

ELITE PARS



Law Firm



Introduction

Established in 2019, Elite Pars is a boutique law firm with professional lawyers and legal minds as its core team. Lawyers at Elite Pars render legal advice on a wide range of matters in parallel to dealing with various local, regional and international arbitration and litigation cases.

Elite Pars draws strength from its diversity. We recruit from a wide variety of backgrounds, seeking out the best and those with the highest potential and we invest in their development. Our profound knowledge of assorted legal areas, enables us to efficiently guide our clients through the most complex matters they are facing. Furthermore, our practical experience provides us with insights that help us assist our clients in achieving their legal goals.

In case you have any queries regarding this document or would like to inquire as to how we could serve you best, please feel free to contact our partners Dr. Navid Sato and/or Dr. Nima Nasrollahi via n.sato@elitepars.com and/or n.nasrollahi@elitepars.com.



LEGAL UPDATE: JULY 2023

CALL FROM INDIAN PRIME MINISTER FOR CHABAHAR PORT OPTIMIZATION AS IRAN JOINS SCO

Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has highlighted the potential for increased utilization of the Chabahar Port by member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (“SCO”) following Iran's recent membership. Speaking at the 23rd SCO Summit, Modi emphasized the significance of the International North-South Transportation Corridor as a secure and efficient route for landlocked Central Asian countries to access the Indian Ocean. He urged the member states to work together in maximizing the utilization of the Chabahar Port, stating that it could serve as a crucial commercial hub.

The Chabahar Port, located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan Province, holds strategic importance due to its geographic proximity to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. It is Iran's only oceanic port and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti. The port's connection to the 7,200-kilometer-long International North-South Transportation Corridor (“INSTC”) further enhances its potential as a key trade route. India has been particularly focused on the development of the Chabahar Port, signing an agreement in May 2016 to establish the INSTC with an investment of \$85 million.

The Chabahar Port project offers India an alternate supply route for goods, reducing its reliance on Pakistan as the sole option. It provides India with access to Afghanistan and

beyond, connecting to countries such as Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Europe via the INSTC.

Additionally, India and Iran have been actively involved in linking the Chabahar Port to the Zaranj-Delaram Highway in Afghanistan, a 215-kilometer highway that was built with Indian assistance. This project further strengthens regional connectivity and trade prospects.

ASTARA HOSTS IRAN-AZERBAIJAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION COMMISSION MEETING

In a significant step towards fostering economic ties, the co-chairs of the Iran-Azerbaijan State Commission on economic, trade, and humanitarian cooperation convened in the charming city of Astara, Gilan Province. The meeting brought together Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister, Shahin Mustafayev, and Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Mehrdad Bazrpash, to discuss vital issues pertaining to regional and international transport, communication, and energy projects.

The officials underscored the paramount importance of enhancing the region's transit potential, recognizing the potential benefits it holds for both nations. Consequently, they mutually agreed to expedite the implementation of various transport infrastructure projects, which will bolster connectivity between the two countries.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was the emphasis on completing the construction

of the Astara Cargo Terminal within the coming year. This essential project is expected to play a pivotal role in facilitating efficient cargo movement and streamlining trade activities between Iran and Azerbaijan. Additionally, both parties stressed the need to establish customs and border facilities for a highway bridge over the Astarachay River. This bridge will serve as a critical link, further bolstering trade and communication between the two nations.

Furthermore, the meeting addressed cooperative efforts in utilizing energy and water resources effectively. The leaders reviewed the progress of ongoing projects in this regard, aiming to enhance cooperation in these vital sectors.

The discussions in Astara marked a positive stride towards fostering robust economic cooperation and sustainable development between Iran and Azerbaijan. It demonstrated the commitment of both countries to explore new avenues for mutually beneficial collaborations, which hold the potential to uplift their economies and promote regional prosperity.

ISFAHAN'S EXPORTS SEE IMPRESSIVE 41% SURGE IN VALUE

During the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21 - June 21), Isfahan Province experienced a remarkable increase in exports. A total of 524,000 tons of goods, valued at \$447.86 million, were exported, representing a substantial 7% rise in weight and an impressive 41% surge in value compared to the same period last year.

Among the key export destinations, Iraq stood out as the primary recipient with \$161 million worth of goods, marking a remarkable 51% increase from the previous year. Pakistan followed closely with \$107 million (up 57%), while Turkey recorded \$36 million in exports (up 55%). Afghanistan witnessed a significant surge with \$31 million (up 154%), and the UAE received \$26 million in exports (down 7%).

Notably, the main exported products from Isfahan during this period were cast iron, iron, and steel, contributing \$225 million to the total exports. Additionally, petrochemical products played a substantial role, accounting for \$66 million in exports. Iron and cast iron products amounted to \$26 million, and handmade and machine-made carpets contributed \$25 million to the impressive export figures.

The robust growth in exports from Isfahan Province reflects the region's increasing competitiveness in international markets and its commitment to expanding trade partnerships with neighboring countries. Such positive trends bode well for the region's economic development and foster a promising outlook for further trade opportunities in the future.



Dr. Navid Rahbar Sato

Managing Partner

Dr. Navid Rahbar Sato is a founding partner and the managing director of Elite Pars Law Firm. He is a qualified international and domestic lawyer in the Iranian market with a primary focus on cross border transactions and oil and gas law. With several years of experience, he has extensive comprehension of the national, regional and international commercial legal systems. He also handles litigation and arbitration cases where he sets out the legal strategies and heads the team in the process. He particularly advises clients on energy law, foreign direct investment, incorporation, mergers and acquisitions as well as import and export regulations in the region including sanctions' compliance matters.

Navid holds an SJD from Washington College of Law and is a Vanderbilt LL. M. graduate of NYU School of Law and an International Trade Law LLM graduate of the American University of Washington D.C. He is an assistant professor at Shahid Beheshti University of Tehran. Navid speaks fluent Farsi and English, as well as basic French and Japanese.

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Dr. Nima Nasrollahi Shahri

Partner

Dr. Nima Nasrollahi Shahri is a founding partner at Elite Pars Law Firm and heads the energy, investment law and arbitration practices of the firm. He is a seasoned lawyer in the field of oil and gas and renewable energies and has advised major international oil companies with respect to their participation in Iranian oil and gas projects. He holds a PhD in International Investment Law and has completed the LL. M. program of University of Dundee in Petroleum Law and Policy. He has a long list of Persian and English publications and is currently the director of oil and gas law LL. M. program at the

University of Science and Culture in Tehran where he is now supervising several dissertation theses, mostly related to the same field as well as commercial arbitration. Nima regularly does pro bono educational activities. He speaks Farsi, fluent English and intermediate French and Arabic.

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