

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu:

Trade War is just the tip of the iceberg

One of the most important topics occupying the global agenda is the commercial tension growing between the USA and China. The tension which started as a result of the US President Donald Trump's idiosyncratic steps shifted from customs tariffs to another area. Upon the USA's request, the Canadian police arrested the daughter of the founder of Chinese Huawei, one of the greatest telecom companies in the world, who was also the CFO of the company.

The reason for the arrest was the violation of the embargo the USA imposed on Iran by Skycom, an affiliate of Huawei. It was stated that Skycom exported banned technology and equipment to Iran. The Chinese government on the other hand strongly reacted to Canada and the USA immediately.

Although the subject appears to be the violation of the sanction imposed on Iran, the underlying reason is the increasing competition between the USA and China. The trade war is just the tip of the iceberg. What lie below the surface are the ever-increasing and expanding military problems, intelligence and counter-intelligence matters, and the cyber world whose importance grows exponentially each day.



The course of the global economy changes!

It's hard to say that 2018 was a very good year in terms of world economy and markets. US President Donald Trump has dragged the world into a trade war with additional tariffs he levied together with some of his allies on China. As US Federal Reserve (Fed) continues to raise interest rates, economic problems of developing countries, including Turkey, has become more serious, thus the concerns about the countries owing a considerable amount of dollar debt

aroused again. The growth in Europe and China has slowed down. In the US economy, which displayed a strong performance this year, the possibility of recession has started to be discussed in recent weeks.

According to The Economist, what happened this year is somehow a precursor of the challenges in 2019. 'The World in 2019' analyzed how sectors will perform in the new year.

“More women will be involved in technology now”

Women Writing the Future Project promotion meeting was hosted by Emine Erdoğan, the wife of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, at Beştepe People's Convention and Culture Center.

In addition to Mrs. Erdoğan and the president of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu, Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan, Minister of National Education Ziya Selçuk, and Minister of Labor, Social Services and Family Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk also attended the meeting. It was emphasized that the



Women Writing the Future Project was launched with the cooperation of Turkcell, TOBB and TOBB Women Entrepreneurs Committee to train women on software, and to increase women's employment capacity and entrepreneurship capabilities. The project also aims to support participants in developing mobile applications. Speaking at the Women Writing the

Future Project promotion meeting, the president of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu said, “This time, we aimed for the sky. We increased the number of provinces where the project will be implemented to 21. We estimate that 5 thousand women will take part in these trainings. More women will be involved in technology.”



“Members of Organization of Islamic Cooperation must be strong”

The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COM-CEC) held its 34th meeting at the Istanbul Congress Center.

Attending the meeting, the president of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and Vice President of Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Ag-

riculture (ICCIA) M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu said President Erdoğan always attached great importance to the problems of the Islamic countries, and that he always looked out for his Muslim brothers and sisters experiencing difficulties. Mr. Hisarcıkloğlu added, “He always led the efforts to increase cooperation, fraternity and solidarity in the Islamic world.”

TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu empha-

sized that we lived in a world where might made right and the strong said the last word, adding, “As the members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, we must be economically strong. Each of our countries has its own powers and advantages. But if we do not act together and bring those powers together, we do not stand any chance in becoming successful in the global system.”



Kırklareli aims to develop with local products

Kırklareli being the first settlement 8 thousand years ago on the European continent where seeds meet with soil, aims to make a move with border trade and to improve its foreign trade volume in different sectors in addition to agriculture and animal husbandry having been its favorite sectors.

With its strategic location, educated human resource, developed transportation infrastructure and proximity to harbours and border gates, Kırklareli is one of the most important gates of Turkey to Europe.

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kırklareli Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Soner Ilık has stated: "Being out of the investment incentive zone slows down the development of our industry. As Chamber, we have focused our efforts to include Kırklareli in the scope of incentive zone."

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kırklareli Commodity Exchange, Turhan Altinel has also declared: "On the way to become a Brand City, the Meat and Milk Institution should be brought to Kırklareli, Dereköy Customs Gate should be opened to TIR traffic, and the Incentive Law must be restructured."

The protective policies implemented by the EU and the USA, and the quota they apply to steel import have negative effects on Turkey's exports. As the retaliations against USA taxes continue, Turkey initiated an investigation on protective measures regarding this subject. The recovery in the industry in relation to global steel demand which started in 2017 and which continued this year faces great risks. The protective policies the USA launched which were joined by the EU, Canada and other countries have a restrictive effect on the channeling of the recovery in global demand towards global steel markets. The monthly global steel export which was around 37 – 39 million tons in 2017 dropped to 35-36 million ton in the first quarter of this year.

At this stage, our domestic market needs to be protected with customs duties and foreign trade devices against the export from EU countries to Turkey, and the risk that countries experiencing difficulties to export their goods to the USA and the EU may direct their exports to Turkey in order to ensure that Turkish steel industry continues production.



Iron - steel industry wants new measures