazing traditional architecture

of this village, which has an architecture similar to that of Massouleh in Gilan province. He said that 12 eco lodges have been established in the village during the past six years, attracting many travelers from across Iran and the world. This helped boost the rural economy in the region and also encouraged a number of villagers to convert their houses into accommodation units. Referring to the implementation of the prov-

ince's first pilot ecotourism plan in the village, he said that permissions have been issued for the establishment of 40 new eco lodges in the region.

Barandaq village

Barandaq is among the largest villages in the province located at the crossroads of Ardebil, East Azarbaijan and Zanjan provinces. This village is neighbor to the pastures and slopes of Aqdagh Mountain from the north, and Qezl Ozen

River from the west. The people living in the village attach great importance to the environment and nature. On the fourth day of the Iranian month of Farvardin (March 24), which was designated as "The Clean Day of Barandaq," rural people gather to collect litter and clean the village.

A variety of fruit orchards such as pomegranate, apricot, plum, peach, cherry, nectarine, pear, grape, apple, blackberry, mulberry, fig and raspberry are in the village. Dried fruits produced in Barandaq are not only supplied to domestic markets but also exported to many foreign countries. Most of the rural men are engaged in farming, gardening and livestock breeding, while the women are active in the fields of sock-knitting, bag-weaving, carpet-weaving, sewing, and making dairy products such as butter, yogurt, buttermilk, and cheese.

Majulan village

Majulan is another tourist village of Khalkhal, which is neighbor to Gilan Province from the north. Due to its appropriate geographical location, it has a beautiful nature and pleasant climate. With an elevation of 3,000 meters above sea level, the Shah Moallem peak of the village is a destination for a large number of ecotourists. The village has a large number of springs and an ice cave, which has remained untapped.

Andabil village

Andabil village, where the

climatic is mostly moderate in the summer and cold in the winter, is located in the central district of Khalkhal. Due to its geographical location and special climatic condition, a winter festival with various programs such as making snowmen and cooking regional foods is held.

A river passing through the village, with a dense residential area, helps enhance the beauty of the region.

Rural houses with gable roofs and mud walls create a very beautiful landscape. In addition to farming and livestock breeding, the rural people, especially women, are engaged in the production of various handicrafts including kilims, jajims (a type of traditional Iranian floor covering) and carpets. Oak forests and raspberry bushes create a beautiful view in the village, especially in the spring, summer and autumn. Moreover, Miradel spring, originating from a high mountain, dazzles the eyes of every viewer.

Khujin village

Khujin village, home to the amazing Aznav spring, is among the most popular tourist destinations of the province. Access to natural water resources has caused the agricultural sector of the village to flourish. Located on the route leading to Gilan Province, the village is near towering mountains, green forests and lush plains. Khujin village's weather is moderate in the summer and cold in the winter.



Kazaj village
ardabilchta.ir

Barandaq village
tishneh.com

Khujin village
mehrnews.com

Majulan village
fahzakh.com

Andabil village
IRNA

Waste sorting can generate revenues, jobs



Social Desk

Humans are dealing devastating blows to the environment through their harmful activities such as polluting the air and contaminating the soil which result in global warming and climate change. Plastic bags that we use on a daily basis are among major environmental pollutants. Plastic bags are difficult and costly to recycle and most end up on landfill sites where they take hundreds of years to degrade naturally. They break down into tiny toxic particles that contaminate the soil and waterways and enter the food chain when animals accidentally ingest them. Household waste also harms the environment. Sorting rubbish can help ensure that hazardous substances are disposed of safely. By separating different materials, most of them can also be recycled into new products.

Hamid Reza Panahandeh, who is an environmental activist, says sorting household waste can generate huge revenues and reduce environmental pollution. "The value of our country's waste in one year amounts to €4 billion. Household waste can enter the recycling process. For example metals can be recycled and converted into new metal products. Plastics can turn into granules. Wet

waste can be converted into compost and fruit peels can be processed for feeding livestock," he said.

Dry waste includes items such as bottles, cans, clothing, plastic, wood, glass, metals and paper. Wet waste pertains to all items that are organic like food items, soiled food wrappers, hygiene products, yard waste, tissues and paper towels, as well as any other soiled item that would contaminate the recyclables.

Panahandeh added that the recycling industry can generate 120,000 jobs in the country. He said environmental issues should be pushed to the forefront calling on the government to raise public awareness about threats posed to the environment.

The environmental activist said apart from awareness, the carrot and stick approach can be useful.

"To resolve environmental problems a combination of awareness, reward and punishment are effective. If people had to pay for the plastic bags, they would use them several times. Free services could also be offered to households that sort waste."

The segregation of wet and dry waste plays a major role in promoting a more sustainable environment and reducing the adverse impacts of waste on our planet.