



## World SME Forum Foundation for the development of SMEs

Founded by TOBB, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and World Chambers Federation (WCF), the World SME Forum Foundation was opened in İstanbul on May 23rd, 2015. The World SME Forum Foundation aims to be a platform for endeavors to support SMEs throughout the world.

Stating that the inclusivity brought to the fore during Turkey G20 Term Chairmanship with the SME Forum has become an institution, TOBB President, B20 Turkey Chair and ICC Board

Member M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu said:

“Since 2008 the Financial Stability Council has been rewriting global financial regulations in Basel, Switzerland. These financial regulations effect SMEs the most. At the end of the day, SMEs’ access to financial tools is becoming more and more restricted. It is not just access either. The new financial crime fighting rules and banks’ information gathering responsibilities are making it impossible for SMEs to do business.

The World SME Forum will work to prevent the negative impacts of such implementations. The World SME Forum will also provide guidance for countries seeking to support SMEs.

Another field we will be active in is the development of systems for certification of SMEs’ qualities. Platforms to bring SMEs together with large companies will be created, enabling SMEs to take their rightful place in the increasingly global economy.”

## 8th Turkey Sectoral Economy Summit examines the sectors

Held at the TOBB Twin Towers, the 8th Turkey Sectoral Economy Summit brought together representatives from 60 different sectors. TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu hosted the Summit wherein sectors underwent examination. Stating that the Summit is the biggest of its kind in Turkey, bringing together all sectors, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, stated that sector councils are comprised of the 40 largest companies in their respective sectors. This enables keeping close tabs on sectors; also present on the councils are a permanent public

administration representative relevant to the sector, said Hisarcıklıoğlu and went on, “This way, Turkey’s sector councils have come together with the public administration around a table to consult, to cooperate and discuss its problems, acting as a sectoral and

consultative mechanism.”

The problems and suggestions of the sectors were clearly put forth during the Summit. TOBB Turkey Sector Councils’ requests focus mainly on the reduction of costs and incentivizing competition.





## Turkey's astonishing G20 and B20 performance

The activities held in Washington D.C. by the B20 presided over by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, were attended by 350 guests from all over the world. The B20 Committee, previously made up of 200 people, increased to 600 while the International Business Arbitration Council, which was established as a permanent structure for the first time, increased its high level representation number to 50. Coca Cola's CEO Muhtar Kent presides over IBAC, which brought together world renowned business people and CEOs together at the meeting in Washington D.C.

Speaking at the conference, International Monetary Fund Chair Christine Lagarde reported that the G20 has entered a period of intense activity with Turkey's presidency, "Turkey's G20 presidency is strong and honest."

TOBB President and B20 Turkey Chair M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu reported that Turkey's G20 and B20 Term Presidency has been met with admiration throughout the world.



## TOBB, brought together "Turkish Speaking Entrepreneurs" from various countries

Hosted by TOBB, the 18th Turkish Speaking Entrepreneurs Program brought together 47 entrepreneurs from 21 countries and autonomous regions. TOBB Secretary General Mustafa Saraçöz presented the attendees of the 18th Turkish Speaking Entrepreneurs Program with their certificates and urged them to increase trade and commerce between their countries.

Turkish Speaking Entrepreneurs Program was implemented in 2005 to strengthen ties with Turkish speaking entrepreneurs in neighboring countries, the Middle East and the Balkans by TOBB and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To date, 650 people have attended the program from neighboring and friend countries.

## Turkey: Results of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership



Turkey has the potential to kick off its third liberalization phase, transitioning from compliant to policy maker in the global trade architecture. Managed properly by all parties, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) can be transformed into opportunity for Turkey. It should be considered a turning point in the realization of Turkey's economic expectations. In this regard, it is vital that the process which will revise the European Commission and the Custom Union.

## Increased ratio of renewable energy in the EU and Turkey



According to Eurostat, EU's utilization of renewable energy has increased from 8.3% in 2004 to 15% in 2004. The country which uses the most renewable energy is Sweden; the lowest, Luxemburg. Eurostat data is not only important in showing the progress EU has achieved towards its renewable energy goals as well as the utilization of renewable energy which is important for the long term goals of both the EU and Turkey.



## B20 and SOCAR sign cooperation protocol

B20 Regional Consultation Meeting was held in Baku as a part of Turkey's G20 Term Presidency. Presiding over the inter-governmental economic cooperation platform known as G20's business arm, the B20, is the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). Under TOBB's presidency, it was decided that the B20 Regional Consultation Meeting would be held in Baku with the attendances of the Azerbaijan Entrepreneurs' Organization

National Confederation (ASK), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and Turkic Council.

Held on May 12th, 2015, the B20 Regional Consultation Meeting, B20 Turkey and TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu and the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) President Rövnak Abdüllayev signed a strategic cooperation protocol between B20 and SOCAR.

## Customs tax free entry into the US market



With the reimplementation of the Generalized System of Preferences Program (GSP) customs tax free entry into the US markets has been opened for various Turkish goods.

US President Barack Obama has signed the legislation which extended GSP program to December 31st, 2017, on June 29th, 2015 which ended on July 31st, 2013. The program has been retroactively reinstated. Those who paid customs taxes between July 31st, 2013 and June 29th, 2015 are eligible for refunds from the US Customs and Border Protection.

## TOBB ETÜ and IBM together for data analytics

BM Large Data Analysis Laboratory which will focus on analyzing social media data to contribute to economic development, which will conduct in-depth research and train the work force of the future has been opened at the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey University of Economics and Technology (TOBB ETU). Attending the opening of the IBM Large Data Analysis Laboratory were TOBB ETU School of Engineering

Assistant Dean Prof. Dr. Murat Alanyalı, IBM Turk General Director Isabel Gomez Cagigas, IBM Turk Üiversity Relations Chief Jale Akyel, Project Manager TOBB ETÜ Computer Engineering Department Head Ass. Dr. Erdoğan Dođdu.

Speaking at the opening of the laboratory, IBM Turk General Director Isabel Gomez Cagigas stated that everything is related to analytics and that students need better education in this field.

