

Sobh Media Festival Calls for Entries

TEHRAN -- The third edition of the Sobh International Media Festival – Iran’s prestigious international media event – is accepting entries worldwide until February 5, 2025.

The Sobh International Media Festival was launched in 2023 by the World Service of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), the state broadcaster of the Islamic Republic.

The annual media festival aims to facilitate connections between a heterogeneous group of international media practitioners and foster constructive interactions among them, Press TV reported.

“The festival seeks to recognize and honor talented individuals involved in media activities, offering them the opportunities they deserve to further their artistic creation and innovation. Our goal is to build a strong and influential international media presence,” reads a statement by the festival organizers.

“We aim to expose artists to a diverse array of media through our educational initiatives, including workshops and seminars, thereby broadening their perspectives and encouraging independent thinking.”

The festival focuses on “Media and the New World Order,” examining the importance of local and regional identities, spirituality, family values, and resistance discourse in the face of hegemonic powers.

Ehsan Kaveh, the deputy head of the IRIB World Service, will be the festival secretary this year.

While announcing the call for entries at a press conference in Tehran on November 30, Kaveh said the festival is focused on media with the least overlap with similar domestic events.

“In the second edition, we received over 3 thousand works from different countries, such as the United States, Ireland, Chile and Canada. From today until February, the time when the selection committee members will choose the works to participate in the festival, there is an opportunity to register your works,” he said at the time.

Kaveh expressed hope for the third edition of the festival to be held in the first half of May 2025 as planned and for the closing ceremony to be on May 9, 2025.

This year’s edition of the Sobh International Media Festival will include two main segments: the general segment and a special segment dedicated to Palestine.

Here is the link to submit entries to this year’s festival.

Main Section:

TV Series
Talk Shows
Magazine Shows
Documentaries
News Reports and Features
Motion Graphics
Articles: Feature, Viewpoint, Investigation
Radio Programs and Podcasts
Social Media Content: Video-casts, Animations, Short Films, Vlogs

Special Palestine Section:

Feature Films
Music Videos
Short Films
Short Animations
Illustrations
News Blogs
Awards

Main Section:

Best TV Series: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €5,000



Best Documentary: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €3,000

Best Talk Show: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €2,000

Best Magazine Show: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €2,000

Best News Report: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Best Motion Graphics: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Best Radio Program and Podcast: €1,500

Online and Multimedia Section:

Best Videocast: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Best Animation: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Best Short Film: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Best Vlog: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Best Article: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Special Palestine Section:

Best Feature Film: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €5,000

Best Video Clip: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Best Short Film: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Best News Blogger: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Best Short Animation: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Best Illustration: Festival Trophy, Plaque of Honor, and €1,000

Market Section:

The Market Section will be introduced as a new addition in this round of the Sobh Festival, featuring participation from buyers and distributors of both domestic and international works.

Festival Rules:

Television works in the Open Section must be submitted with English subtitles.

For all sections, a final clean version of the work without subtitles must be submitted after selection for the competition.

Producers or distributors are responsible for their works’ participation in the festival.

Works that have participated in other festivals or have been broadcast in media are still eligible for the Sobh Festival.

The production date must be from early 2024.

The festival committee reserves the right to use 3 to 5 minutes of selected works for promotional and informational purposes.

A copy of the submitted works will be retained in the festival’s repertoire for non-commercial use by the festival secretariat.

If a prize is awarded to multiple individuals in a category, the cash prize will be divided among them.

The format requirements for submitted works in each section are specified in the respective registration form.

Submitted works must be free

of watermarks and distributor logos.

Works submitted in previous editions of the festival are not eligible for participation.

Requests for entry with incomplete documentation or technical issues will not be considered.

Registration and submission of all information must be conducted exclusively through the festival’s online platform.

The producer or distributor is responsible for addressing any claims related to material, moral, and citizen rights, and the festival assumes no liability in this regard.

Responsibility for publicity, legal issues, and copyright based on the information provided in the form lies with the signatories of the form.

According to festival regulations, if any provided documentation is found to be incorrect or if the attribution of the work is proven false, the work will be disqualified, and the applicant will bear all consequences.

Completing and submitting the festival entry form constitutes acceptance of all festival terms and conditions.

For this edition of the festival, there are no time restrictions for feature films in the Palestine section and series in the main section.

In the Social Media section, the link and information for the social media post should be recorded.

Submission Deadline and Instructions:

Television works must be produced in 4K, 2K, Full HD, HD, or SD resolution.

Submissions should be in H264 or MP4 format with a bit rate of 6 to 8 megabits per second, at a resolution of 1080i or 1080p, or as SD files with a resolution of 576p for review.

Selected television works must be submitted as data files in one of the following formats: MOV, MPEG2, MXF, AVI, or H264 (MP4). These can be sent via a link or delivered to the festival secretariat in person.

Audio works should be submitted in WAV format.

For the Articles Section, participants must submit their works in Microsoft Word documents or PDF formats.

In the Social Media Section, providing a link to the published work is mandatory; submissions without a link will not be accepted.

Deadline for Registration and Submission:

February 5, 2025

The Secretariat’s Address:

No. 4, Shahid Heidarnia Street (East 2nd), Muhammad Ali Keshavarz Boulevard, Farhang Square, Tehran, Iran.

Postal Code: 1997754746

Phone: +98 21 23066166

Website: www.sobhfestival.com

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Leader’s Remarks About Jesus Submitted to Pope

TEHRAN – Iran’s Ambassador to Vatican City Muhammad Hussein Mokhtari has presented Pope Francis with a plaque containing a selection of remarks by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei about Jesus Christ.

The ambassador presented the plaque to the Pope as the two met on Saturday.

The pontiff said that the plaque, titled “If Jesus Christ were among us”, contains significant and impactful points for followers of Christianity.

He also expressed concern over Israel’s aggression against Palestine, saying that he continues to follow up on the situation in Palestine on a daily basis through his representative there.

The Pope asked the Iranian ambassador to convey his warm greetings to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

According to a press release by Khamenei.ir, the official website of the Leader, the plaque handed over to the Pope hailed Jesus Christ as a great prophet who spent his life fighting cruelty and corruption and standing up



against those who had used their money and power to impose sufferings on nations.

“If Jesus Christ were among us today, he would not miss a moment to fight leaders of oppression and global arrogance, and would not tolerate the hunger and perplexity of billions of people who are exploited by big powers and are driven towards war and corruption.”

According to the website, part of

the statement called on Muslims and Christians to use prophets’ teachings to establish a just global order and promote human virtues.

“Following Jesus Christ requires support for the truth and disavowal of the powers against the truth. It is hoped that Christians and Muslims, wherever they are in the world, will keep alive this great lesson of Jesus Christ in their lives and actions.”

Knowledge-Based Iranian Firms to Attend Tech Fair in India



TEHRAN -- Several Iranian knowledge-based firms are due to participate in the International Engineering & Technology Fair (IETF) in India.

The 26th edition of IETF 2025 is planned to be held in New Delhi on February 18-22.

It will display innovations through focused shows in industry sectors – Artificial Intelligence (AI), Capital Machinery, Digital Gaming, Fluid Power, Industrial Automation, Robotics and Electronics, Modern Logistics Solutions,

Metal and Metallurgy, Water and Waste Management, Net Zero Products & Solutions and Consumer Durables and Electronics, and Plant Equipment, Component, Factory and Plant.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) had announced in September that the country’s knowledge-based companies exported over 3.6 million tons of products, valued at \$2.506 billion, in the past Persian calendar year.

In this period, the knowl-

edge-based companies accounted for 2.6 and 5 percent of the country’s total exports in weight and value respectively.

Advanced materials and products based on chemical technologies accounted for about 80 percent of the export value of these companies.

China was Iran’s first buyer of knowledge-based products in this period.

The report added that some 1.158 million tons of goods, valued at \$5.141 billion were also imported by knowledge-based companies into the country from March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024.

About 85 percent of the goods imported by the knowledge-based companies came from China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Germany, and India.

The domestic knowledge-based companies exported their products to China, Iraq, the UAE, Turkey, and Russia in this period, IRICA said.

Picture of the Day



Shahar Chai Dam in Urmia.

Photo by Mizan Online