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In order to expand the university's international scientific interactions with overseas academic institutions, the IUT International is publishing this electronic Newsletter on international relations and in line with the IUT mission towards a Green University.

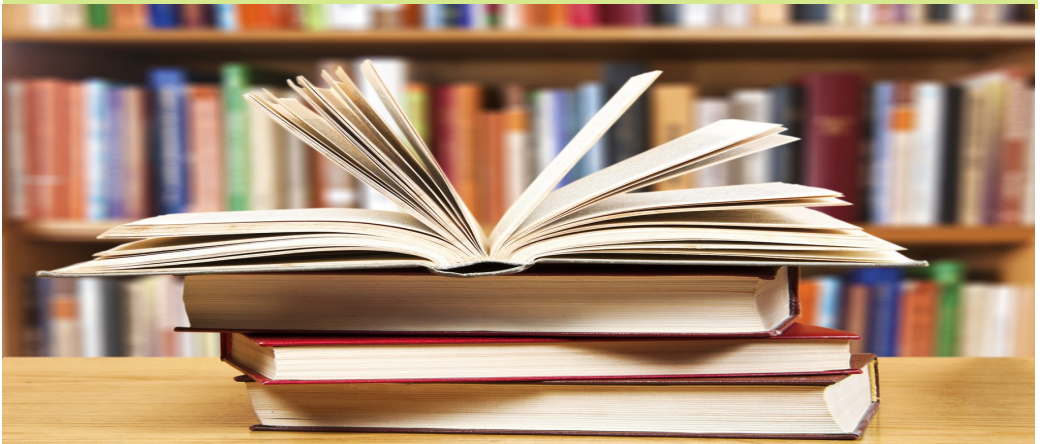
You are invited to register your email [here](#) to receive the new issue of the newsletter upon its publication. You can also correspond with the editorial board from [here](#) to convey your valuable comments and suggestions or to send materials related to IUT to be published in future issues of the newsletter.

To see the previous issues and more information on the newsletter, please click [here](#).

In addition to being distributed via social networks, this newsletter will also be available through the following QR code. Your constructive participation in this path will guide us toward our goals.



## Welcome to New Academic Year 2020-2021



### IUT President's Message:



**Prof. Dr. S. M. Abtahi:**

**“Universities are the Future of Our Country .”**

***Welcome to Isfahan University of Technology!***

I hope you are celebrating your university admission and getting back to school time, despite all that's happening right now. Due to the widespread Coronavirus outbreak, the coming academic year will be associated with virtual education characterized by a regular and disciplined program.

All of you, the faculty, students, and staff, must know that, no matter what, you are our most valuable assets and without you, the university's goals will not be achievable. ***We pursue lofty goals with a common identity under one flag, relying on God and His care.***

Whether you are a new or returning student, a faculty member or a staff member, this year will be like none we've ever experienced before. However, even though this year will

be different, we have been working to ensure that every student still has an enriching experience at IUT and all of the faculty and staff do their jobs in a safe and healthy environment. Therefore, ***be motivated, stay positive, stay safe, the sun shines again.***

To get some information about IUT capacities and potentials, you can download the IUT prospectus for the new academic year from the following link:

[https://international.iut.ac.ir/sites/iscoweb/files/u758/iut\\_prospectus\\_2020-21.pdf](https://international.iut.ac.ir/sites/iscoweb/files/u758/iut_prospectus_2020-21.pdf)





### Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Ignazio Cassis and Ambassador Markus Leitner Travel to Isfahan, the Pearl of the Middle East



Federal Councilor **Ignazio Cassis**, head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and **Markus Leitner**, ambassador of Switzerland in Iran, visited Isfahan on September 5, 2020 and had a meeting with representatives of Isfahan University of Technology (IUT) as the Swiss Desk, Iranian Leading House for Science and Technology Cooperation between Iran and Switzerland.

**Prof. Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid**, IUT acting president for International Affairs and Technology Infrastructures, **Prof. Dr. Sima Fakheran**, director of International Scientific Cooperation Center and head of Swiss Desk at IUT, **Prof. Dr. Mahmud Ashrafzadeh** and **Prof. Dr. Peiman Mosaddegh**, IUT faculty members from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering as grant winners of joint research projects and scientific collaborations between Iran and Switzerland from IUT attended this meeting.

His Excellency, the Swiss Foreign Minister, appreciated the international scientific activities of IUT as a reference for scientific cooperation between Iran and Switzerland and emphasized on the stability and development of this cooperation. Explaining the views and policies of Switzerland on international scientific interactions and emphasizing the development of scientific diplomacy between the two countries, he described scientific diplomacy as a way for countries to have more interactions. [Read more...](#)

## UT5 on the Road to Internationalization



On the track of holding frequent meetings by the top 5 Technological Universities (UT5), a virtual meeting was held on Wednesday, September 23, with the presence of the Presidents and International Affairs Directors of Isfahan University of Technology, Sharif University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, K. N. Toosi University, and Amirkabir University. The website of this group, which was launched by the Iran University of Science and Technology, the secretariat of this group, was displayed to the other members.

In order to develop and foster more international scientific activities, holding webinars and joint workshops as winter schools were suggested and put on the agenda. For this reason, it was asserted that each university would submit its proposal until the next UT5 meeting. In organizing the scientific events of this winter school, efforts will be made to benefit from the presence and experience of international professors from prestigious universities around the world. Also, successful graduates of these universities who are lecturers and speakers abroad, together with speakers from member universities, will take part in the webinars and workshops.

## Isfahan Joined the UNESCO World Network of "Learning Cities"



**David Atchoarena**, Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, congratulated the Mayor of Isfahan for becoming a member of this global network. "With this membership, your city will join a network that aims to support and accelerate lifelong learning," the letter reads. He also stated: "Through its activities, the network promotes dialogue and interaction, learning and cooperation between member cities."



With this membership, Isfahan will join a global network that aims to elevate and support lifelong learning. It should be mentioned that Isfahan had previously become a member of the UNESCO network of creative cities in the field of handicrafts. The UNESCO World Network of Learning Cities is the tenth world organization or international network in which Isfahan has been able to become a member by obtaining the necessary requirements. Isfahan and two other Iranian cities, Tehran and Bandar Khamir, joined this network in this year. Isfahan University of Technology and the other members of Isfahan Universities Network (IUN) welcome this opportunity to expand their academic partnerships with other universities in this Network.



**A Winner of Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Scientists**



Dr. Mahshid Kharaziha, a faculty member of the Faculty of Materials Engineering, Isfahan University of Technology, has been awarded a fellowship by the German Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. She has published various papers in Materials Science and Engineering. She is also a member of the Biomaterials Research Center, Materials Faculty, IUT, and was a member of the executive committees of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Surface Engineering and Heat Treatment, Isfahan, Iran (2009). She has also been the reviewer of several scientific journals. In this interview with Dr. Kharaziha, we were keen to know about her experiences on how to receive the Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Scientists, as well as the impact of such international scientific interactions in promoting technical knowledge and skills, on which she explained: Regarding how to receive the cooperation of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), with the collaboration of a professor at this center, I prepared a proposal on “Modern Treatment for Rare Skin Diseases” and applied for Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Scientists. In this regard, there should be a host university that is interested in cooperation. After accepting the partnership from an institution in Germany, I applied for the fellowship. Based on my own request, the duration of this fellowship is one year, which is to be conducted in two parts. Certainly, using these programs proliferates the experience and knowledge of students and can also increase the interactions of IUT with the world’s key universities. It should be noted that AvH has very motivating plans to support young researchers around the world.



Dr. Mahshid Kharaziha

**A Glance over the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany**



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) has been working since 1983. Over the past years, 26,000 outstanding researchers from around the world have benefited from its support so that 51 Nobel Prize winners in various fields have also received research scholarships from this foundation. The foundation attempts to support the scientific connection between the world’s outstanding scientists and German researchers optimally.



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

**Conditions for Obtaining Successful Scholarships:** The selection of individuals for receiving the Foundation's scholarships is solely based on the ability of the applicants and their scientific records. Research experience of individuals plays a key role in this regard. The selection of the project and its implementation is exclusively in the applicant and the German host professor’s hands and the foundation has no involvement in doing so.

**Scholarships:** The Foundation offers a variety of programs for researchers in various categories. For example, researchers with a doctorate degree who have been graduated for 4 years or less and have high-quality scientific papers can participate in the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (stay in Germany for 6-24 months with a monthly salary of € 2,650) and researchers who have a doctorate degree that 12 years or less is passed after obtaining their degree and have high-quality scientific papers can apply for the Experienced Researchers Fellowship Program (stay in Germany for 6-18 months with a monthly salary of € 3,150). The following table is a brief description of the opportunities available at the Foundation:

Origin	Academics from abroad	Academics from Germany
<b>Career stages</b>		
<b>Postdoctoral researchers</b> (up to 4 years after completion of doctorate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Humboldt Research Fellowship</li> <li>Georg Forster Research Fellowship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship</li> </ul>
<b>Junior research group leaders</b> (up to 6 years after completion of doctorate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sofja Kovalevskaja Award</li> </ul>	
<b>Experienced researchers</b> (up to 12 years after completion of doctorate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Humboldt Research Fellowship</li> <li>Georg Forster Research Fellowship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship</li> </ul>
<b>Internationally renowned academics</b> (up to 18 years after completion of doctorate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award</li> <li>Humboldt Research Award</li> <li>Anneliese Maier Research Award</li> <li>Max Planck Research Award</li> <li>Alexander von Humboldt Professorship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Max Planck Research Award</li> </ul>

**Submission Deadline:** A written application can be submitted at any time of the year, but applicants' documents will usually be reviewed in March, July and November each year. The decision is made based on the capabilities of the applicant and by an independent committee, which takes a time approximately 4 to 7 months to review the documents.

**How to apply:** The first step is correspondence with a German professor to obtain his or her consent and prepare a research proposal. Scholarships include a monthly salary, travel expenses, German language tuition for 2-4 months at Goethe Institute in Germany (and if it is not possible to travel to Germany, it is also possible to pay for an intensive language course in Tehran), enjoying benefits of the graduation department such as providing equipment and books, a two-week tour of Germany, a visit to German industry, and the use of limited short-term research courses in Germany. A list of more than 23,000 German academic and non-academic research institutes can be found at: <http://www.research-explorer.de>.





**What is the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)?**

The UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities is an international policy-oriented network providing inspiration, know-how and best practice. Learning cities at all stages of development can benefit greatly from sharing ideas with other cities, as solutions for issues that arise as one learning city develops, may already exist in other cities.



The Network supports the achievement of all seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular **SDG 4** ('Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all') and **SDG 11** ('Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'). The UNESCO GNLC supports and improves the practice of lifelong learning in the world's cities by promoting policy dialogue and peer learning among member cities; forging links; fostering partnerships; providing capacity development; and developing instruments to encourage and recognize progress made in building learning cities.

**What is a learning city?**

A learning city promotes lifelong learning for all. UNESCO defines a learning city as a city that:

- effectively mobilizes its resources in every sector to promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education;
- revitalizes learning in families and communities;
- facilitates learning for and in the workplace;
- extends the use of modern learning technologies;
- enhances quality and excellence in learning; and fosters a culture of learning throughout life.

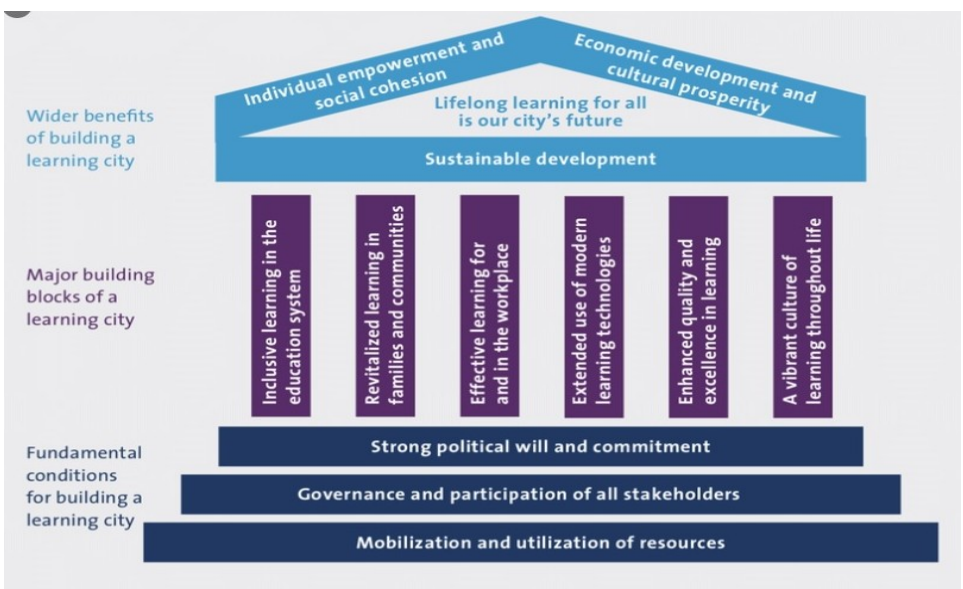
In doing so, the city enhances individual empowerment and social inclusion, economic development and cultural prosperity, and sustainable development.

**Why learning cities?**

**Lifelong learning lays the foundation for sustainable social, economic and environmental development.** The idea of learning throughout life is deeply rooted in all cultures. However, it is becoming increasingly relevant in today's fast-changing world, where social, economic and political norms are constantly being redefined. Studies have shown that lifelong learners – citizens who acquire new knowledge, skills and attitudes in a wide range of contexts – are better equipped to adapt to changes in their environments. Lifelong learning and the learning society therefore have a vital role to play in empowering citizens and effecting a transition to sustainable societies.

While national governments are largely responsible for creating strategies for building learning societies, lasting change requires commitment at the local level. A learning society must be built province by province, city by city, and community by community.

The city of Isfahan has been joint this global network in September 2020.



Adopted from: <https://uil.unesco.org/lifelong-learning/learning-cities>

## Opportunities:



### SECOND CALL OF MSRT/NIMAD – TÜBİTAK BILATERAL COOPERATION LAUNCHED



#### MSRT/NIMAD – TÜBİTAK Bilateral Cooperation Call Launched

Joint research projects will be supported within the scope of Cooperation Agreement between the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) and Ministry of Health and Medical Education.

Scientists in Iran who want to propose a joint research project must agree with the researcher(s) working in the research institutions in Turkey whom they will carry out the project together as “project partners”. Unilateral project applications are not accepted. [Read more...](#)

## CERN:



Looking forward to a career in engineering, applied physics or computing?

At CERN you will have the opportunity to apply for student internship on the world's most ambitious experiment!

If you're a motivated student looking for an opportunity to work in a unique environment at the cutting edge of technology, this is your chance to take part.

Apply now: <https://careers.smartrecruiters.com/CERN/tech>

Deadline for applications: 19 October 2020.

## Joint Investigation on COVID-19

### Autumn School on Bilevel Optimization

OCTOBER 12 - 14, 2020

#### The Research Training Group on Algorithmic Optimization

The fifth annual Autumn School  
October 12 – 14, 2020.  
This year's Autumn School will take place in a digital setting (via ZOOM).

**Confirmed speakers**

- Martine Labbé, Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Ivana Ljubic, Essec Business School
- Didier Aussel, University of Perpignan

The workshop is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 12, 2020.

**Organizers:**

- Marina Leal Palazon, Trier University
- Martin Schmidt, Trier University

There is no registration fee.  
Registration Deadline: September 28, 2020  
Elevator Pitch: The title and slides of the elevator pitch should be emailed to [shaw\[at\]uni-trier.de](mailto:shaw[at]uni-trier.de) no later than October 5, 2020  
The workshop will take place in a digital setting. Please complete the registration form to receive all necessary information.

IUT International 031 33912505-6

<https://alop.uni-trier.de/event/autumn-school-on-bilevel-optimization/>

The Research Training Group on Algorithmic Optimization (University of Trier- Germany) announces its Fifth Annual Autumn School scheduled from October 12 – 14, 2020. This year's Autumn School will take place in a digital setting (via ZOOM).

[Read more...](#)

## International Etiquette & Communication Protocol (part 2)



International etiquette, and sometimes travel, are confounded by many of the international situations in the world today. Your foremost concern is for your safety. Beware of travel alerts or advisories, and adjust accordingly. We will discuss many of the key points you will need to know for international etiquette.

Each time you travel abroad, you should research the specific region and country you visit to be aware of cultural shifts. It is important to know the cultural nuances for your respective area of travel. We will give you the framework to do well with international etiquette, but your partners will be more impressed if you have knowledge of their cultural intricacies. Etiquette is not recognized as one uniform set of standards around the globe. A hand sign that means, "Hi, how are you?" in the United States, might have the



opposite meaning in other cultures and countries. The importance of relationships cannot be overstated in international business etiquette. How you meet and greet is the most important part of your visit, because you never get a second chance to make a first impression. Here are some ideas for making a positive first impression:

- Dress for the meeting in a manner that reflects the culture and reflects your partner's expectations.
- Determine in advance who you will be meeting with, their position in the company, and who else might be meeting with you. Rehearse the meeting in your mind as you travel to your destination.
- Establish clear objectives for your meeting in advance.
- Communicate in a polite manner, with a positive attitude, using proper etiquette.
- Understand the history and culture of the country you are visiting and learn a few phrases in their language. At a minimum, be able to use the words "yes," "no," "please," "thank you," and "help". Clients or partners will appreciate someone who tries to speak their language, even if it is only a few phrases.
- Understand how the residents of the country you are visiting speak to one another, non-verbal signs they may use, and what style you should mirror.

The more you understand about the culture, and the more of their language you can use, the deeper the relationship will be.

### Greetings, Introductions, and Handshakes

- Never seem insincere. The phrase, "How are you?" is taken as insincere in many cultures, because they feel you do not truly want to hear the reply to the question. "Hi," is taken in the same manner. A good standard greeting to use is, "Hello, I am pleased to meet you".
  - When making introductions, always stand and the person of highest rank should initiate the handshake.
  - Many cultures have differences in the way they use titles and first or last names when making introductions. Always ask locally what the appropriate usage is. Concierges at hotels are often willing to give you guidance. In the next issue, we will discuss Negotiations, Exchanging Business Cards and so on.
- Stay tuned for more information in the next issue...

<https://www.universalclass.com>



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Your constructive comments and suggestions are most welcomed.

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