



## A singular spirit, a singular enthusiasm, from 1915 to 2015. TOBB 71st General Assembly held

TOBB's 71st General Assembly was held on the 2nd of May, 2015 at the TOBB ETU Hall in Ankara. Attending the General Assembly in addition to Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu were State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan, Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi (CHP) Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi (MHP) Deputy Chairman Oktay Vural, chairpersons of the 365 Chambers/ Exchanges in Turkey, TOBB delegates and many guests.

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu stated that the business community wants to pen a new epic of success and that structural reforms need to be enacted with all due haste with the participation of everyone.

Stating that TOBB General

Assemblies are where they traditionally engage in introspection, Hisarcıkıoğlu listed their activities since the last General Assembly:

→ First of all, we focused on local development. To this end, we increased the service capacity of our Chambers and Exchanges providing service on global standards to 191.

→ We increased the number of entrepreneurs in order to increase Turkey's prosperity and to increase the capacity of its entrepreneurs. We've begun the 18th Turkish Speaking Entrepreneurs Program for the Turkish speaking entrepreneurs from the Balkans, the Middle East, North Africa, Crimea and Central Asia as we want to conduct business in these regions in our own language.

→ We've focused on bringing advanced technology to our country. To this end, we are working with the Development Minister to establish the 'TOBB Life Sciences and Biotechnology Foundation'.

→ We have increased the quality and quantity of the services we offer companies. We are continuing the work of modernizing our customs gates in order to facilitate exports.

→ We have expanded our global relations in order to provide a better voice for the Turkish business community. We've begun our efforts to establish the Nicosia Arbitration Center.

→ We are continuing to undertake social responsibility projects and to preserve our cultural heritage.

## Our goal is to escape the medium income trap and enter the affluent club

The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) and SAP Turkey's Think Simple, Make a Difference Forum was held in Ankara with the attendances of the Science, Industry and Technology Minister Fikri Işık and TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu. Transition to digital in public institutions and private sector in line with Turkey's 2023 goals were discussed during the Forum in which TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu stated that their goal is to escape the medium income trap and enter the affluent club, which requires jumping up 2.5 steps, the solution to which in the short term is technology.





## TOBB 8th Turkey Commerce and Industry Summit provides a panoramic view of Turkey's economy

The 8th Turkey Commerce and Industry Summit was hosted by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu and attended by Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu at the TOBB Twin Towers. The Chamber/Exchange presidents from 81 provinces found opportunity to relay their top 5 most pressing issues and their suggestions for solutions to the government directly.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu said in his speech, "The last 12 years have been a story of success unto themselves. No matter what anyone says, under whatever political considerations, the last 12 years were a true story of success. We've risen from low income group to medium income group. We've increased per capita income to 10,000TRY. We've increased exports to 160 billion USD from 36 billion USD."

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu stated that the birthing pangs of transitioning to a new financial system are felt deeply. He stated that the Government Support Package for Employment, Industrial Investment and Consumption will provide morale and new enthusiasm for the business community.



## B20 Turkey's first regional meeting held in Jeddah

The B20 Regional Consultation Forum was hosted by TOBB President and B20 Turkey Chair M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu in Jeddah, presided over by Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan and the attendances of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Minister of Finance Dr. İbrahim Abdulaziz Al-Assaf and almost the whole TOBB Board of Directors. Attending the meeting were approximately 150 business people from Saudi Arabia and Gulf Countries.

Speaking at the first Regional Consultation Meeting held on foreign soil by B20 Turkey TOBB President and B20 Turkey Chair M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu explained B20 Turkey's agenda and priorities to businesspeople from all over the world.

Hisarcıklıoğlu said, "We, in cooperation with the ICC, will establish the World SME Forum, a business organization to protect the rights of SMEs, during Turkey's Term as G20 Chair."

## Miners' families in Ermenek received their deeds



The families of the 18 miners who lost their lives in a mine in Ermenek, Karaman, were granted deeds to houses granted by TOBB with ceremony. Attending the ceremony were Minister of Transportation, Maritime Affairs and Communication Lütfi Elvan, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Taner Yıldız, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, TOBB Board Members Selçuk Öztürk, Memiş Kütükcü, provincial and county protocol members and the families of the miners.

"Pain is known by those who experience it," said TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu and went on, "Nothing can alleviate this pain. However, we want those who remain to know that they are not alone. The children of those who died are not alone. We want them to know that the nation stands with them in these most trying of times. These houses are intended to provide at least some facility in restoring their day to day lives."



Turkey is experiencing a serious “food shock”. Our annual non-food inflation has receded to 5.5%. Despite Inflation pressure stemming from fluctuations in exchange rate, non-food inflation has receded due to weak growth. A strong trend of increase has been present in food prices since 2012. Annual food inflation reached 14.1% in March. Food and non-food inflation rate is undergoing a rarely before seen divergence.

Between 2012-2014, growth in agricultural production increased by 1.6%. This is below the average growth rate for the last decade, 2.3%. In summary, meteorological drought has in part resulted in agricultural

drought. However, the slow growth rate in agricultural production fails to fully explain the 40% cumulative increase in food prices.

Consider the top three inputs for production: Fuel, fertilizer and seed. During the said period, fuel prices saw a slight decrease. Fertilizer prices cumulatively increased by 20% while seed prices increased by 30%. It is evident that production cost increases in food are stemming from seed and fertilizer prices. The increase is even greater than the amount increased by producers of their goods. The cry of the producer should be heeded. The food shock experienced in Turkey is stemming from seed and fertilizer inflation.

## Discover skill!



Institutions house tangible, visible but intangible and invisible and intangible values. The most

precious invisible and intangible value is comprised of employees. Each employee presents as a value unto themselves; an individual potential and a set of individual skills. In order to discover these talents, skill tracking management systems need to be implemented in institutions as well conducting the necessary follow-ups.

Skill management is the process of recruitment, training, development, retention and replication of human resources according to predetermined set of skill factors with the aim of preserving the value of significant positions in institutions while achieving continuity, institutional strategies and goals.

Today’s business world requires visionary employees. That is why matching a skill with appropriate profession has become one of the most pressing issues of HR. The creation of methods to determine skill, determining the correct skill and acquiring individuals with a natural leadership attribute for our institutions and skill management systems is imperative.

## TOBB ETU held “Çanakkale Victory and National Anthem Program”

The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey Economy and Technology University (TOBB ETU) held a “Çanakkale Victory and National Anthem Program”. TOBB ETU School of Sciences and Literature Deacon Prof. Dr. Yusuf Sarımay stated that 1915 was the longest year of the Ottoman Empire, containing

many events which have had lasting effects which stretch unto even the present. Stating that the Battle of Çanakkale was the fight for survival of a nation, Prof. Dr. Sarımay pointed out that this fight could very well be considered the “battle of the intelligentsia” as it was fought mostly by the students and luminaries of the country of the day.

