

## **Why East Azarbaijan?**

### **East Azarbaijan the Land of Golden Opportunities**

#### **Special Strategic Position in the Country**

East Azarbaijan province has common borders with the Republics of Azerbaijan, Nakhjavan and Armenia, and due to its location on the route of the Silk Road and having specific geographical position, with extensive domestic and international transportation network and high traffic in rail, road, and air transportation on one hand and on the other its location on international corridor with the capacity to construct 12 hubs or joint rail and road terminals is called the Cross-road of Iran-O-Europe connection road and the Gate of the East.

East Azarbaijan province has wide road and railroad transportation connections with neighboring countries. The Azarbaijani Railway connects the rail network of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the European and Middle East railways through Turkey railway and to the Caucasus and other railways through the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, on the other hand those railways can be connected through the following corridors to the countries of Central Asia (CIS), the ports of the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Free Sea.

Tabriz Shahid Madani international airport is designed and established by airport services, navigation and aviation for domestic and international flights check-in and for transporting passengers and cargo, in 1329. It is open sky and 24-hour operational and because of being on the border and international aerial corridors in presenting navigation services, radar and aviation to domestic and international flights particularly over fly that mostly depart from EU countries to Southeast Asia and Middle Asia and vice versa, has an important position.

#### **Establishment of the Chief Industries and Suitable Infrastructure for Investment**

Enjoying industrial and commercial infrastructures and numerous heavy industries has promoted the especial status of this province in industry and subsequently in non-oil export. The construction and launch of the first and biggest factories such as Iran tractor manufacturing and Mashine Sazi Tabriz Company, Iran Diesel Motor (IDEM) manufacturing as well as increasing development of other industries such as petrochemical, steel, automobile manufacturing, pharmaceutical, sweet, chocolate and processing industries as well as constructing industrial estates and specialized

and grand industrial zones like Be'sat industrial estate have all turned this province into country's industry and production hub. Enjoying various custom offices in different cities, stock market and Tabriz international exhibition are among other trade and commercial features of this province which have paved the way for investors. Ancient history of this province in exchange of goods via the historical Silk Road and establishment of the first chamber of commerce and its activities in subsequent years has turned this province into a unique hub in economic arena.

### **Iran's mining paradise**

Holding the first rank considering mineral substances high variety and rich reservoirs in country have made East Azarbaijan province the Iran's mining paradise. Apart from variety, abundance and rich mineral resources, one of the mineral features of the province is the presence of indices of several metals like copper, lead zinc and iron and resources like: perlite, diatomite, nepheline syenite, kaoline, and etc which existence of these resources in the country and even in the world is unique (as an example: Azar-shar travertine, Marand kaolin, and Sarab nepheline syenite).

### **Aras, the golden point for trade and investment**

Aras free industrial-trade zone, as the most industrialized free zone in Iran with an area of over 51,000 hectares shares borders with Azerbaijan and Armenia, the Republics, the Autonomous Nakhchivan. It is viewed as an outward economic zone with strategies to develop economy, and enter CIS markets. This zone enjoys necessary infrastructure in the field of transportation and international transit, industry, agriculture, technology and science, tourism and investment. Its intact nature and its historical sites registered by UNESCO as world heritage has turned this zone into one of tourism attractions in this province.

Moreover, Sahlan special economic zone with proper transit infrastructure as a dry or inland port paves the way for active and dynamic economic cycle in the province.

### **Numerous Natural, Historical, Cultural & Tourism Attractions**

East Azarbaijan is the main highway for thousands of Asian & European tourists due to its geographical location. This region has been cradle of civilization for a long time having the history dating back to thousands of years ago. Thanks to its ancient history and cultural richness, it is cradle of hundreds of invaluable historic work in different periods of time. The ancient civilization of this province on one hand and its natural geography and mountainous climate on the other hand has led to the creation of charming nature and historical monuments.

Registration of 1800 historical, natural and intangible relics in the List of national works and registration of sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List (Tabriz roofed traditional Bazaar, as the largest brick construction in the world by 27 Ha of area and Azarbaijan churches), and selection of Tabriz as the world city of hand-woven carpet are among the countless potentials of this province in tourism industry.

### **Suitable Agricultural Resources & Climate**

Climate conditions, soil properties, and geographical situation of the region, has transformed the province into a suitable and potential region for agriculture. In this beautiful land, different gardening, farming products are grown which besides supplying the internal request is being exported to other provinces and countries. Its location and geomorphologic properties has created the possibility to establish a strong center in agriculture and husbandry fields. On the other hand fertile plains in the province, variety of climate; Urmia Lake, Aras river, and Ghezel-Uzan River basins has resulted in foundation of a collection of several agricultural activity centers in which various agricultural products can be grown.

### **Expert & Educated Young Workforce**

Having a bright background like Rab'-e Rashidi or the first university of the Islamic world, the second Darul Fonoun, 100-year experience of training nurses, launching the country's second university in 1947 and subsequently the establishment of numerous universities, launch of hundreds of research centers, knowledge-based companies and well-equipped hospitals with special facilities like the Middle East biggest hemodialysis center, regenerative medicine unit, organ and bone marrow transplant units, burns unit, establishing health facilities both in far rural areas up to big cities suburb areas, making medical records for the residents and launch of large pharmaceutical factories have made Tabriz a big academic, health and treatment center.