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IEC Chief: Iran's egg industry safe

**Wednesday, November 09, 2005 - ©2005
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LONDON, November 9 (IranMania) - Visiting chairman of the International Egg Commission (IEC) said that Iranian poultry industry has managed to employ international health standards in production of eggs, stressing that production wastes have declined in Iran.

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According to ILNA, William Kallhammer (Senior Partner of Ovotherm clear egg packaging) further told a press conference at the International Egg Association of Iran that there are 56 mln egg-laying hens in Iran, adding that the number has now reached 5.5 bln worldwide.

?There are 1.5 bln egg-laying hens in China, while America has 284 mln and Europe 430 mln egg-laying hens,? he said, adding that Asia accounts for 60 % of the world?s entire egg supply.

He said bird flu pandemic has not affected international egg business.

A Vietnamese man has died of bird flu, the latest case in Asia that underlines the urgency for top international health experts drawing up a strategy to prevent the virus from spreading to humans around the globe.

Iran has not yet reported any bird flu infection. The country exported 40,000 tons of eggs last year.

Iran is the world?s 17th largest country in terms of egg production. It ranks eighth in Asia.

The country is expected to produce 720,000 tons of chicken eggs in the year to March 2006, when exports might reach 60,000-70,000 tons. Per capita egg consumption has improved from eight to nine kilos per annum over the past three years. The figure stands at 24 kilos for Japan and 18 kilos for Europe.