



TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu: The decisive victory on August 30th has set an example for all nations

The month of August is regarded as the month of victories. Most particularly, 26th August 1071 and 26th August 1922 are important landmarks in the Turkish history. With the victory of Malazgirt in 1071 under the command of Sultan Alparslan the doors of Anatolia were opened as a homeland for

the Turkish people.

The decisive victory on August 30 did not create huge reverberations in Turkey but all around the world, and has set an example for the oppressed and deprived nations of the world. This magnificent victory had created great enthusiasm and happiness

among the people living throughout the Eastern world, in Asia, Africa, Caucasus, India and Egypt as their own victory and raised the spirits of the local people who most welcomed this magnificent victory with spectacular celebrations. In India, mosques were lighted, torchlight processions were organized, telegrams and cable messages celebrating Mustafa Kemal rained down. This magnificent victory had deeply shaken the foundations of the English colonial empire, and the Turkish people's battle for their independence and freedom has set an example for all oppressed nations. As specified by Yahya Kemal, the "one thousand years" we lived between the foundation and salvation and independence along with the victories, defeats, wealth and miseries have remoulded and transformed us into a "nation" and our feelings on the state of the nation, flag and motherland have developed. Thus, these developments saved us from remaining a group of tribes. Here we are, this is one of the most important characteristics that differs us from the other nations in the Middle East.



Are we ready for ecology-oriented production?

Climate change is considered one of the greatest problems humanity has ever encountered. Global warming causes economic, social and ecological losses whose severity increase every day. In the last decade, the world has experienced some of its warmest periods mainly because of industrialization thrusts fueled by globalization, and the greenhouse gases released by the 10 countries which lead the global economy. According to some scientists,

the severity of the situation is becoming clearer for everyone, while others claim that global trade will transform into one that is based on sustainability. The contribution of the instruments used in global trade to sustainability increased in recent years. In this context, experts emphasize that companies which transform their business models to those that are ecology-oriented will lead the global trade in the future.

Experts also state that global trade

is undergoing a transformation in terms of sustainability, and that large-scale companies in Turkey are starting to join this process, and that Turkey, a country whose export activities are mainly SME-based, must step up its efforts aimed at increasing awareness in this regard. They also recommend that Turkey, who aims to become one of the Top 10 greatest economies in global trade, must accept environmental protection activities as a government policy.



“Railway connections of ports must be completed”

MEAK Chamber of Maritime Commerce Kocaeli Branch was opened at a ceremony attended by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu.

In his speech, TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu said that maritime trade is one of the most strategic sectors in global

trade, adding, “It is one of the leading industries in our country. We want to be among the ‘leading maritime countries.’”

Emphasizing that this is not an easy task, Hisarcıklioğlu said, “Maritime is a sector where fierce global competition is experienced at the highest level. One must not only survive, but also fly your country’s flag in all seas. Therefore, I would

like to congratulate all the maritime traders representing our sector here.”

TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu said, “We ask our government to complete the railway connections of the ports. If we can shift this transportation to railways, the amount of goods transported by İzmit Gulf will increase as the truck traffic decreases.”



“We must make our trade routes safe and fast”

Economic Cooperation Organization Trade and Industry Chamber (ECO CCI) 26th Executive Committee and 17th General Assembly Meetings were hosted by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu at the TOBB Istanbul Service Building.

In his opening speech, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu stated that their aim was to increase trade and investment among ECO countries, and said, “The importance of this issue is not limited to its economic significance. If we want peace and prosperity in our countries and geography, trade must be increased. For, those who are engaged in trade do not fight or see each other as enemies.”

TOBB President Hisarcıklioğlu said, “We have excellent opportunities. If we do not seize them, then someone else will conduct this trade. They will find different routes, and we will be the ones who lose. If we make our trade routes safe and fast, we will become the center of trade between Asia and Europe.”



Kars becomes a logistics center

Being the portal to the Caucasus and Middle East, and having its location on the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipe Line and the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway Project, Kars is one of the most strategic cities in Turkey. It is foreseen that, following the completion of the Kars Logistics Center Project, the city will become the center of a transit network, and increase its trade potential through road transport.

Ertuğrul Alibeyoğlu, the Chairman of Board of Directors of Kars Chamber of Commerce and Industry, says, "We aim to increase our trade by leading patent and geographical indication projects related to our indigenous products, and promoting them." Alibeyoğlu added, "First, we must identify the problems on our path to become a brand city, and all actors must fulfill their respective responsibilities." Metin Durmuş, the chairman of Kars Commodity Exchange Board of Directors, says, "The only and realistic way for Kars to become a brand city is to develop its livestock economy and trade".

Wood and forestry products sector, which is very important due to its contribution to construction, furniture, steel and iron, and transportation sectors, has experienced a rapid growth in the last 20 years as a result of globalization and economic growth. This was triggered by major investments in the sector in emerging economies, and the development of international trade.

Wood, the main commercial product of the industry, is predominantly used as building material in the construction sector. Moreover, papier-mâché and paper are among the sectors where forestry products are frequently used.

Even though new technological and business practices became prevalent in the industry, the image of Turkish forestry products is not at a desired level. R&D investments increased; however, amount of value created by the university-industry collaboration is not sufficient. Aiming to export more than USD 6.5 billion worth of products this year, the industry is placed 21st among 139 exporter countries.



Image of Turkish goods is not at a desired level