

TOBB supports SMEs, economic backbone of growing Turkey

As of March 26, a total number of 81,313 SMEs benefitted from the "Support Fund for 100 thousand SMEs" project, receiving a total loan amount of TL 1 billion 989 million 509 thousand, 739. Aiming to improve the means of access to finance for SMEs that are the economic backbone of Turkey, TOBB, the umbrella organisation for the Turkish private industry, has signed a new protocol with Halkbank which has adopted the mission of becoming a "SME bank".

TOBB and **Halkbank** join hands to extend TL 40 thousand loan to each SME

TOBB and Halkbank signed a cooperation protocol to offer low-cost loans to SMEs. Delivering a speech at the signature ceremony, M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, the Chairman of TOBB, said, "We aim to improve the means of access to finance for SMEs that constitute the backbone of our national economy. Because easy access to finance is like blood running in the human body. If it stops running, the body's organs can not survive."





65. Towards Election-Free Annual General Meeting

TOBB will hold its 65th Election-free Annual General Meeting on 22 May. Maintaining an entrepreneurial approach to eliminating all the barriers that may prevent the Turkish private industry from taking its place among the leading global brands, and working hard to combine high quality and technology with an innovative perspective, TOBB, the umbrella organisation for the Turkish real industry, will focus on the economic priorities together with 365 delegates from chambers and commodity exchanges at its 65th Election-free Annual General Meeting.



Dutch and Turkish Chambers Launch **Business Cooperation Development** Project

All the speakers, including Turkey's President Abdullah Gül, who attended the Turkish-Russian Business Forum held in Ankara pointed out that the relations between the two countries gained considerable momentum, expecting that the trade volume between the two countries would reach USD 100 billion in the next five years.



Dutch and Turkish Chambers Launch Business Cooperation Development Project

KvK NL and TOBB signed a protocol on 12 October 2009 with respect to the "Business Cooperation Development Project Between Dutch and Turkish Chambers", the Dutch leg of which has been coordinated by the Dutch Union of Chambers of Commerce, during the visit paid by the Dutch Foreign Trade Minister Heemskerk to Turkey. The aim of the protocol is to enhance cooperation on the project to ensure that Turkish and Dutch Chambers get to know eachother better and improve bilateral trade. The Turkey leg of the project, involving 12 Chambers from Holland and 10 Chambers from Turkey operating in 6 different cities, has been coordinated by TOBB.

TOBB-affiliated Chambers of Commerce discuss trade **sector's problems**

Convened to discuss the problems facing the trade sector, TOBB-affiliated Chambers of Commerce voiced their complaints about unfair competition and smuggling that have been caused by the high levels of taxes imposed, and pointed out that the high costs of logistics and transport services constitute one of the main barriers to economic revival and to increasing the number of registered workforce.





TOBB-IDB Group cooperates in providing training to ECO members

TOBB and the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB) jointly provided a training program to ECO-member countries between 5-9 April 2010. The Program was designed to improve the capacities of the chambers of commerce in ECO-member countries, strengthen the existing relations among them, and provide information to them particularly on Turkey's rapid economic evolution and generally on global economic governance.

Turkey-EU Relations, and projects launched by the Economic Development Foundation for businesses within the framework of these relations

The local business community is among the social segments that is most affected by the legal regulations enacted towards membership of the EU. The Turkish business community should monitor the possible effects of the membership negotiations and develop future plans by forecasting the potential costs and opportunities with a view to maintaining its dynamism and competitive strength.





In search of cooperation with Lebanese businessmen...



A Turkish business delegation, led by M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, the Chairman of TOBB/DEIK (Foreign Economic Relations Board), attended the Turkish-Lebanese Economic Conference in order to discuss in which areas they can cooperate with Lebanese businessmen. During a meeting held between Hisarcıklıoğlu and Lebanese Prime Minister, Saad Hariri, Hisarcıklıoğlu suggested that some concrete steps be taken to improve the existing economic relations between the two countries.