



## Iran Preparing to Host Nanotechnology Festival

**OE Watch Commentary:** Three years ago, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made nanotechnology a priority for Iranian science and industry (See: “Khamenei Speaks on Nanotechnology, *OE Watch*, March 2015). With the help of Chinese partners (See: “Development of Iranian Nanotechnology Companies in China, *OE Watch*, May 2017”), Iranian nanotechnology appears to be advancing. By once again hosting a nanotechnology exhibition at Tehran’s most prominent fairgrounds and convention center, as the notice of the 11th Nanotechnology Festival and an article from *Fars News Agency* excerpted here announce, the Islamic Republic seems not only both to wrap itself in an image as a technological innovator and nanotechnology leader, but it also seeks to further promote nanotechnology and its applications among Iranian universities and companies.

While the Iranian government in some publications will refer to its nanotechnology festival as “international,” it is not clear how international it really is beyond, of course, the developing Sino-Iranian relationship in the field. As such, the announcement of a second permanent Iranian nanotechnology office in China appears to signal concrete, rather than merely aspirational developments. While the Iranian announcements focus on civilian applications, potential military nanotechnology applications include more effective body armor, more effective motion, thermal, and biochemical detection and a weight reduction of aircraft and other vehicles.

That Saeed Sarkar, secretary-general of the Iran Nanotech China Center (INCC) and an officiator at the inauguration of Iran’s second INCC office, developed his expertise as a physics graduate student at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom may also highlight continuing debates about Iranian students on student visas who study potentially sensitive subjects in Western universities.

**End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**

*“The new office aims to facilitate mutual cooperation between Iran and China in the field of nanotechnology.”*

**Source:** “Yazdehmin Joshnvareh va Nameshgah Fanavari Nano (11th Festival and Exhibition of Nanotechnology),” *Iran Nano Festival*, 8 July 2018. <http://festival.nano.ir/>

*The 11th Festival and Exhibition of Nanotechnology will be held between 13 and 16 October this year at the International Permanent Fairground [in Tehran]. In this festival, there will be three active categories:*

- *Institutions promoting Nanotech including a student club, a specialized book store, academic societies; and educational companies.*
- *Scientific centers and laboratories, universities and research institutes, and [industrial] parks and incubators*
- *Industrial companies in 12 sectors such as automobiles, water and environment, sanitation and health, construction, agriculture and packaging, nanomaterials, textiles, oil and related industries; commerce, consulting companies—brokers for international and technical services—will alongside the exhibition hold specialized workshops and celebrations of the products with nanotechnology certification.*

**Source:** “Iran Nanotech China Center (INCC) Inaugurates 2nd Office in Guangzhou,” *Fars News Agency*, 8 July 2018. <http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13970417000936>

*The 2nd office of the INCC inaugurated on Saturday in China’s Guangzhou, the first being in Suzhou. The new office aims to facilitate mutual cooperation between Iran and China in the field of nanotechnology and also boost interactions among companies of the two countries, the official website of Iran’s Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) reported. The inauguration ceremony was held with the consul general of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Guangzhou Khalil Shirgholami, secretary general of INIC Saeed Sarkar and representatives of Chinese organizations and companies in attendance.... Iran’s first nanotechnology center was opened in 2015 in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. In a relevant development in December, an Iranian company managed to set up five nanofiber industrial production lines by electrospinning method in China. The five nanofiber industrial production lines were launched in China in the wake of agreements between an Iranian and a Chinese company.*



The banner for Iran’s upcoming 11th Nanotechnology Exhibition.

Source: [festival.nano.ir](http://festival.nano.ir), [goo.gl/eyJpiu](http://goo.gl/eyJpiu).