
Need for construction of Iran-Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan railway stressed

IRNA - 7/4/2009

Visiting IRI President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said here Monday, 'Islamic Republic of Iran supports expansion of ties with Kazakhstan, considering this country's advancement and prosperity as advancement of entire regional countries.'

According to IRNA's dispatched reporter to Astana, Ahmadinejad who was taking part at a press conference along with his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev after negotiations between high ranking Iranian and Kazakh delegations, meanwhile predicted that his visit of the country would lead to boosting bilateral ties.

The president emphasized that Iran considers no limits for, nor any obstacles in the way of expansion of ties with Kazakhstan, and rather considers such relations in favor of the entire region. Ahmadinejad reiterated, 'Advancement and prosperity of Kazakhstan make us happy and we consider the advancement of this country as the advancement of the entire region.'

The president referred to his private talks with Nazarbayev and the negotiations between the two countries' economic delegations, reiterating, 'In these talks bilateral trade was discussed and the two sides emphasized that the level of the two countries' economic ties is improving, presenting ways for their further expansion.'

Ahmadinejad said that the existing consensus between Iran and Kazakhstan in the field of agriculture, include swapping wheat, cultivating lands, transfer of technology, and agricultural cooperation, as those were other axes of talks with Kazakhstan.

The president reiterated that the level of cooperation between Tehran and Astana is currently satisfactory in energy field, adding, 'Yet, with planning over expansion of cooperation in petrochemical industries, transfer of energy and upperhand energy fields, such as the discovery of oil fields and expansion of energy industries, we can further expand cooperation in the field.'

Ahmadinejad referred to the two presidents' asis over the urgent need for the construction of a railway between Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, reiterating, 'At our Monday session it was also proposed that also a highway should be constructed parallel with that railway.' The president meanwhile emphasized over the need for the establishment of a direct flight between Tehran and Astana, adding, 'Iran and Kazakhstan can also cooperate in the field of shipping in the Caspian Sea and the construction of cargo oil takers.'

The president added 'Iran can cooperate with this country in transferring Kazakhstan's oil to world oil markets.' Ahmadinejad pointed out that the two countries' officials in their talks also focused on making joint investments, too, saying, 'The president of Kazakhstan presented a proposal for banking cooperation between the two countries as the infrastructure basis for business and economic cooperation.'

Ahmadinejad said that the legal system of the Caspian Sea was among the other axes of Iran-Kazakhstan negotiations, adding, 'The two countries have shared viewpoints in that respect, believing that the Caspian Sea must be

turned into the sea of peace and brotherhood and a non-military sea in which all littoral countries' efforts aimed at preserving that sea's resources is needed.'

The president reiterated that Iran and Kazakhstan also have shared viewpoints regarding Afghanistan, Iraq, confrontation with the resulting losses and deficiencies, narcotic drugs and extremism. Ahmadinejad pointed out that in these talks we also focused over the global economic crisis, arguing, 'Although the crisis with which the imperialist system is now entangled can pose threats against the other nations and the leaders of that system, too, are interested in transferring their problems to other countries, but we have plans aimed at turning this threat into an opportunity.'

He pointed out that President Nazarbayev has presented a proposal for designing new regional economic systems, adding that Iran welcomes this proposal and referred to the two countries' relations as 'expanding', adding, 'I predict a very bright future for bilateral ties, since Iran and Kazakhstan enjoy brotherly relations and are both paving the path for world peace and security.'

The president reiterated, 'Although the record of the two countries' relations is not an old one, but its depth is due to the histories and cultures of the two nations and the two nations are close to one another from the cultural point of the view.'

Ahmadinejad further reiterated, 'Kazakhstan is today progressing towards advancement and its status is improving both in the region and in the world very rapidly.'

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran added that Iran is today ready for dynamic cooperation in Kazakhstan's development plans.
