



TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu:

We shall unite with a mutual goal against the coronavirus

We are currently facing the Covid-19 pandemic, which is named as one of the greatest disasters in the last century. It is thought to be the biggest crisis the world has

faced since the two world wars. It threatens all humans on this earth; making millions of people lock themselves in their homes. Everyone is anxious and wondering what

kind of a tomorrow they will wake up to. Most of us are living in a voluntary quarantine.

The most important lesson to learn from this crisis is to understand why some decisions were made wrong or late; particularly to make sure that we are not wrong or late in the decisions to come. Another lesson we must learn is to strengthen the feeling of solidarity and re-discover compassion and affection. It is to preserve ourselves from another virus we have been seeing on media, in politics and in our community that is an increasing and worrisome language of discrimination and polarization.

Transparency, accountability, and sensitiveness towards rights and freedoms are necessary the most during these times. It is time we leave political calculations and ideological baggage aside. Coronavirus does not know boundaries, does not ask for addresses or discriminate between language, religion or genes. All of humanity is fighting on the same front against a common enemy. We will either lose this war together, or all countries will unite with a mutual goal to overcome this tackle this evil.

We will win this war against coronavirus together

The coronavirus (Covid-19) that was originated from the Chinese city of Wuhan before spreading all around the world and being announced as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) has claimed thousands of lives and paused the life across many cities. As the virus is showing its impact in Turkey, the Government enabled an Economic Stability Shield plan that is a set of resources of about 100 billion Turkish Liras aimed to relieve the aftermath of the epidemic. Some companies have ordered a "home-office" system or completely paused their activities as a precaution. TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu said, "The only way we can defeat this 'darkness of a virus' roaming around the world is if we can work and discuss together. We will successfully overcome these days both in terms of



health-related and economic issues."

As the coronavirus epidemic is spreading speedily around the world, economies of many countries are suffering

immensely. As Central Banks are pumping money into the markets to meet their cash needs, governments are announcing their large-scaled stimulus packages.



Companies making contribution to Afyonkarahisar were awarded

M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, Chairman of The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), attending the Award Ceremony of Growing

and Developing Afyonkarahisar, which was organized by Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Afyonkarahisar, by reminding that 365 chambers and commodity

exchanges in 81 provinces had promptly took action after the earthquake of Elazığ – Malatya, and that aid of 108 articulated lorries were sent, acknowledged the Chamber and Commodity Exchanges in Afyonkarahisar for their help.

Hisarcıklioğlu, Chairman of TOBB, who specified that Afyonkarahisar is the junction center of West Anatolia, said that “One of the brand cities of our country with its marble, rug, thermal, clotted cream, yoghurt, egg, soujouk and pastrami. It had also appended its signature to an international success in this field. In gastronomy, it is one of the three cities of our country that had succeeded in entering the list of UNESCO. And this was befit for Afyonkarahisar. I congratulate you. They are intending to establish the “Health Industry Zone” which will be a first in Turkey. Afyonkarahisar is a suitable place for this. It is very important for our country. Afyonkarahisar is the place where the retire insurees in Europe will comfortably accommodate in our country. It has this infrastructure.”

“The economy which is not touched by women cannot grow”

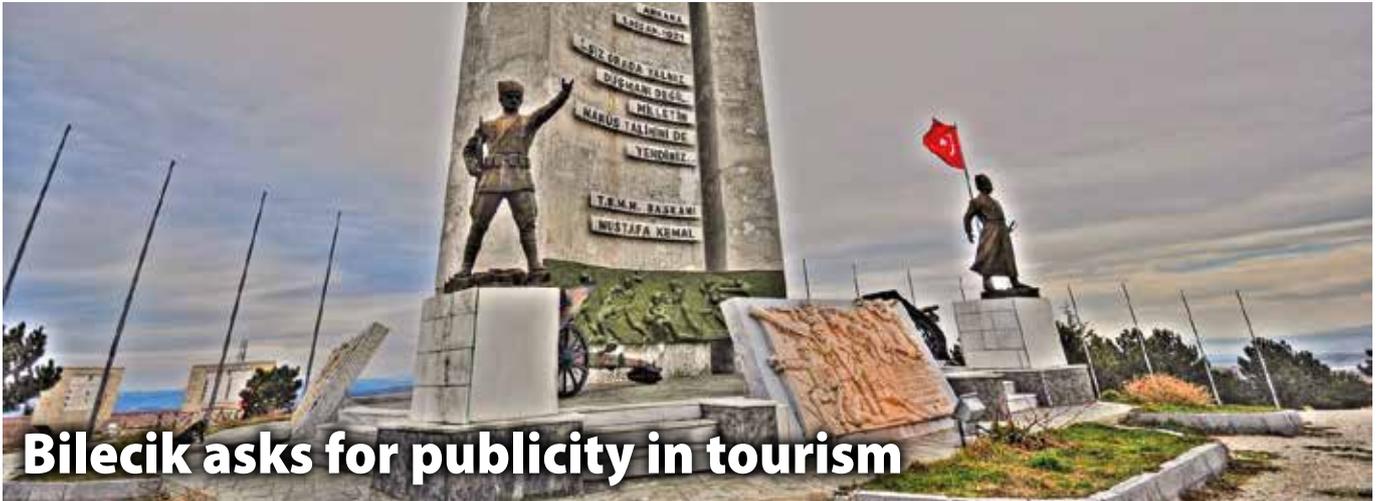
The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) organized the event of Turkey’s Entrepreneur Women Power Meeting by virtue of March 8 International Women’s Day. M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, Chairman of TOBB, attended the event which was actualized at Commodity Exchange of Şanlıurfa. In his speech Hisarcıklioğlu, Chairman of TOBB, mentioned that it is not possible for an economy which is not touched by women to grow.

Hisarcıklioğlu, Chairman of TOBB, said these as addressing the women: “The mindset leaving the women on edge cannot progress. And for this reason we said that ‘Our women can overcome this task’. By this vision, we established our women entrepreneur councils in 81 provinces. Thank



God, we overcame this difficult task along with you. Look to what kind of a change and transformation you had appended you signature in our country with all your efforts. The rate of participation of women in labor force increased four times faster compared to men in the last decade. 10

years ago, in 2009, what was the rate of women among all the entrepreneurs? Only 6 percent. Our total women entrepreneur number was only 77 thousand in the whole country. After 10 years, by 2019, our number of women entrepreneurs reached to 142 thousand in total.”



Bilecik asks for publicity in tourism

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Bilecik Chairman Mr. Şükrü Keskin said, "Our city has a rich historical and cultural heritage, but it is nowhere near what it deserves in terms of tourism and cannot get enough economic share from this cake. In order to make our city's rich historical and cultural heritage known by large masses and increase the visitors to our city, we need to realize

correct publicity moves." Şükrü Keskin continued: "Our city is in the third region in Investment Incentive System.

Investors tend to invest in cities with higher incentive amounts. A solution might be realizing an industry-based incentive system in addition to current city-based incentive system. We actually have many of the factors needed to become a "brand town"; including a

developed industry, well-trained and qualified population, historical and cultural heritage, geo-political location as well as being located on significant transportation axis, an opportunity of speed train, and close proximity to ports and airlines. We are doing everything in our power to work together with all dynamics in the city to bring Bilecik to a better place than it already is."

A joint reaction against the malicious attack towards our brave soldiers

In order to show a unified reaction against the malicious attack towards our armed forces in Idlib, almost 30 trade bodies, syndicate confederations and NGOs gave a joint speech at TOBB Twin Towers. Simultaneous press conferences were held in 81 Turkish cities with the participation of city representatives of the organizations that attended the meeting in Ankara. Live connection with seven cities were made to represent the regions (Batman, Denizli, Edirne, Hatay, Gaziantep, Trabzon, Van). The joint declaration was read by Mr. M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu, the President of the Union



of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey. Hisarcıkloğlu said, "Today, we are as one as we have never been before. We are united and together. As occupational organizations and NGOs representing all sections of Turkey, we are united under our flag. We are standing beside our head

of state and heroic army fighting single-mindedly against a murderous regime. We stand behind all decisions towards a more peaceful and calmer environment. May Allah protect our country, preserve our nation's unity and health, and enable success for our army."