

Remarks by
Mr. Khusrav Noziri, ECO Secretary General
at the Event Organized in the Commemoration of Hakim Nizami
Tehran, SACWD, March 5, 2023

*O God, thy name excels every beginning
Without thy name how I shall begin my words
(Nizami)*

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It's a matter of great privilege and immense pleasure to attend this important event in Honour and Commemoration of Hakim Nizami, one of the greatest Persian poets and an influential figure in the borderless world of art and literature.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Society for Appreciation of Cultural Works and Dignitaries (SACWD) in sincere recognition of their reflective approach, efforts and activities to remember and celebrate such iconic personalities of our region.

A couple of days before I have returned from Baku, Azerbaijan that I visited in connection with attending the Summit-level Meeting of the NAM. I had come to know earlier about a very beautiful and attractive avenue in Baku named after Nizami, with a huge and tall statue of the renowned poet in the center of the street. Despite very tight schedule of the international event, I managed to visit the famous Nizami Street in a bid to pay tribute to the legendary poet. I would also like to recall my high school days when I was taught about the remarkable poetic work and contribution of Nizami Ganjavi who holds a very prominent and dignified status in our common literature.

The poetic contribution of Hakim Nizami is highly incredible. Nizami's poetry as well as the transcriptions of his natural work and realistic style of writing influenced and impressed his native people and nations beyond the borders equally. A regular extension of tributes to such genuine and prestigious personages preserves not only their rich literary and artistic contributions to our cultural heritage but also maintains our thoughtfulness and compassion for our legends.

The poetry has no boundaries indeed. It connects peoples touching their hearts and emotions. Studies show that reading regularly can help people increase their empathy. Often, it is also an invitation for us to understand perspectives and experiences different from our own. Fueling the sensitivities, it can help people bridge cultural gaps, age differences, economic inequality, and other social issues.

Distinguished Participants,

The cultural diplomacy is a very effective tool for the consolidation of nexus amongst different nations. Against this backdrop, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) laid the foundation of ECO Cultural Institute which is headquartered in Tehran. Being an ECO Specialized Agency, this institute is quite vibrant in promotion of cultural cooperation amongst the ECO Member States and is engaged for accelerating peoples' cultural affiliation through various activities, including research and studies of common heritage, organization of cultural programs and events, establishing cultural connections in the region, etc.

I consider that in this age of growing aggressions and competitions, the cultural diplomacy can act as a mediatory tool for developing more synergies and amicabilities at intra-regional and inter-regional level, through exchange of ideas, information, art, language and other cross cultural aspects.

Bearing this in mind, a collaborative partnership between the ECO Cultural Institute and the Society for Appreciation of Cultural Works and Dignitaries would be quite effective in making shared promotion and protection of our cultural legacy, including the work of regional poets and other artists who are considered the symbol of peace, benevolence and harmony amongst the peoples of our region. In this regard, mutual consultations can be made to design formula for the joint working between these two notable cultural bodies.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the host and organizers of for providing me this opportunity to become part of this wonderful gathering and express my reflection here.

Thank for your attention.