

Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 30.05.2019

Title: subterranean water sources in Iran-Talan documentary film.

Speakers and panel members: Mr. A. Kamiabi Mask, Mr. A. N. Esfandiari and Mr. M. S. Dehqani.

Beginning the speech Mr. Kamiabi Mask presented Mr. Esfandiari as an Iranian outstanding figure and the secretary of the research group named “Iranian water sources solutions”. He informed the presents that Mr. Esfandiari is author of many articles and many speeches regarding the matter.

Talking about Mr. Dehqani the presents were informed that he is graduated from Tehran University Fine Arts faculty, author of more than 20 short film documentaries, director of 15 films, writer, photographer and idea maker. He has organized many exhibitions in various cities of Iran, winner of more than 40 national and international awards, he is also the awardee of film making in 2011 as the best young figure, elected as the year cultural figure of related ministries, organizations and Chamber operating in water fields in 2018. Mr. Dehqani is also professor in Iranian young movie maker association, organizer of Iranian university members Int’l festival, member of Iranian documentary makers association, writer and teller of more than 30 documentary films.

Talking about his childhood Mr. Kamiabi mask said that he was born in a region close to the desert and because of water sources lacks, they used the rainwater, at least during the summer time, collected in storages. The children were encouraged to participate to clean the qanats. He said that since his childhood he was curious to know where this underground water came from and the manners people used to distribute this water preventing the evaporation.

Mr. Kamiabi Mask talked about a book written by E. Basly and M. Haroussen. The content of this book regards the various aspects of how Iranians used to ensure their water needs in a desert region and how their life beginning from architecture to agriculture were conceived in base of the local and regional conditions of aridity and lack of east to access water sources. The authors presented how the local people found the ways and manners to ensure the continuation of their existence in a region that the natural and climatic conditions promised the opposite. The Iranians succeeded to create a civilization that is the testimony of how man can find the route to live in harmony with the nature and obtain the necessary to survive, even though it seemed impossible to reach.

The authors paid attention and presented how the architectural concepts were inspired or in other words imposed by natural severe conditions and how the result permitted life prosperity in the

Iranian lowlands. The success to create the conditions for the prosperity of life in these lands is the testimony of how Iranian civilization found key answers of adaptation and optimal use of natural resources and conditions. Mr. Kamiabi Mask talked also about the conditions and problems that people experience in Iran in various desert regions and how the policymakers could get inspired by ancient, simple but efficient solutions.

Presenting the film “Talan” the presents were informed that how water crisis involves human life in Iran and round the world, how water use in Iran is characterized by huge amount of wastes, how the authorities must identify and face the problems, if they don't want witness major crisis and disaster in a near future.

Some of the problems that are presented in the film are the followings:

- the fragmentation of agricultural lands during the Pahlavi era.
- lack of experts on water sources.
- exclusion of popular participation in waters sources maintenance and administration.
- overuse of water sources in critical areas.
- inappropriate use of water sources in agricultural activities.
- lack of administrative law makings regarding the use of water wells.

In the documentary the matter of depopulation of many-many villages because of water related problems is presented, a problem that has caused social and economic profound problems to the country. The message of the film is to don't waste the golden time today, because tomorrow may be too late.

The second speaker was Mr. Esfandiari. He affirmed that the crisis of water in the world and especially in Iran is not a problem can have a short term solution. We know that even today 60 percent of water needs in Iran are satisfied by underground sources and in pick conditions the percentage is about 90 percent. Talking about subterranean water sources , Mr. Esfandiari explained that part of them are renewable sources and other parts are the result of thousands years of accumulation, that today we are spending them ignoring the impossibility of their refilling and renewal. He also talked about dam constructing policy in Iran, affirming that if during the initial period, during the Pahlavi era, the construction of dam permitted to manage the water sources in a positive way, most of the dams built during the last years are not justified and don't help to administrate in an effective way the water sources in Iran. In his opinion in order to improve the conditions the new built dams have created it's necessary to review water policies and to ensure its use also for the future generations.