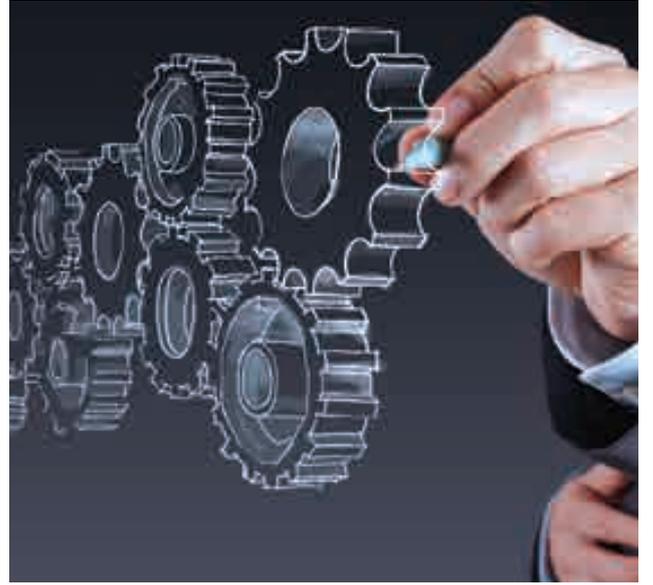


TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkılıođlu:

Industry is the only way to get off the middle income trap

Our most important issue today is the lack of a sustainable growth strategy. Therefore our economy is trapped into a slow pace growth process. The industry is the only way to get off the middle income trap. However the share of industry within the economy is on decline. It gets harder to improve productivity, to become an innovative economy and to reduce the current account deficit as we move away from the industry.

We have managed to upgrade to a medium technology based manufacturing following low technology. However we couldn't achieve the same success as we try to transform to a high-technology based manufacturing sector. To stop de-industrialization and to improve the quality of the production, the revenue generated by investing into industry, production and manufacturing should not be considered in the same category with real estate rent and the tax system should be changed. The skill level of the workforce should be improved. The education system which is inadequate and the priorities in Turkey's industrial policies should reshape according to changing human capital needs and Efficiency of judicial system should improve.



The clear message given on the 73rd general assembly of Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) was "Our unity is our strength". President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, ministers, TOBB delegates and representatives of business world attended the meeting hosted by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkılıođlu. "Now we have to focus on tomorrow and walk together into the future. We should revive the reform fire and show our growth story to world by working together. If we maintain the stability in unity, we can overcome any problem" said TOBB President Hisarcıkılıođlu.

During the general assembly the delegates serving for 10 years and 20 years and also Former TOBB President Ali Cođkun who shuffled off this mortal coil after the referendum were presented Certificate of Duty and Honour and plaque.

“We transformed countrywomen into entrepreneurs”

TOBB Woman Entrepreneurs Board Marmara Region Meeting took place in Edirne Chamber of Trade and Industry with the attendance of TOBB Edirne Woman Entrepreneurs Board President Elmas Aslan and board members. “We established the Rural Bio Bazaar with other words the village market. We took the countrywomen outside off their homes. We started just with 15 women and now we are more than 100. Our women sell their home manufactured milk, egg, jam, noodle, tomato sauce, soup with dried yoghurt in this market. They started to make money” said TOBB Edirne Woman Entrepreneurs Board President Elmas Aslan. Edirne Chamber of Trade and Industry President Mehmet Eren said “Operating under coordination of Edirne Chamber of Trade and Industry, TOBB Edirne Women Entrepreneurs Board did remarkable works and we are proud of them”.



“Let’s protect our local products and get geographic indication”



Geographically Indicated Products Summit took place with the attendance of Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodities President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu, Minister of Customs and Trade Bülent Tüfenkci, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology Faruk Özlü, Ankara Governor Ercan Topaca, Ankara Chamber of Commerce President (ATO) Gürsel Baran and a wide audience.

TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu underlined the importance of geographical indication during the speech he made at the summit. “Thanks god that we are not given crude oil or natural gas” said TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu and stated that we had two much more valuable treasures than those. Hisarcıkloğlu underlines the significance of protecting local products to get a geographical indication and said “I have faith that we will bring each value that we inherited from our ancestry with the world”.



Ortega invites Turkish business world for investment



Nicaraguan legendary leader, state president Daniel Ortega received Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodities President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu. Visiting the capital of Nicaragua Managua to attend the Iberian-American Union of Chambers Board Meeting, TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu consulted with Nicaragua state president Daniel Ortega.

TOBB board members Şahin Bilgiç, Cengiz Günay, Bülent Karakuş and Ha-

kan Ülgen also attended to the meeting where Turkey's Costa Rica Ambassador Nuri Kaya also participated.

Requesting to send his greetings to State President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Ortega celebrated his victory in the referendum. Stating that they will start working on establishing an embassy in Turkey, Ortega praised the successful transformation period of Turkish economy and invited Turkish business world to Nicaragua for investment.

Hero of economic development: Kahramanmaraş



Independence War hero Kahramanmaraş made history by starting an investment spurt in industry. Today Kahramanmaraş is 24th biggest of Turkey with its economy of 17 billion Turkish liras, and 19th biggest with its 6.5 billion Turkish liras GDP.

The city's full adjustment capacity on economy politics and the morals to put state incentives in good use lies behind this success.

"Our biggest objective is to become one of the first 10 cities in industrialization" says Kahramanmaraş Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Serdar Zabun. Kahramanmaraş Commodity Exchange Chairman Ahmet Duran Balsuyu said "The promotion of Kahramanmaraş must be more effective. We should create branded products by attracting investors".