

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkılıođlu:

We owe to Turkish Independence War these territories remaining homeland

This year is the 100th anniversary of May 19, 1919, a turning point for Independence War, which started with Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's landing in Samsun. In honor of the anniversary, youth, sports, and cultural events will be organized particularly in Samsun as well as the entire country. 100th anniversary events will be held all around Turkey through the year, with provinces Istanbul, Samsun, Amasya, Erzurum, Sivas, and Ankara taking the lead.

This is how an epic struggle for independence was initiated hundred years ago by a war-weary country, which was up to her ears in debt, and was suffering from scarcity, and poverty in the aftermath of destruction the First World War caused; whose armies were disbanded; whose



lands were occupied; and was perished in the hands of a short-sighted, and a coward government. If War of Independence had not been won under the leadership of Mustafa

Kemal, we could not have saved Anatolia, either. This is why we owe to Independence War, Sakarya, and the Battle of Dumlupınar this country remaining to be homeland.



Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) Turkey Sectoral Economy Summit was hosted by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkılıođlu. At the summit, which was attended by seven ministers and about one thousand business people, the representatives of 61 sectors delivered presentations,

addressed the problems in their sectors, and proposed solutions. TOBB President Hisarcıkılıođlu stated, "I would like to thank, in the presence of you, our ministers who acted so quickly for the Turkish business world. Today, we are launching together with you the 2019 Employment Campaign. We are taking

the first step to fulfill our President's call for an employment campaign. Our motto is "This is Turkey, There is Work Here". As TOBB, Sector Councils and Chamber and Exchanges, we will promote this campaign throughout 81 cities and 160 districts, and make our best effort to achieve the widest participation."

“A strong economy is the only way to preserve military power”

The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu and Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar participated in the Turkish Defense Industry Council's meeting held at Eskişehir Air Supply and Maintenance Center, TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu made a speech where he reminded that Turkey's dependence on foreign sources in the defense industry was about 80 percent in 2002 whereas it is about 35 percent today,



and stated that Turkish aviation and defense industry's turnover reached \$7 billion.

TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu said, “We also gained ground in global competition. Our defense industry export exceeded \$2 billion in 2018. We took part in giant international projects like F-35 and A-400. Today we are exporting UAVs to Ukraine, the country manufacturing Antonov, the

greatest aircraft in the world. I am extremely proud of our Ministry of Defense, Defense Industry Department, General Staff and our companies. If it was not for the support of the public sector, the private sector would not be able to succeed alone. Similarly, without the determination and industriousness of the private sector, the public sector would not be able to achieve this by itself.”



“Companies in Turkey are eager to collaborate with Iran”

Mohammad Nahavandian, Vice President of Iran for Economic Affairs received the Turkish business delegation headed by M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, the President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), and assessed the economic relations between the two countries.

Nahavandian stated that the Islamic world would become much stronger as a result of the close relationship between Iran and Turkey, and that if Ankara and Teheran acted together, “No country would succeed in imposing economic sanctions on them”. Nahavandian said, “Increasing our relationships with the Turkish government

and people is one of the priorities of the Iranian foreign policy. Pressures caused by US sanctions will soon end, and hard times reveal one's true friends.”

TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu said, “Companies and chambers of commerce in Turkey are eager to collaborate with Iran.”



Quota bubble in higher education

Access to higher education has gotten considerably easier in Turkey in recent years. There were only 12 universities in 1970 whereas there are 203 today. In 1980, the year when I graduated, only 42,000 students out of 467,000 taking the entrance exam were admitted to a university, which was only 9% of the applicants. After 30 years, in 2010, however, 1,588,000 students took the entrance exam, out of which 874,000 (55%) were admitted. The capacity in higher education increased by 20 fold in 30 years; however, it is impossible to argue that the quality of education kept up with this increase.

The system must be revised considering the fact that the main objective of higher education is not to maximize the number of students entering the university but to prepare them for the future by providing them a high quality education. The changes in the world must be studied carefully and the curricula offered by universities must be restructured so that they prepare our youth and our country for the future better.

Factors which will determine the future of labor markets and businesses radically change every passing day. As technological advances eliminate certain traditional jobs, they create new ones. Employment models change. With increased mobility, more flexible, short-term and temporary jobs gain more importance.

People-oriented approaches come to the fore in this rapid process of change; protecting the status and rights of the employees becomes more important than ever.

The report entitled "Work for a Brighter Future" prepared by ILO's "Global Commission on the Future of Work" discusses the opportunities and the challenges to be created by these unique transformation observed in working life, and invites governments to take "solution-oriented" measures.

