

ECI NEWSLETTER

ECO CULTURAL INSTITUTE

NO: 03 JULY 2026

CULTURE COOPERATION CREATIVITY



Message from the President



Amb. Muhammad Hassan, President, ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)

Dear Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this edition of the ECO Cultural Institute Newsletter. More than a record of our activities, it reflects our shared commitment to advancing the cultural dimension of regional cooperation and fulfilling the mandate entrusted to the ECO Cultural Institute.

The Economic Cooperation Organization is guided by the conviction that enduring regional cooperation is strengthened not only through economic collaboration but also

through the cultural and civilizational ties that have connected the peoples of our region for centuries.

Guided by this vision, the Institute continues to promote culture as a bridge for dialogue, mutual understanding, and sustainable development.

The initiatives presented in this issue embody that commitment. From preserving the manuscript heritage of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani and publishing the first comparative study of cultural policies in the ECO Member States, to launching the First ECO International Mobile Photography Festival and strengthening cooperation with fellow ECO institutions, each initiative contributes to safeguarding our shared heritage, fostering scholarly exchange, and bringing the peoples of our region closer together.

Equally encouraging has been the expansion of our partnerships with leading cultural and academic institutions. During my recent visit to Pakistan, the ECO Cultural Institute and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts agreed to jointly organize an ECO Art Exhibition, an ECO Film Festival, and artist exchange



programmes among Member States. The National College of Arts, Lahore will host the Second Meeting of the Network of ECO Art Universities in November, while agreement was reached in principle to organize the First ECO Language Festival in Islamabad in late 2026 or early 2027. Constructive consultations also advanced preparations for an international conference on the Indus Civilization and its linkages with other contemporary civilizations of the ECO region, reaffirming the importance of scholarship in deepening our understanding of a shared past. These initiatives are united by a common purpose: to transform our shared cultural and civilizational heritage into a living force for regional cooperation. They reflect our belief that culture is not only a legacy to be preserved, but also a resource for building trust, strengthening dialogue, and shaping a more connected and peaceful ECO community.

As you explore this edition, I hope you will see not only the progress of the Institute, but also the shared aspirations of our Member States. I sincerely thank our partners, scholars, artists, and friends for their continued confidence and collaboration. I hope you will enjoy reading this edition.

Ambassador Muhammad Hassan
President
ECO Cultural Institute

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ECI Convenes Regional Consultation on the Manuscripts of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani

TEHRAN – July 14, 2026



Scholars and cultural experts from across the ECO region participating in ECI's consultative meeting on the preservation and publication of the manuscript heritage of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani

The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) convened a regional consultative meeting dedicated to the collection, critical editing, and publication of the manuscript heritage of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani, bringing together leading scholars, researchers, and cultural experts from across the ECO region.

The meeting explored practical avenues for preserving and promoting the intellectual legacy of the renowned scholar, philosopher,

and Sufi thinker, while encouraging closer academic cooperation among ECO Member States in the field of manuscript studies.

Opening the session, Amb. Muhammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, described the initiative as more than a publishing project, calling it "a shared intellectual and cultural journey to rediscover one of the region's greatest civilizational legacies." He emphasized that Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani's teachings on spirituality, justice, and service to humanity continue to offer valuable inspiration for dialogue and regional solidarity.

The programme featured contributions from distinguished scholars and experts from Iran, Tajikistan, and Pakistan, who examined the challenges of identifying authentic

Preserving the legacy of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani is not only an academic undertaking but a shared responsibility to safeguard the intellectual heritage of our region.

manuscripts, preparing critical editions, and preserving Hamadani's literary heritage. Participants also highlighted the importance of coordinated regional research and scholarly exchange to ensure that his works are accurately documented and made accessible to future generations.

The consultation concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening institutional cooperation and establishing a sustainable network of researchers dedicated to the preservation, critical editing, and publication of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani's manuscripts based on the earliest and most authoritative sources.

Highlight Box



The meeting brought together experts from Iran, Tajikistan, and Pakistan to advance regional cooperation on the collection, critical editing, and publication of the manuscript heritage of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani.





**Consultative Meeting on the
Collection, Editings, Publication of the Manuscripts of
Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani**

نشست مشورتی درباره گردآوری، ویرایش و انتشار
نسخه‌های خطی
میر سید علی همدانی

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 11:00- 12:30
10, Baqer Al-Nemer (ex. Naz) St, Movahed
Danesh Ave., Aqdasiyeh.

ecieco_org

www.ecieco.org

جهت شرکت در برنامه، لطفاً با شماره ۲۷۶۷۳۲۰۴ - ۲۱ تماس حاصل فرمایید.
For participation in the event, please contact: + 21 - 2767 3204



Amir Mohammad Hassan
President of ECO Cultural Institute
(ECI)

آقای امیر محمد حسن
رئیس مؤسسه فرهنگی اِکُو



Dr. Nizomiddin Zohabi
Ambassador of the Republic
of Tajikistan in Tehran

دکتر نذیرالدین زهابی
سفیر جمهوری تاجیکستان
در تهران



Dr. Akbar Ismail
CEO of the National
Heritage Research Center

دکتر اکبر اسماعیلی
مدیر عامل مرکز ملی تحقیقات میراث



Dr. Amir Noorhadi
Manuscript expert and researcher

دکتر امیر نورهادی
متخصص و محقق کتب خطی



Dr. Saadoun Basmajouh
Iran - Researcher of
Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani's works

دکتر سعدون بازمجوهر
محقق آثار میر سید علی همدانی



Dr. Mohammad Souri
Manuscript expert and researcher

دکتر محمد سورئ
متخصص و محقق کتب خطی



Dr. Abdurazak Shariifadeh
Tajik researcher

دکتر عبدالرزاق شریفاده
محقق تاجیک



Shohmuroz Shamsirza
Moderator

شاه منصور شاه میرزا
مقدم

ECI President Participates in the Sixth Meeting of the ECO Science Foundation Board of Trustees

ISLAMABAD – July 22, 2026



Amb. Muhammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, participating in the Sixth Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) in Islamabad

Amb. Muhammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), participated in the Sixth Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), held in Islamabad in both in-person and virtual formats with the participation of senior officials, scientists, and representatives of ECO Member States.

The meeting reviewed the Foundation's ongoing programmes, implementation of previous decisions, administrative and financial matters, and strategic priorities for

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Closer cooperation among ECO institutions strengthens the foundations of sustainable development and regional integration.

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strengthening regional cooperation in science, technology, and innovation. The Board also approved the ECOSF Work Programme for the coming year.

ECI's participation reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to strengthening collaboration with ECO specialized institutions and promoting greater synergy between culture, science, and innovation as complementary pillars of sustainable development and regional integration.

Participants concluded the meeting by emphasizing the importance of continued cooperation among ECO institutions and the effective use of their collective expertise to advance the Organization's shared scientific, cultural, and development objectives.

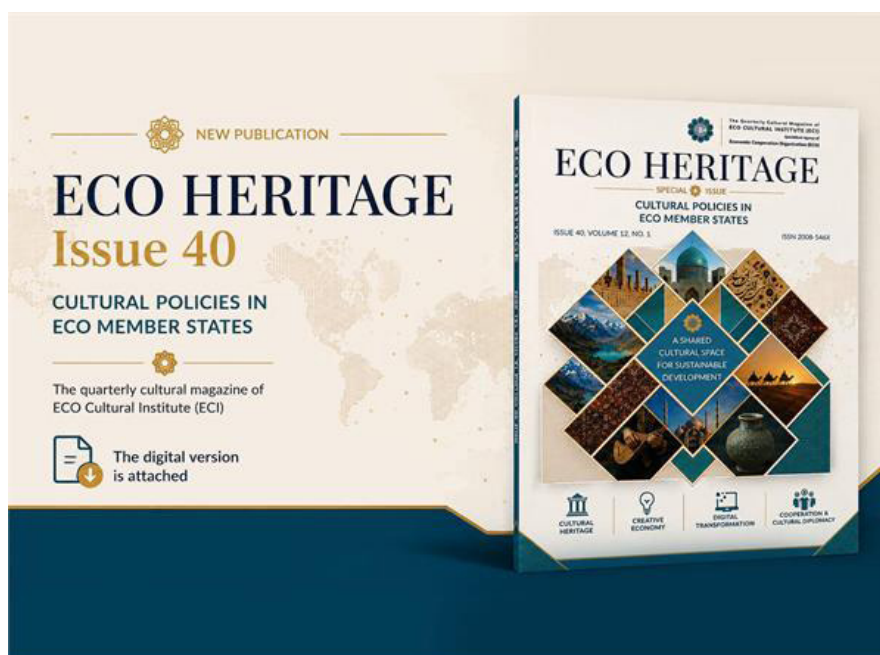
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The Sixth Meeting of the ECOSF Board of Trustees approved the Foundation's work programme for the coming year while reaffirming the importance of stronger cooperation among ECO specialized institutions.

ECI Publishes Special Issue of ECO Heritage on Cultural Policies in ECO Member States

TEHRAN – July 2026



The latest special issue of ECO Heritage, dedicated to cultural policies in ECO Member States, published by the ECO Cultural Institute

The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) has published the latest special issue of its peer-reviewed quarterly journal, ECO Heritage, entitled "Cultural Policies in ECO Member States." Bringing together the first comparative study of cultural policy frameworks across all ten ECO Member States, the 116-page publication provides a comprehensive analysis

of national cultural governance systems based on official legislation, policy documents, and other authoritative sources. The issue examines key themes including cultural governance, heritage preservation, cultural and creative industries, digital transformation, cultural education, cultural diplomacy, and regional cooperation.

In addition to thematic analyses, the publication includes country profiles for each ECO Member State, offering a common analytical framework that facilitates comparison, identifies shared challenges, and highlights opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation.

In his foreword, Amb. Muhammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, describes culture as a driving force for dialogue, regional integration, and sustainable development, emphasizing the importance

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Culture is a driving force for dialogue, regional integration, and sustainable development.
 (Amb. Muhammad Hassan)

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of evidence-based cultural policymaking and collaborative research.

The publication represents another milestone in ECI's efforts to strengthen cultural research, support knowledge-based policymaking, and promote the shared cultural heritage of the ECO region.

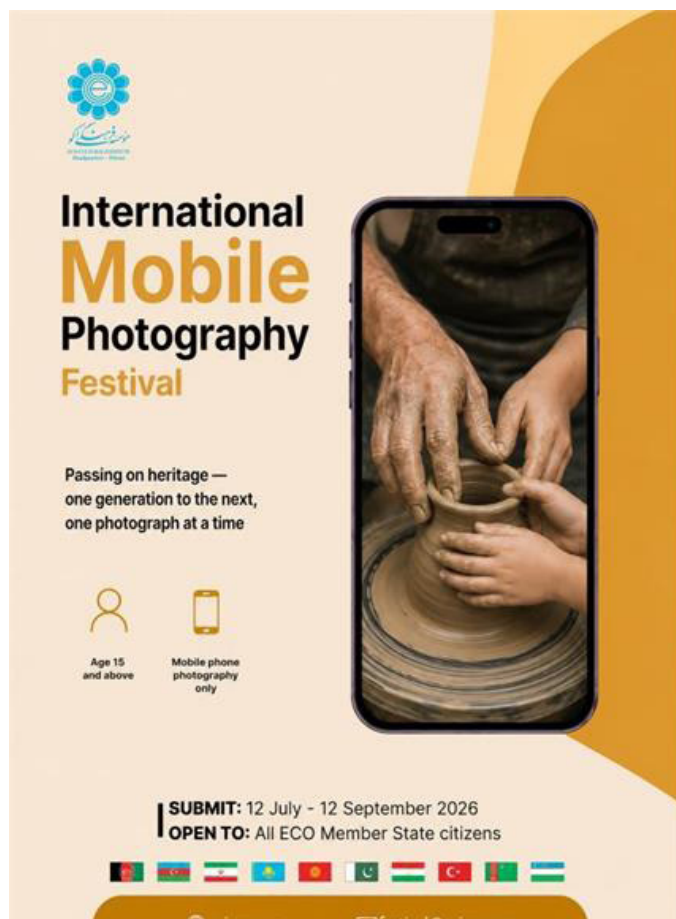
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The latest issue of ECO Heritage presents the first comparative study of cultural policies across all ten ECO Member States, providing a valuable reference for policymakers, researchers, and cultural institutions throughout the region.

ECI Launches the First ECO International Mobile Photography Festival

TEHRAN – July 2026



The ECO Cultural Institute has launched the First ECO International Mobile Photography Festival, inviting participants across the ECO region to showcase their shared cultural heritage through mobile photography.

The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) has announced the First ECO International Mobile Photography Festival, entitled "Our Heritage," inviting citizens of ECO Member States to capture and share moments that reflect the transmission of cultural heritage from one generation to the next.

Held under the theme "Passing on Heritage," the festival celebrates the living traditions of the ECO region by encouraging participants to document the transfer of knowledge, skills, customs, rituals, craftsmanship, music, and oral traditions through the lens of a mobile phone.

Open to participants from all ten ECO Member States, the festival aims to promote public engagement in safeguarding the region's shared intangible cultural heritage while encouraging creativity through accessible digital photography.

Photographs may be submitted between 12 July and 12 September 2026, with winners to be announced during the closing ceremony and exhibition of selected works on 4 October 2026.

Further information and the festival guidelines are available on the ECO Cultural Institute's official website.

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Call for Entries



The First ECO International Mobile Photography Festival invites participants from all ECO Member States to celebrate the region's living heritage under the theme "Passing on Heritage."

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Every photograph tells the story of a tradition passed from one generation to the next.

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