

NIOC, Sinopec in Talks for Phase-2 of Yadavaran Oilfield



TEHRAN - The director of investment and business of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Fereydoun Kurd Zanganeh has emphasized that Iran and China planning for the development of the Yadavaran field and other joint fields.

He noted that the first phase of the Yadavaran oil field was already completed by Sinopec in 2015 with a capacity of 110,000 barrels per day and is productive, adding: "According to the negotiations with this company, the second phase of the development of this joint field was also planned to be handed over to this company, but unfortunately, at that time, the former oil minister stopped the negotiations, therefore, in the past year, NIOC has conducted regular negotiations with Chinese companies in the development of oil and gas fields."

The investment and business manager of NIOC emphasized that Sinopec has not yet announced in any way that it will not cooperate in the development of the Yadavaran field, and stated: "The officials negotiating with this company at NIOC are looking for new ways to use the investment opportunity I Yadavaran Oilfield."

Stressing that the development of the Yadavaran field is one of the priority projects of

NIOC, Kurd Zanganeh said: "The early production plan of the Yadavaran field is in line with the main plan of the Chinese company, and some of my colleagues in the subsidiary companies have had discussions about this field and negotiations with the Chinese side. It should be done with the coordination of the National Iranian Oil Company because the negotiations are going on confidentially at the management levels of the two companies."

He considered the integration of the joint Azadegan field and the development of joint oil fields with Iraq among the axes of the negotiations with Sinopec, and added: "Now, due to the identification of the shareholders of the consortium developing this field, NIOC, as the employer, has requested in our negotiations with this Chinese company to be present as an investor in this field."

The NIOC official further stated: "Last year, Sinopec, which has a history of cooperation with Iran in the first stage of the development of the North Azadegan field, offered to cooperate with us again."

Kurd Zanganeh, referring to the negotiations between NIOC and the administration to use the China-Iran credit line for the development of joint oil

fields, added: "In the last negotiations we had with one of the large Chinese companies, this company was willing to invest three to one (one share for Iran, three shares for China) in the Iran LNG project using the China-Iran credit line."

Iran, China Can Triple Trade to Over \$70bn

Chairman of Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce Majid Reza Hariri said that the two countries have a potential to triple the value of their annual trade to over \$70 billion.

Hariri said that Tehran and Beijing can capitalize on their growing political and energy ties to boost bilateral trade.

He said trade between Iran and China has been stable in recent years despite US sanctions targeting Iran's access to international markets.

"We have had around \$24 billion worth of trade with the Chinese even under the worst conditions of sanctions and we can reach at least triple that figure," said Hariri in an interview with the official government newspaper Iran.

The businessman hailed China's policy of maintaining close economic relations with Iran despite U.S. sanctions, adding that trade with Beijing has been much easier for Iran compared with other trade partners since 2018 when Washington imposed its sweeping sanctions on Tehran.

He said China has increased its purchase of Iranian crude oil despite US bans, adding that the country even declares some limited state purchases of Iranian oil in its customs figures to show that it officially rejects the unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran.

Iran Reports Major Surge in Petrochemicals, Oil Products Exports

TEHRAN - Iran has reported major increases in exports of certain petrochemicals and oil products in the calendar year that started in late March 2022.

An industry source said on Tuesday that petrochemicals shipment had accounted for \$12 billion or 27% of Iran's total exports in the 10 months to late January.

Hamdi Hussein, a senior member of Iran's Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters Union (OPEX), said oil products exports from Iran had reached \$13 billion between March 2022 and January this year.

Hussein said that Iran had earned some \$4.9 billion from exports of 6.6 million metric tons (mt) of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in the nine months to late December, an increase of 120% compared to the same previous period.

He said exports of methanol from Iran had reached \$1.8 bil-



lion for 6.8 million mt of shipments in the nine months to late December.

The businessman added that Iran had exported 1.6 million mt of urea worth \$975 million in the nine calendar months to the end of 2022, adding that exports of polymers also increased by 77% over the same period.

A Tuesday report by the official IRNA news agency said that Iran had earned some \$1 billion from

exports of bitumen over the 10 months to late January.

The figures come amid Iran's continued efforts to increase its exports of petroleum products and petrochemicals as a solution to avoid foreign sanctions affecting its direct crude oil exports.

Experts say the policy has strengthened Iran's non-oil exports and led to the creation of tens of thousands of new jobs in the country.

BofA: Russia Nearing Top Spot as Premier Oil Exporter

LONDON (Business-Insider) - Larger-than-expected Russian petroleum exports could help the Kremlin reclaim the top spot as the premier global oil exporter, according to Bank of America.

Despite sanctions aimed at crippling the Kremlin's oil revenue and limiting its ability to transact internationally, the influx of Russian oil to the global market has helped create a surplus. BofA cited three main factors for the turn of events for the Kremlin, starting first with the actual price cap on Russian crude.

First, BofA noted that the Western and European price cap was above the market price for the country's benchmark crude product, allowing Russia to continue to rake in profit from buyers looking for cheap energy supplies. The price cap was deliberately set up that way in order to keep Russian oil on the market with the broader intention of avoiding an energy shock.

The price cap took hold in December of last year at \$60 per barrel, with the Group of Seven nations as well as Australia participating.

Secondly, BofA said, ban on insurance for tankers carrying Russian crude was extended to 90 days, allowing Moscow's crude to stay on the market for longer. Finally, Russian crude oil headed to the Middle East is now considered locally produced, allow less scrutiny over the flow of the barrels.

Meanwhile, a Tuesday report from Bloomberg said that Russian companies conducted the most drilling at oil fields on more than 10 years in 2022, which helped the Kremlin's export rebound in the second half of last year.

IRICA: Trade With Latin America Exceeds \$600mn

TEHRAN - Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has reported that the country traded 559,735 tons of goods worth \$612.94 million with Latin American countries.

The report said that, Iran traded 559,735 tons of goods (excluding oil exports) worth \$612.94 million with Latin American countries during the first 10 months of the current Iranian year (March 21, 2022-Jan. 20).

Iran exported goods to only 13 Latin American countries and imported from 11 of 33 Latin American countries during the period.

Trade with Brazil stood at 457,473 tons worth over \$396.62 million, for the Latin American country to



top the list of Iran's partners in the region. It was followed by Venezuela with 48,886 tons worth \$113.76 million and Argentina with 49,048

tons worth \$84.78 million.

Iran's exports totaled 193,642 tons worth \$187.73 million during the period under review.

EU Lawmakers Approve Effective 2035 Ban on New Fossil Fuel Cars

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Parliament has formally approved a law to effectively ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the European Union from 2035, aiming to speed up the switch to electric vehicles and combat climate change.

The landmark rules will require that by 2035 carmakers must achieve a 100% cut in CO2 emissions from new cars sold, which would make it impossible to sell new fossil fuel-powered vehicles in the 27-country bloc.

The law will also set a 55% cut in CO2 emissions for new cars sold from 2030 versus 2021 levels, much higher than the existing target of a 37.5%.

"The operating costs of an electric vehicle are already lower than



the operating costs of a vehicle with an internal combustion engine," Jan Huitema, the parliament's lead negotiator on the rules, said, adding that it was crucial to bring more affordable electric vehicles to consumers.

EU countries agreed the deal with lawmakers last October, but still need to formally rubber

stamp the rules before they can take effect. Final approval is expected in March.

New vans must comply with a 100% CO2 cut by 2035, and a 50% cut by 2030, compared with 2021 levels.

Many carmakers in Europe have announced investments in electrification.

Tehran to Host Foreign Investors in TIM 2023

TEHRAN - Director of the Technology Investment Meeting (TIM) Milad Sadrkhanlou says that the TIM 2023 event will be held in the coming days with the participation of foreign investors from different countries.

Saying that so far, 4 technology exchange events have been held between D8 countries, Milad Sadrkhanlou stated that TIM 2023 is scheduled to be held with the participation of Iranian and foreign investors in Pardis Technology Park on February 27 and 28.

Start-up investors, knowledge-based companies, and universities will take part in this event, he added.

Stating that the event is aimed at attracting investment, Sadrkhanlou stressed that the Islamic countries that are members of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation participated in the past 4 TIM events.

The TIM 5 will be held with differences, which is the presence of other countries outside the D8, he continued.

Sadrkhanlou also added that over a hundred knowledge-based companies, start-ups, investors, etc have registered for the event from Iran, Turkey, Armenia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Syria, and Guinea.

Delegations from Mongolia, China, Ukraine, and Canada will also be present at this event virtually, according to him.

Software and information technology, medicine and medical equipment, mining and energy, as well as creative industries, are among the fields that start-ups can present their ideas about during the meeting.