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What they say...

Saman Bank has always been an active member of Iran Swiss Chamber of Commerce. Today, we are pleased to witness the strong growth of ISCC’s activities and are looking forward to enhancing our relationship in the future in order to contribute more efficiently to development of bilateral trade between Iran and Switzerland.
Hasan Dehghanizadeh, Senior Director of Saman Bank International Department on ISCC

The Iran-Switzerland Chamber of commerce has been very active since its start and has achieved many important outcomes. It has proven to be not only a key institution in fostering and diversifying the bilateral trade and industry relations, but also a valuable partner to charity organisations in Iran, with the support of the Swiss Embassy in Teheran. For a company rooted both in Switzerland and in Iran such as TechTravel, the ISCC has been instrumental for its success. Moreover, the ISCC serves as a bridge between the two countries, contributing to a better and mutual understanding between both people.
Reza Nafisi, Tech Travel

Here is the first place we met when we started our business in Iran. The terrific organization with brilliant ideas and a great network to develop the business activities of their members. Probably the most active chamber among the others! Their workshops and events has brought diverse skills and experiences from a variety of different industries. I have been able to meet the nicest and most professional people who enjoy networking and doing business with people they like
Nima Tehrani, Chairman of the Boards ZODEL & ZOODMALL Brands

We as Beyond Group are highly grateful to be a member of Chamber to have the opportunity to benefit from high profile social networking events organized by Iran-Switzerland chamber of commerce enabling us to meet market leaders in various industries that has had significant positive impact in our business.
Ali Khaki, BEYOND LOGISTICS
Iran-Switzerland
Chamber of Commerce
Annual Report

The Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce is a respected and highly influential organization that helps its members reach their full potential through innovative solutions that promote growth, create jobs, and increase investment that ultimately enhances our region.

The chamber is a catalyst for business prosperity. We are a member-focused organization that brings together companies in Iran and Switzerland and helps them grow and promote international trade and economic prosperity.

We offer programs, services, and products of the highest quality that support the needs of our members at every stage of development.

The purpose of the annual report is to give our members, readers, and other interested parties information about our activities and performance. We hope it gives you an insight into what we do, and we also hope you find the information useful.

Shirin Golkar
Director of Responsible Business Promotion Network
Switzerland and Iran enjoy close economic ties: Trade exchange has seen double-digit growth over the past years. Iran is Switzerland’s 6th most important trade partner in the Middle East. Swiss companies have a longstanding presence in the country and have continued to invest in Iran. These tight Swiss-Iranian economic relations are based on a strong institutional framework: a Double Taxation Agreement, an Investment Protection Agreement and since March 2017 a Trade Agreement. In that context, we have established a Joint Economic Commission, which first met last February.

During the visit of the Swiss President to Iran in February 2016, Switzerland and Iran agreed on a road map to strengthen our bilateral relations even further. Since then, many delegations from Switzerland have visited Iran, and many Iranian business people have been to Switzerland. The last big Iranian business delegation has just travelled to Switzerland, accompanying President Rohani to Berne at the beginning of July 2018. More than 100 Iranian business people took the opportunity to meet their Swiss counterparts during an innovation and industry forum hosted by the Swiss-Iranian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Economic Chamber Switzerland-Iran. On the Swiss side, many companies were present - a proof of the ongoing interest of Swiss companies in meeting the Iranian business community as well as a clear message that Switzerland remains committed to Iran despite the current political context.

The Swiss Embassy and the Iran-Switzerland Chamber of Commerce have closely worked together to make this forum happen. During the last year, they had also joined hands to organize a platform on responsible business. The first seminars have already taken place. In autumn, the platform will officially be launched. Other activities where the Embassy was or will be involved include the Academy, the different Commissions like Women Entrepreneurs, Tourism and Oil, the traditional winter event with the Charity Ski Race, a fundraiser event for Kermanshah as well as other different networking activities. In Iran, Switzerland facilitates access of Swiss companies to the Iranian market through export promotion activities as well as advice on investment opportunities. Switzerland will cooperate closely with Iran to identify potential obstacles to market access, in line with the Swiss-Iranian Trade Agreement. Switzerland also encourages the private sector to develop creative ideas and to come up with constructive solutions within the given legal frameworks. In other words: Switzerland is committed to continue to provide Swiss-quality products and services to the Iranian population.

The rapidly changing political situation in Iran offers new challenges and opportunities to the Swiss Embassy and the Iran-Switzerland Chamber of Commerce, as Swiss companies need information and guidance to be able to operate successfully in Iran. A close collaboration between Embassy and Chamber will be essential. In this sense we are looking forward to a good cooperation with the Iran-Switzerland Chamber of Commerce in the coming year.
President’s Message

Sharif Nezam-Mafi
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Dear Members;
I am honored and humbled to be serving as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Iran-Switzerland Chamber of Commerce for the past 3 years. The Chamber has a history of outstanding leadership in both countries and has been selected as one of the most active Joint Chambers in Iran during the past two years.

Our Chamber serves our members through a large and active business network; by being their advocate in business matters; and, by launching initiatives that promote business and enhance the contact with government institutions and associations in both countries. Our Chamber helps promote economic vitality by assisting individual businesses and civic organizations in growing their enterprises.

Growth for each business depends on people—those who provide the energy, ingenuity, and ideas that power our companies. It is for this very core reason that the Chamber has successfully launched programs such as, the Chamber Academy, CSR Network, OBOR Conference, Iran Challenge, and numerous other programs designated to help companies grow. These initiative and many more fresh ideas are being planned and will be launched in the current year.

Since moving back to Iran more than 14 years ago, I have come to understand how tight the business community is with one another and that Chamber membership is valuable to those who choose to engage it. Chamber members have come together to discuss important local and international topics that affect their businesses, and allow our Chamber team to advocate on their behalf.

Through all this, it is my goal that we will move forward together in a positive, planned, and innovative way.

I emphasize “we” because there are many stakeholders in this Chamber who are important to this conversation—including you! I look forward to working with our Chamber Board, our engaged Chamber members, and our incredible Chamber staff to continue to provide support to businesses in these very difficult and uncertain times. I will strive to emulate the integrity, vision, and leadership so that we shall pass these difficult times ahead. I am confident we shall succeed.
The Board of Directors

Our policies are guided by The Board of Directors, responsible for all major decisions concerning the chamber’s strategy. We would like to thank all Directors for their pro bono work, commitment and dedication to the Chamber.

Hossein Salimi
Board Member

Sharif Nezam-Mafi
Chairman of the Board

Hossein Yazdjerdi
Board Member

Matin Sadeghi
Deputy Chairman of the Board

Ali Tavakoli Khoo
Board Member

Giuseppe Carella
Board Member

Mehrzad Jamshidi
Board Member & Inspector

Elaheh Alavi
Board Member

Zahra Sadat
Substitute Inspector

Shokrolah Memarian
Board Member
Who we are

The Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce was founded in 2014 and is one of the most successful chambers in Iran. It is part of a network of 58 Iranian Chambers of Commerce. With a membership of 260 companies ranging from startups & SME’s to some of the world’s leading multinationals, the role of the Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce is to support its members in growing their visibility and business in Iran and Switzerland.

Our Mission

The Chamber’s mission is to:
- Promote and facilitate better business relations between Iran and Switzerland.
- Provide essential information about doing business in these markets.
- Bring business leaders together to facilitate contacts and provide platforms for networking in both countries.
- Represent mutual interests of members and take action to further their interests.
- Facilitate the mobility of member firms and their employees in both countries.
- Promote both countries as advantageous places to do business.
- Foster good corporate citizenship to benefit the communities in which members do business.

Our Team

Abdi Moinpour
Secretary General

Assieh Mir
Director of the Academy

Shirin Golkar
Director of Responsible Business Promotion Network

Anahita Ehteshamzadeh
Executive Assistant

Saadat Cyrus
Marketing & Education Coordinator
The visit of the Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Stephane Rey at the Embassy of Switzerland in Iran to Bandar Abbas

Mr. Stephane Rey, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Iran, along with Mr. Sharif Nezam-Mafi the Chairman of the Iran-Switzerland Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Abdi Moinpour, Secretary General of the Chamber visited the port city of Bandar Abbas. During their visit, they met with Mr. Sabaghizadeh the director of the Bandar Abbas Chamber of Commerce. While in Bandar Abbas, the delegation toured the Asyaban flour factory.

Later, the group traveled to Bandar-e Shahid Rajai, and met with Mr. Aghighipour, the director of Ports & Maritime Organization of Hormozgan and Yaz Province.

Swiss business delegation from the Canton of Ticino hosted by the Chamber

On April 29, 2017, a Swiss business delegation from Ticino, Switzerland visited Iran for the first time. The delegation led by the Mr. Marco Passalia, Deputy Director of the Cc-Ti, included representatives from the banking industry, commodity trading, energy, automotive, and construction companies.

The Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce (ISCC) organized seminars and meetings so the participants could get an overview of Iranian markets.

Mr. Stéphane Rey, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Iran provided a detailed briefing on the current climate in Iran.

At another meeting which was arranged by the ISCC at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, Mr. Passalia and some members of the delegation met Mr. Pedram Soltani, Vice-President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce. During their meeting the importance of economic relations between Iran and Switzerland was highlighted. During this meeting, areas of potential, especially in the field of pharmaceuticals, life sciences, commodity trading, tourism, technology, and fashion were discussed. At the meeting Mr. Passalia said, he believes in long-lasting relationships and that if Iranian and Swiss companies cooperate in different sectors, they may be able to export to CIS countries.
ISCC delegation visited Geneva, Switzerland

On September 27, 2017, at the invitation of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce an Iranian economic delegation headed by Masoud Khansari, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, visited Switzerland. The delegation of 40 included Iranian business leaders representing 30 different companies. The Iranian delegation represented the textile industry, industrial machinery and equipment, oil and gas, power plants, renewable energies, electricity and electronics, food, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and banking.

The delegation visited CEVA, the most important transportation project between France and Switzerland. After the visit, Mr. Vincent Sublia, from the Geneva Chamber of Commerce emphasized the need for continued cooperation with Iran. On September 29, the delegation visited Webster University Geneva. The university was selected by ISCC Christian Cramer, Director of the Chamber, for being the academic focus of their visit. This came as a follow-up of Webster’s “Doing Business in Iran” conference held in Bellevue in May 2017.

The delegation also met with parliamentary officials, who heralded a better future for Iranian-Swiss banking ties.

Swiss Business Delegation meets at the Espinas Hotel to discuss “Key Business Sectors in Switzerland”

A conference on “Key Business Sectors in Switzerland” took place on May 1, 2017, at the Espinas hotel in Tehran. The event was organized by the Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce (ISCC) and a Swiss business delegation visiting Iran from Ticino, Switzerland. A selected audience of potential partners were invited to attend. The conference included panel discussions on Swiss Energy Technologies, Swiss Life Sciences, Swiss Technologies in the automotive sector, and Swiss commodity trading. During meetings and exchanges, Swiss companies were able to widen their network of local contacts.
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The Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce hosted a dinner to introduce Mr. Markus Leitner the new Swiss Ambassador to Iran. The event which was held at Roast restaurant included members of the chamber, foreign business leaders, and luminaries such as Saideh Ghodes the founder of Mahak.

The Ambassador was quoted by the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Agriculture, and Mines as saying, "Switzerland has always acted as a facilitator in international affairs and played a significant role with regard to JCPOA [Iran’s nuclear deal]". He continued by saying, "At present, Swiss businessmen only see the incomplete and non-transparent image presented in the European media, so entities such as the Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce need to send trade delegations and hold events there to present Swiss traders with a clear picture of all the opportunities and high capacities of the Iranian economy".

According to the Ambassador, Iran is a strong country and must endeavor to engage and familiarize foreign investors with its markets. Ambassador Leitner expressed support for increased bilateral ties because developed relations would create a win-win scenario that will benefit both countries.

In conclusion, Mr. Sharif Nezam-Mafi, president of ISCC, referred to Ambassador Leitner’s remarks and said Iran does not expect a sudden jump in bilateral ties, "but the reality is that investment return is currently higher in Iran than in other regional countries, which has created a good climate for the activities of Swiss companies in Iran."

A team from Janssen visited the Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce

In March 2017, the Board of Directors of the Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce met with a group of high-level managers from Janssen & Janssen in Tehran to discuss the possibility of building a factory for producing pharmaceuticals. The attendees included Mr. Herwig Janssen Vice President, Business Development, and Founder of Janssen Pharmaceutical, Mr. Andreas Gerber, Managing Director, Near East Maghreb & African Territories. Ms. Elahe Alavi, Iran Country Manager, and Mr. Stephan Rey, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Iran.

Later, the group met with the Iranian Food and Drug Administration officials to continue discussing the potential for building a pharmaceutical factory in Iran.
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The Vice President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture visited ISCC

In May 2017 Mr. Pedram Soltani, Vice President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture visited the Iran Switzerland Chamber Commerce. During his visit, he emphasized that Iran and Switzerland should maintain their bilateral relationships and work more on exports to Switzerland. He said, the Iran Switzerland Chamber Commerce should keep up the good work and share its knowledge and expertise with other Chambers in Iran. Soltani, congratulated the chamber on the purchase of its new office on Kheradmand Avenue. He said, many of the other Chambers are still not capable of owning their own space and commonly ask the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture for help.
Joint Venture Signing Ceremony between Nestle and the Alifard Group at the Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce

On October 25, 2017, Nestle, which has been operating in Iran for the past 15 years, signed a joint venture agreement with the Alifard Group to produce dairy products. Alifard currently produces the Sunich brand of fruit juices. The new venture will positively impact the dairy industry in Iran. The signing ceremony took place at ISCC. Present at the ceremony were, Markus Leithner the Swiss Ambassador to Iran, Iranian government officials, and business partners of both companies.

Nestlé, the world’s largest food and beverage company, is committed to enhancing the quality of life and contributing to a healthier future in Iran. We at the Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce, were delighted to host this event.

On July 11, 2017, the Chamber held its annual meeting at the Iran Chamber. At the meeting, the Board of Directors read out their report to members who were present. The report included a review of activities, financial statements for the fiscal year 1395, and the Inspector’s report. After the report was read, members voted and approved the following measures:

The Financial Tribune was chosen as the paper of choice for notifying members of events such as annual meetings.

The annual membership fee was held at its current rate of 2 million tomans per year.

Members voted and select the following as inspectors for the upcoming year:

Mr. Mehrzad Jamshidi
Ms. Zahra Saadat
The Chamber Academy

The most important component of any business is people. Empowered, motivated, educated people who function as a team are the key ingredient for a successful business environment. A continuous improvement driven organization is very clear about its vision and its mission. It was with these ideals that the Chamber Board of Directors authorized the formation of comprehensive effort to form a professional academy which can cater toward our members and their staff continuous educational needs.

On a personal level, continuous education is about the constant expansion of skills and skill-sets through learning and increasing knowledge. On a professional level, continuous education is about further expanding the needed skill-set in response to a changing environment and new developments. The Chamber Academy has been designed to meet both targets with various innovative classes in variety of fields, directly contributing to members overall productivity and bottom line.

Rigor is applied to all the academy’s activities. We are focused on effective leadership and management at all levels to promote improvement, manage staff performance, monitor value for money and ensure that employees are enabled to overcome specific barriers to learning.

The Academy passionately believe that everyone can learn both socially and academically, becoming dynamic, independent thinkers. We believe this is best achieved by involving employees in the process of learning, enabling them to ask questions, solve problems and make thoughtful decisions.

The Academy is managed by its own staff and has the below set of visions and targets

The Chamber Academy will:

- Provide the environment and opportunities for employees to learn and achieve
- Provide and continuously search for the best-in-class instructors
- Provide relevant and cost effective educational classes and seminars
- Promote employee’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities at their work.
- Grow organically and find suitable partners both in Iran and Switzerland
There is no difficulty that is insurmountable.
4th Annual Ski Competition for Charity

On February 24, 2018, the Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce held its 4th annual charity ski competition at Darbandsar. The Swiss Ambassador to Iran, Mr. Markus Leitner, attended the charity event and handed out prizes to the winners. All proceeds from the event were donated to rebuilding schools for the victims of the recent earthquake in Kermanshah.

Europe Iran Forum in Zurich

Iran-Switzerland Chamber of Commerce was one of the main supporting organizations of the 4th Iran-Europe Forum at Zurich 3-4 October 2017. We worked to ensure the presence of our members in this very critical post Trump election conference which concentrated on the pending exit of The United States from the JCPOA. The Chairman of the Chamber was one of the main panel speakers that concentrated on the latest developments in the general industry sector of the economy. The Chamber was also able to attract new members and ensure a solid presence at this very important conference.
Interview: Esfandyar Batmanghelidj
Founder: Europe-Iran Forum

The market will continue to present attractive opportunities for trade and investment and Iranians will no doubt reward those companies that are able to persist in the market.

Do you foresee start of new round of negotiations between Iran and US, if so what timeline do you think this will happen

The real question is not whether Iran should negotiate with the US, but whether it can negotiate. Iranian leaders are understandably wary of entering into negotiations with what they consider an unreliable counterpart. Even if Iran did come to an agreement with the US, based on reasonable compromise, there is little to guarantee that the agreement would be upheld by the Trump administration. Not only has Trump proven to be personally unreliable, but he is a disorganized negotiator as evidenced by the Singapore Summit and the dialogue with North Korea. Add to this a deep antipathy for Iran among his key advisors and it is difficult to imagine that direct negotiation is a viable strategy at this stage. More likely, Iran will need to rally support from the remaining parties in the JCPOA to protect its interests, at least until it has greater leverage vis-a-vis the US.

What are your suggestions to the European companies working in Iran
Patience is key. It is important to ensure compliance with US secondary sanctions, but at the same time, it is worth “keeping the light on” in Iran.

What are your future programs and events
Following round tables held this spring in Milan, Stockholm, and Frankfurt as well as a major summit in Brussels, we are now looking to our programming for the remainder of 2018 and 2019. The team at Bourse & Bazaar is currently planning the fifth edition of the Europe-Iran Forum, our flagship conference, and look forward to sharing more details soon.

Esfandyar Batmanghelidj
Founder, Europe-Iran Forum
Nestlé History
The Nestlé story began 150 years ago in Vevey, Switzerland, when Henri Nestlé, a German pharmacist, put all of his scientific knowledge and skill into the invention of Farine Lactée, the milk and cereal based baby food, to save baby Wanner’s life. Wanner was a premature baby that could not be breastfed and, like thousands of other babies of the time, he was unlikely to survive. This invention was the beginning of Nestlé Infant Cereals, which paved the way for the success of the Nestlé Company. Henri Nestlé was so proud of his discovery that he put his name on it, trademarking with the famous nest. Ever since, we at Nestlé have remained true to our core promise of enhancing quality of life and contributing to a healthier future.

Anticipating Our Next 15 Years
We at Nestlé have been operating in the Islamic Republic of Iran since 1996. We started the local production of NESTLÉ CERELAC®, in the Qazvin factory in 2003. In 2007, we further developed our activities by establishing an infant formula factory, NESTLÉ NANN®. In 2008, we invested in the bottled water industry in Polour, Mazandaran, and introduced NESTLÉ PURE LIFE® to the Iranian market. In 2015, we at Nestlé Iran embarked on another milestone, with the production of NESQUIK® chocolate powder and NESCAFÉ® (3 in 1) in Qazvin.

Creating Shared Value
Staying true to the core desire of enhancing quality of life and contributing to a healthier future, we at Nestlé have taken the responsibility of going beyond compliance, accountability, and transparency. That is how creating shared value has become our fundamental approach to business across our entire value chain. Today with sales in 191 countries, and 437 factories in 86 countries, we recognize that our position in society brings both opportunities and responsibility; to do business in compliance with national laws, international standards, and our own values and principles. As a company, we at Nestlé are best positioned to create shared value in five areas: nutrition, health and wellness, water, rural development, environmental sustainability, and people

Nestlé Iran and Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce
Nestlé Iran has always been enjoying being a close ally to the Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce and could leverage the collaboration through many occasions so engagements.

We strongly believe that embarking on a ONE TEAM approach can always have larger impact and end results, therefore has always tried out to play a significant role in all Chamber does so where we can add value. During last 12 months, we could attend some key areas of concern along with each other with clear focus on Creating Shared Value and Water Waste Management that both always play a significant role for Society, our suppliers, customers and consumers

Chamber also hosted last year the inking of our newly Joint Venture’s function in Islamic Republic of Iran as our newly introduced collaboration with Alizad Group with focus on Dairy with presence of Key Governmental Dignitaries, Business Partners and our Key Principals from Head Quarter.

I am looking forward more collaboration resulting in more impact in months so years to come with Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce.

Giuseppe Carella
Managing Director
On August 28, 2017, Ms. Shirin Golkar, Director of Responsible Business Promotion Network at the Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce along with the Swiss conglomerate Buhler, organized a roundtable to discuss the Chinese government’s “One Belt One Road” initiative. Attendees included ICSS members, industry leaders, academics, and the managing directors of bnanalysis.com. At the roundtable Mr. Nezam Mafi, Chairman of the Chamber, predicted that joining OBOR will give Iranian industries a big boost.

The “One Belt, One Road” initiative is a development strategy of the Chinese government which focuses on connectivity and cooperation between Eurasian countries. It is an economic and diplomatic program that will transform trade.

Mr. Nezam Mafi continued by saying that the old silk consisted of several roads that began in Shiyian, China and went to and through many countries. The road went through the cities of Samarkand, Tus, Bukhara, Damghan, and Gorgan. It continued to Qazvin, Azerbaijan, Hamadan, Baghdad, and Izmir in Turkey. Mr. Nezam Mafi said that recently a train on the new silk road made its way to Iran in 14 days, whereas a similar journey by sea will take 45 days.

During a panel discussion that followed, participants discussed and asked questions about the role Iranian companies can play to help develop this initiative. They also discussed infrastructure, energy and trade projects in the region.
Vincent SUBILIA
Deputy Director of the Geneva Chamber of commerce
Member of the Board of ISCC Geneva Branch

With a view to further consolidate the economic ties between Geneva and the Iranian business community, the Geneva Chamber of Commerce (CCIG) had the pleasure to welcome an important delegation of Iranian entrepreneurs in Geneva, on September. Purpose of the visit was to enhance mutual understanding of the economic opportunities and challenges.

To this end a business forum was coorganised at the Geneva Chamber, allowing for an open discussion on thematic issues, including in particular sanctions, and mutually segments of activities. At this occasion, on-site visits were equally organised, e.g. of infrastructure-related projects or watchmaking. In setting up this field trip, the ISCC has again significantly contributed to strengthen the business ties between our two countries; in the name of the CCIG, we wish to thank the Chamber for this fruitful cooperation.
Networking
At the chamber, we provide a platform for exchanging and networking for Iranian and Swiss firms in both Iran and in Switzerland. Contacts among fellow members generates considerable inter-member business while allowing the best-in-practice methods of doing local business is exchanged.

HR Platform
Wishing to play a more active role in assisting employers and potential applicants to connect, the chamber has setup the online HR Platform to do just that. The platform enables local and international companies to spot the right talent for their HR needs. CV bank and company profiles and job posting allow members to enhance their talent pool while getting the latest updates on labor conditions and regulations.
**Chamber Academy**
One of our objectives at the Chamber is to provide continuous educational programs allowing member companies to enhance the inner company capabilities. We offer courses to help our members learn new skills, techniques, and practices in different disciplines.
In the past, we offered courses informally, but with the establishment of the Academy, we will be offering business and language courses on a more formal and permanent basis.

**Iran Responsible Business Promotion Network - CSR platform**
The Network is hosted by Iran Switzerland Chamber of Commerce and supported by the Swiss Embassy. It offers introductory courses on corporate social responsibility, thematic workshops, networking opportunities, and tailor-made assistance for Iranian companies.

**Women Entrepreneurs Commission**
To help level the playing field for Iranian women entrepreneurs; the Chamber has established a commission to support, and to offer resources and tools needed to these entrepreneurs so that they can improve and grow their businesses.

**Tourism Commission**
Tourism remains one of the most active fields between Iran and Switzerland. The aim of this commission is to build on this success by further expanding the field. In particular, the commission will concentrate on building historical and cultural tours emphasizing on the rich culture of the both countries.

**Problem Solving Commission**
This critical commission has been formed to leverage the existing collective capabilities and know-how of the members to solve or give directions to problems facing operational needs of fellow member’s. The range of the commission encompasses the legal, commercial, accounting, and day-to-day operational issues while concentrating on wider policy aspects of local laws.
**Energy Commission**
With the changing political and regulatory environment, the Energy Commission will gather experts and active companies in this field to exchange the latest local and international issues. The Commission will hold regular meetings with an evolving agenda to address this ever changing environment. It will also address the renewable energy sector while also addressing the challenges facing the traditional players in this field.

**HR Commission**
ISCC Human Resources Commission is a special platform designed to address the latest development in the field of HR and related local and international labor regulations. The Commission will conduct regular analysis of subjects and topics on group and individual cases while distributing best-in-practice methods to its member’s. It will further act as a bridge between specialized HR institutions in Switzerland and local HR specialists but holding seminars and conference on various related topics.

**Iran Challenge (ISCC Startup Platform)**
The Chamber has created an environment for startups to pitch their ideas to investors, executives, and industry leaders. Selected startups will have the opportunity to have:
- A dedicated display space to showcase their products and services.
- A chance to win the Peoples Choice, Judge’s Choice, or Highly Commended Awards.
- An invite-only session of networking and mentorship with industry experts.

**Food, Health and Agriculture Commission**
From the "Farm to Table" is the wide range of this very important commission which includes many companies that operate in this market. The changing regulatory environment and issue will be the main focus of this commission which will leverage our collective strength to push policy and regulations. It will further offer educational seminars in water conservation and farming best methods while also highlighting the health and environmental aspects of today’s food chain challenges.

**Legal Commission**
The legal commission has been formed to ensure our members are aware of the latest sanction regulations and have access to the best legal minds of this market. The commission will hold regular informative seminars and conference to ensure proper decimation of legal information. It will further work on creating an Arbitration platform based on the Swiss Rules of International Arbitration, offering uniform, efficient, and cost effective means of binding dispute resolution based on best practices and international standards.
Interview: Mohammad Reza Talebi
Managing Director, Loyd Alman (GL) Company in Iran

Please tell us a little bit about yourself, your educational background and work experience.

My name is Mohammad Reza Talebi, 46 years old, having a Masters Degree in Industrial Engineering with around 24 years experience in industrial projects.

I have been leading the business of Lloyd Alman (GL) Company in Iran as the managing director since 2008 after couple of years working with the Swiss company SGS.

As a German company what were the reasons for becoming a member of the Iran Switzerland Chamber, and what benefits you see in being a member.

Nowadays, business is globalized. Single tents were removed and a global business village appeared. Business globalization refers to the enhancing interdependence of individual business sectors by growing the scale of cross-border trade and business relations.

Business lines between the business sectors are crossing borders of the countries now and in the new shape of global business village, you can not surround yourself in the borders of one or two countries. This philosophy encouraged us to draw our business development plans beyond the borders of Iran and Germany.

Meanwhile, being a more independent country compared to other European countries and having business capacities for Iranian oil and gas industries, we realized that the Iran-Switzerland Chamber of Commerce is a suitable place for developing our new business and marketing strategies.

What are the range of services you provide in Iran?

Lloyd Alman (GL) are independent advisors providing technical inspection, consulting, design, assurance and project execution services, combining excellent engineering and analytical skills with operational experience of offshore, maritime and onshore oil and gas assets.

We have strong expertise in complex oil & gas assets such as refineries, pipelines, subsea systems and technical assurance, asset integrity, safety & risk, marine operations, project management and software services.

How do you assess the current market conditions after the withdrawal of the US from JCPOA.

Giving an accurate answer to this question is not so easy. This is a common knowledge that there will be significant consequences for Iranian energy sector after the withdrawal of the US from JCPOA. The short term effects will probably be lower than 2012 and will basically consist of a decline in oil exports in the range of 30% compared with 2017 levels. Consequently the loss in oil exports will be offset by higher oil revenue resulted by higher oil price. In a longer horizon, the oil and gas sector of the country will probably be confronted with bigger challenges. Apart from decline in oil export, the other main challenge will be banking transfer issues and the way Iran is going to receive the money from its oil customers.

How do you assess the range of activities of the Chamber and in particular the Academy.

Compared to the other Chambers of Commerce between Iran and the other countries, I realized that the Iran-Switzerland Chamber is more dynamic and faster to move forward. As one of the youngest Chambers of Commerce between Iran and the other countries, we observe more plans, activities and efforts compared to the older ones. In the past two years, I noticed valuable efforts of the Academy in arranging a fair range of training courses. However, it seems that the main focus of these courses were on non-technical skills. I think more requirements of the members will be met if technical courses are added to the activities of the Academy too.
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