

Potential Role of Chemistry in Economic and Social Structure of Iran

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Sales of raw material such as crude oil, natural gas, natural products, and metals is a reflection of an under-developed economy, which fails to provide added value, tax base for the government or advance the domestic technology. Although the necessity for transformation of Iran's present economy to a science- and technology-based economy has been recognized by policymakers, specialists and laymen, we have failed in this transformation- itself a result of our collective wisdom. Analysis of the Western economies is necessary but insufficient in arriving at a roadmap for the transformation of our economy. This paper approaches the issue from a different perspective under 4 topics. First, self-evaluation, the level of our collective wisdom and the political development needed to afford the platform for the transformation of our economy. Second, recognition of our comparative advantage and a roadmap focused on the transformation of our present economy to a science- and technology-based economy. Third, review of the approaches taken by other countries with similar cultural heritage and socio-economic standing and forth, recommendation of a roadmap based on the above-mentioned parameters for the transformation of our chemical industry, in which Iran has a clear comparative advantage.

Keywords: Chemistry and value added, Knowledge based industry, Technology-based economy, Social benefits, Political development, Cultural heritage

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