

China to Cooperate In Dam Construction

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Iran and China are to ink cooperation deal for construction of Bakhtiari Dam by the yearend (March 20), said managing director of the Iran Water and Power Resources Development Company (IWPCO).

Mohammadreza Rezazadeh said that a delegation headed by Deputy Energy Minister Mohammadreza Attarzadeh traveled to China and held negotiations regarding the financial supply of Bakhtiari dam and power plant project, IRNA wrote.

The delegation cited improving bilateral ties regarding the world's status quo as the main reason behind the collaboration, he pointed out.

Moreover, it is of great primacy to use a credit line between the two countries for supplying the fund required for the greatest concrete dam project, the official added.

Sinohydro Corporation has a historical precedence in construction of large dams and has cooperated with Iranian companies in the past, Rezazadeh mentioned.

The two sides agreed to settle different issues so as to ink the contract in March 15.

Bakhtiari Dam is to be an arched dam on Bakhtiari River within Zagros Mountains southwest of Iran.

After Karkheh, Bakhtiari dam will be the largest artificial reservoir with the capacity equivalent to 4.8 billion cubic meters.

Haraz Dam

Earlier this month, Chinese investors expressed readiness to participate in the construction projects of Haraz Dam and parts of Haraz Road.

Representatives of Mazandaran Regional Water Company Inc. and a number of Chinese investors held primary negotiations to this end, head of Organization of Economic and Financial Affairs of Mazandaran, Mahmoud Sha'banzadeh told IRNA.

Sha'banzadeh said that the executive operations for the construction of the dam have started, adding that more than \$670 million has been allocated for building the dam and parts of the Haraz Road.

Haraz dam will be constructed on Haraz River, 20 kilometers from Amol. Its water storage capacity is estimated at 390 million cubic meters.

Taleqan concrete dam is also among projects that was built and became operational in the wake of investment of Chinese investors.

In October, Chairman of Iran's Water Resources Management Company Alireza Almasvandi said the number of dams in the country would increase to 538 by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2011).

Once the dams under construction come on stream, the number of operational dams in the country will rise to 538, Alireza Almasvandi told Moj News Agency at the time.

Early in February, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has inaugurated Mamlou dam in eastern Tehran in a ceremony attended by the country's Energy Minister Majid Namjou.

The dam, which is located 45 kilometers east of the capital Tehran, will reportedly create 30,000 job opportunities as soon as it becomes operational.

Mamlou dam is set to provide water for agricultural objectives in southern towns of Pakdasht and Varamin in Tehran province and drinking water for more than one million people in southern Tehran.

The construction of Mamlou project at the cost of \$ 1.6 million began in 2002 and came into operation for agricultural purposes in 2008.

Iran is one of the leading countries in the world in terms of designing and construction of dams.

Iran is also engaged in dam construction activities in Tajikistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and consultations are underway with a number of other countries.

In 2010, Iran won a contract to build a dam in Afghanistan and another contract to build a power plant in Syria.

In one of its most important international projects, Iran will start the construction of a \$200 million hydroelectric dam in Nicaragua in 2011.

In addition to the necessity of generating electricity, Iran needs dams to effectively control and manage a growing water shortage across the country.

Iran's central provinces are located close to vast deserts and suffer from severe shortage of water for agriculture.

According to the officials, annual precipitation in Iran is estimated at 240 mm which is one third of the global average