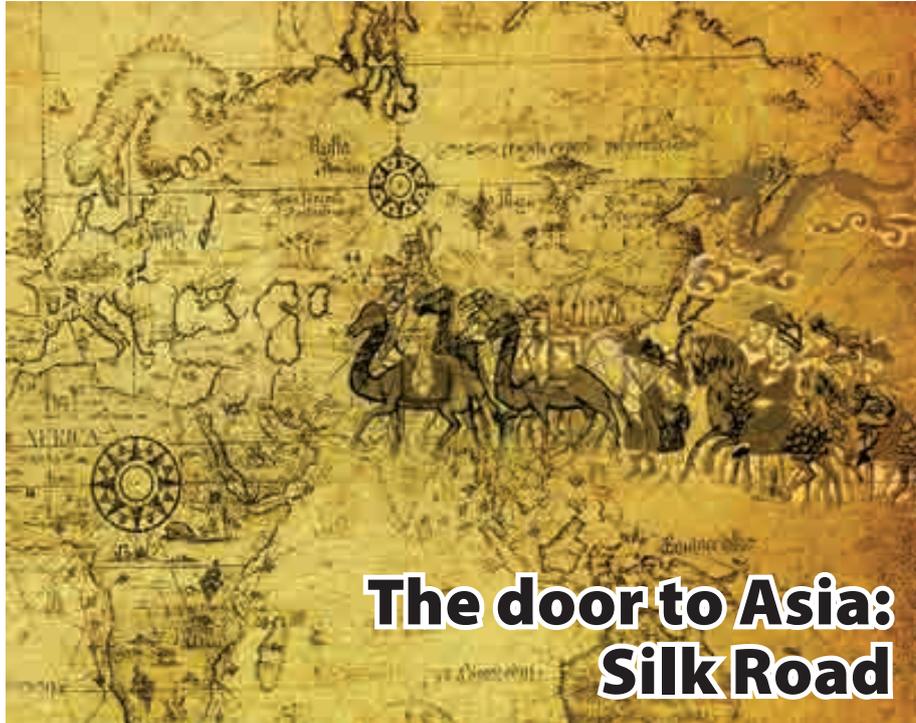


TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu:

We have to focus on innovation rather than artificial agenda

Technologic improvements change our world permanently and will continue to change. The fundamental source of groundbreaking and amazing changes is the new industrial revolution; the industrial relovution that will change the rankings of economies, governing of the global economy, that will determine how will economies position within the global economy, how and where the production will be done... No country has the luxury to stay out of this process. No one caring about their country's future can turn their back to this new storming industrial revolution and technologic change. Now we have to focus on this main agenda rather than the artificial ones.

We have to prepare our selves to make a huge jump for catching up with the new industrial revolution and focus on changing technology rather than sectors. Because it's the era of choosing technology and not sector. We live in an era where all conventional sectors reshaping themselves with the new technologies. In this context innovation means envisaging the future.



The door to Asia: Silk Road

Succeeding in mega projects like Eurasia Tunnel, Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge and Marmaray, Turkey now focuses on Silk Road Project to reach Asian markets. Raised by China President Xi Jinping in 2013, Silk Road Project is now on Turkey's as well as world's agenda. In the meetings took place in Beijing in the last couple of months with the attendance of state presidents and government leaders of 29 countries, Silk Road was tried to rendered more practical with the name 'One Belt, One Road'.

Revival of Silk Road route, which comes up as the most important foreign policy of China and even seen as the project of the century have significant importance for Turkey. Turkey plays an important role on one of the most significant pillars of the One Belt, One Road project implemented by Chinese Government.

What did drive the giants' profits?

A few state-financed enterprises figures drove the top Turkish industrial enterprises' annual profit figures and the created added value performance. Despite being only 2.2 of the total, 11 state-financed enterprises within the Top 500 Industrial Enterprises of Turkey research released by Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO) generated the 21.1% of the total profit and 11.9% of the net created added value and had a share of 20.2% within the national income.

While 489 enterprises in the list increased their period incomes by 14.9% and profit/loss sum by 17.2%, this increase figures were 166% and 172% respectively for the state-financed enterprises. One of those Türkiye Petrolleri A.O and Elektrik Üretim A.Ş. which ranked as first two Top 500 Industrial Enterprises generated a total of 463 million TL profit, which formed the 17.1% of the total profit figure of all 500 companies.



"81 Academic Adviser for 81 Cities"

81 academic advisers chosen with consensus by Chambers and Commodity Exchanges in 81 cities leagued together in 73rd general assembly of Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) as part of "81 academic advisers for 81 cities" project initiated by TOBB with the aim of contributing to local development.

At the end of the general assembly academic advisors meeting TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu expressed their appreciation to be a part of TOBB community. TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkıoğlu stated the importance of the project for both Chambers and Commodity Exchanges and the academics' careers as well.



Turkish Azerbaijani and Georgian SMEs became partners in virtual shop

The agreement for World SME Forum's electronic platform KOBİ Market created in partnership of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia was signed in Istanbul. The electronic platform established with the aim to address the biggest growth challenges SMEs facing like accessing to markets, fundings and talent, will provide tremendous opportunities for SMEs of all three countries. SMEs from

these three countries can open their virtual stores on KOBİ Market, display their products, will immediately start selling their products as they can access both domestic and foreign markets. TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu "It's the greatest opportunity of this age for our SMEs" and added: "It's not possible to survive on your own anymore. There has to be such regional cooperations".

Turkey's door to West: İzmir



It's difficult to constrain İzmir with only definite sectors. Having a great potential in trade, industry, tourism, health care, mining, education, art and in almost every sector, İzmir sometimes suffers from having such potential. It's one of the biggest challenges for İzmir to define its priorities and focus on a common goal. There are two issues everyone agree on about 3rd biggest city of Turkey İzmir - and both reflect themselves economically and also socially; First: It's Turkey's door to West, second: It's a city to live in...

When we asked TOBB Vice Chairman and EBSO Chairman Ender Yorgancılar about branding works on İzmir - one of the most important cities of Turkey - "To adopt smart and free city concept in the future city strategies will make a leap forward for city branding. We have to overhaul all infrastructure and superstructure systems in our city with innovative policies" said Yorgancılar.