



ECI NEWSLETTER

ECO CULTURAL INSTITUTE

NO: 04 **AUGUST 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. The activities highlighted in this issue reflect the growing role of ECI in bringing together the people, institutions and cultures of our region.

Our recent programmes -from exploring the intellectual legacy of Abai Qunanbaiuly to the International Media Literacy Conference- demonstrate our commitment to connecting our rich cultural heritage with the challenges and opportunities of the present.

To fulfil our mandate, we are also strengthening our partnerships with cultural and academic institutions across the ECO region and beyond. Initiatives such as the ECO Art Exhibition, Film Festival, artist exchanges, the Network of ECO Art Universities and the proposed ECO Language Festival are steps towards creating more opportunities for our artists, scholars, students and young people to connect with one another. Looking ahead, ECI is moving towards becoming a more active regional platform for cultural dialogue, research, creativity and people-to-people cooperation.

Our aim is to turn the shared heritage of our region into a living source of greater understanding and closer cooperation among our peoples. I hope you enjoy this edition.

Ambassador Muhammad Hassan
President ECO Cultural Institute



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The Thought of Abai Explored Through the Lens of ECO

TEHRAN – August 24, 2026



H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, with H.E. Dr. Ontalap Onalbayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Iran, and distinguished participants during the commemorative event dedicated to Abai Qunanbaiuly.

The ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Iran, hosted a cultural and scholarly gathering entitled "The Image of Abai's Thought through the Lens of ECO", bringing together ambassadors of ECO Member States,

officials, scholars, and researchers to explore the intellectual and cultural legacy of the renowned Kazakh thinker.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, described Abai Qunanbaiuly as a thinker whose intellectual legacy transcends the geographical boundaries of Kazakhstan and carries significance for the wider ECO region and the world. Referring to Abai's concept of the "complete human" and his distinction between knowledge and wisdom, he emphasized the continuing relevance of his thought to ethical renewal, social development, and the dialogue between tradition and modernity.

H.E. Dr. Ontalap Onalbayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Iran, highlighted Abai's pivotal

“
Abai's intellectual legacy transcends the geographical boundaries of Kazakhstan and speaks to the shared cultural and intellectual space of the ECO region «H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute».
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role as the founder of modern Kazakh literature and a thinker of global stature. He noted that Abai's reflections on education, science, work, and justice remain relevant to contemporary societies, while his intellectual and spiritual heritage represents a shared human treasure and an important bridge for strengthening cultural and human ties.

The scholarly programme continued with presentations by distinguished academics from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, and Uzbekistan. Speakers explored Abai's intellectual school, the relationship between reason and ethics in his thought, his contribution to social awareness, and the influence of classical literary traditions, including the legacy of Alisher Navoi, on his intellectual and literary works.

The discussions highlighted the broader regional significance of Abai's legacy and its potential to contribute to cultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and the strengthening of intellectual and civilizational ties among ECO Member States.

The programme concluded with the screening of a documentary on Abai's life and intellectual legacy, followed by a cultural gift ceremony. H.E. the Ambassador of Kazakhstan presented a traditional Kazakh chapan to the President of the ECO Cultural Institute, while copies of

Highlight Box



Abai Qunanbaiuly: A shared intellectual heritage connecting Kazakhstan, the ECO region, and the wider world.





International Seminar
ABAI'S LEGACY
World Pride of Kazakhstan

سمینار بین المللی
سیمای اندیشه آبی در آیینہ اکو
به مناسبت بزرگداشت حکیم آبی قونان بای








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H.E. Amb. Muhammad Hassan
President of ECO Cultural Institute
رئیس مؤسسه فرهنگی اکو

H.E. Dr. Ontalap Onalbayev
Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Islamic Republic of Iran
دکتر اونتلاپ اوبابایف
فرستادۀ کرامت اسلامی ایران

Prof. Dr. Islam Zhemeny
Director of Eurasia Study Research Center of the Kazakh-British Tselinograd University of Kazakhstan
پروفسور دکتر اسلام چمنی
رئیس مرکز تحقیقات علمی و پژوهشی آسیا و اروپا

Prof. Dr. Mahmet Chorbanelok-Kyry Kalbayeva
Head of the Department of History, Pedagogy, Culture and Arts Studies, Faculty of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic
پروفسور دکتر مہمت قربانلوک کیکی کولبایووا
رئیس گروه تاریخ و علوم انسانی و فرهنگی

Dr. Mohammad-Amin Shakhmurov
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies
دکتر محمدامین شاکموروف
استاد هیئت علمی

Prof. Dr. Norhay Jabbarov
Head of the Department of Islamic Language and Literature, Faculty of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Azerbaijan
پروفسور دکتر نورهای جباروف
رئیس گروه زبان و ادبیات اسلامی

Dr. Zahra Astani
Moderator
دکتر زهرا آستانی

Monday, August 24, 2026 at 11:00- 12:30
10, Baqer Al-Nemer (ex. Naz) St, Movahed Danesh Ave., Aqdasiyeh, Tehran.

دوشنبه ۲۴ شهریور ۱۴۴۵ ساعت ۱۱:۰۰ تا ۱۲:۳۰
آدرس: خیابان موحّد دانش، کوچه باقر النمر، پلاک ۱۰
موسسه فرهنگی اکو، تهران.

International Media Literacy Conference Held at the ECO Cultural Institute

TEHRAN – August 18, 2026



A moment from the International Media Literacy Conference held at the ECO Cultural Institute, Tehran.

The International Media Literacy Conference was held at the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), bringing together experts, media professionals, and a delegation from Türkiye's Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) to examine regional approaches to addressing the challenges of the information age.

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In the age of artificial intelligence and fake news, we must equip the younger generation with the intellectual tools to become independent thinkers, rather than passive consumers of information «H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute».

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In his opening remarks, H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, described media literacy not merely as the ability to use digital tools, but as a capacity for pausing, questioning, and verifying information. He emphasized that, in the age of artificial intelligence and fake news, young people should be equipped with the intellectual tools to become independent thinkers rather than passive consumers of information. Highlighting the cross-border nature of digital challenges, he called for the conference to serve as a starting point for sustained regional cooperation.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Hicabi Kırlangıç, Ambassador of Türkiye to Iran, noted that media has moved beyond its traditional frameworks and that today's increasingly complex media

environment has made distinguishing truth from falsehood, particularly for children and adolescents, a critical challenge requiring intelligent and collective approaches.

A message from Mr. Mehmet Daniş, Chairman of RTÜK, was delivered by Ms. Fatma Güleç, Deputy Head of RTÜK's Strategy Development Department. The message highlighted media literacy as a key instrument for strengthening societal resilience. Mr. Ahmet Yücel, Deputy Head of the Strategy Development Department, also outlined RTÜK's regulatory framework, including governmental oversight, analysis of public feedback, and the promotion of self-regulation within the media sector.

The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Feyza Gizligider, Head of RTÜK's Strategy Development Department, who examined psychological techniques used by media to influence audiences and emphasized the importance of developing analytical skills to help individuals recognize and resist unconscious forms of media influence.

Moderated by Dr. Ahmet Akalın, Assistant Director of the ECO Cultural Institute, the conference provided a platform for the exchange of expert perspectives and regional experiences, highlighting the potential for developing context-sensitive approaches to media literacy across ECO Member States.

Highlight Box



Media literacy is not simply about using digital tools; it is the ability to pause, question, and verify.




International Media Literacy Conference

ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) کنفرانس بین المللی سواد رسانه ای

مؤسسه فرهنگی اكو



H.E. Ambassador Prof. Dr. Hicabi KIBLAGIÇ
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey
to the Islamic Republic of Iran



H.E. Amb. Muhammad HANZAN
President of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)



Ms. Feyza Gizligider
Head of Strategy Development Department Radio And Television Supreme Council (RTÜK)
(Main Speaker)



Mr. Ahmet Yücel
Deputy of Strategy Development Department
Radio And Television Supreme Council (RTÜK)



Ms. Fatma Güleç
Deputy of Strategy Development Department
Radio And Television Supreme Council (RTÜK)



Dr. Ahmet AKALIN
Assistant Director (ECI)
Professor



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Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 10:00- 12:30
10, Baqer Al-Nemer (ex. Naz) St, Movahed
Danesh Ave., Aqdaslyeh, Tehran.

به نشانی: ۱۷ سواد رسانه ای، سازمان سواد رسانه ای، کوچه باقران، پلاک ۱۰
مؤسسه فرهنگی اكو، تهران.

To attend the conference, please contact us by phone 02127673206

Diplomatic, Academic & Cultural Engagements

Meeting with the Press and Education Counsellor of Pakistan

TEHRAN – August 6, 2026



Ambassador Mohammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), received Ms. Farhat Jabeen Ali, Press and Education Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran. The meeting focused on expanding cultural and educational engagement among ECO member states and exploring opportunities for joint programmes, knowledge exchange, and greater interaction among the peoples of the region.

Meeting with the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan

TEHRAN – August 6, 2026



On August 2026 ,6, Ambassador Mohammad Hassan met with H.E. Mr. Akylbek Kilichev, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Iran, at ECI. The two sides exchanged views on areas of mutual interest and emphasized the importance of strengthening cultural cooperation, intercultural dialogue, and joint cultural initiatives within the ECO framework.

Visit of the Ambassador of Hungary

TEHRAN – August 10, 2026



H.E. Mr. Gyula Pápó, Ambassador of Hungary to Iran, accompanied by Mr. Gábor Szűcs, Deputy Head of Mission, visited the ECO Cultural Institute. The delegation met with Ambassador Mohammad Hassan and was briefed on the Institute's cultural, artistic, and educational activities and its role in promoting regional cultural cooperation. The visit also provided an opportunity to explore potential areas of cultural interaction between ECI and Hungary.

Visit of the Ambassador of Cuba

TEHRAN – August 10, 2026



Ambassador Mohammad Hassan received H.E. Mr. Jorge Fernando Lefebre Nicolás, Ambassador of Cuba to Iran, at ECI. The meeting included an introduction to the Institute's mission, programmes, and ongoing cultural initiatives, followed by a visit to its various departments. The two sides exchanged views on areas of mutual interest and potential cultural engagement.

Diplomatic, Academic & Cultural Engagements

Meeting with Afghan Researcher and Writer Dr. Sayed Askar Mousavi

TEHRAN – August 10, 2026



Dr. Sayed Askar Mousavi, Afghan researcher, writer, and poet, met with Ambassador Mohammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, to discuss the role of culture in strengthening relations among the peoples of the region and expanding cultural cooperation. The meeting emphasized the continuation and further development of cooperation between the Afghanistan Studies Centre and ECI, particularly through the exchange of information and research resources, organization of cultural and academic programmes, and opportunities for sharing knowledge and expertise. Both sides expressed their readiness to build on existing capacities and develop joint initiatives aimed at enhancing mutual cultural understanding across the ECO region.

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Culture provides a lasting bridge among nations and a vital platform for deeper regional cooperation «H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute».

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Highlight Box



The ECO Cultural Institute continued to strengthen its engagement with diplomatic, academic, and cultural partners. Meetings with representatives of ECO Member States and cultural figures focused on expanding cultural cooperation, knowledge exchange, joint initiatives, and deeper people-to-people connections across the region.

ECO Cultural Institute President Highlights Rabia Balkhi as Part of the Region's Shared Literary Heritage

TEHRAN – August 26, 2026



H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), participated in the scientific conference "Rabia Balkhi – A Brilliant Figure of the Samanid Era," held at the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Tehran, bringing together ambassadors, diplomats, cultural officials, and scholars of Persian language and literature.

In his address, Ambassador Hassan highlighted Rabia Balkhi's enduring place in the shared cultural and civilizational heritage of the region, emphasizing the importance of recognizing her legacy beyond contemporary geographical and political boundaries. He described Rabia's heritage as a "heritage of voices" preserved through written history and stressed the need to bring this valuable legacy to wider audiences through the republication and translation of her works.

The conference, organized in commemoration of Rabia Balkhi, also featured scholarly presentations examining her literary legacy, the

history of Rabia scholarship, the interpretation of verses attributed to her, and her significance as an early female voice in Persian poetry.

“*Culture provides a lasting bridge among nations and a vital platform for deeper regional cooperation* «H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Hassan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute».