32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL TURKISH AMERICAN CONVENTION

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY

LEADERSHIP FOR HERITAGE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

APRIL 12-14, 2012 | WASHINGTON PLAZA HOTEL | WASHINGTON, DC

Organized by
Friday, April 13, 2012

9:45am-10:40am  Session 1: Turkish American Advocacy in 3D
Introductions
Moderator: Bilal Atalina, Director, Center for Strategic and International Studies
The Administration - Kathleen Allegrote, Director, Office of Southern European Affairs, U.S. Dept. of State
Congress - Michael McMahon, Former Member of Congress
Questions & Answers

10:40am-11:00am  Coffee Break

11:00am-12:00pm  Session 2: The US-Turkish Partnership in the 21st Century
Introductions by Sebahat Güven, Officer, FTAA
Moderator: Dr. Sinan Cidik, Executive Director, Institute of Turkish Studies, Georgetown University
H.E. Namik Tan, Ambassador of Turkey to the United States
H.E. Ross Wilton, Atlantic Council of the United States
Questions and Answers

12:00pm-1:30pm  Lunch
Introduction by Demet Cebiars, ATAA Vice President for Capital Region
Keynote Speaker: Ahmet Erdemir, Washington Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
Remembering Rauf Denktaş for an Empowered Turkish Cypriot Future
Keynote Speaker: Thomas Geleta, Author, Journalist - “Talking Turkish-A Montana Perspective”

1:30pm-3:30pm  Session 3: Diversity and Solidarity in a Global Community
Introduction by H.E. Vincent Gray, Mayor of the District of Columbia
Enterprize, Expert, Directorate for Turks Abroad and Related Communities
Fatih Yıldız, Expert, Directorate for Turks Abroad and Related Communities
Cedal Seçilim, Chairperson, World Turkish Business Council, America Committee

3:30pm-3:50pm  Coffee Break

3:50pm-5:30pm  Session 4: Grassroots: Homegrown, Artificial Turf, Best Practices
Introductions by Moderating: Brian Forst, Consultant for the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Advocacy:
Yenal Kıcıkęs, Civic Engagement Director-TABAN, ATAA
Beril Unver, Project Manager for Congressional Outreach, TCA
Seyin Echikhu, Research Fellow, Turkish Coalition of America
Yavid Huseynov, President and Co-Founder, AIP Turcica
Pawl Moorehead, Director Biddle & Reath, LLP

Political Fundraising:
Lincik McCrady, Turkish PAC
Todd Meredith, Morgan, Meredith and Associates
Erin Canigil, National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC)

7:00pm-9:00pm  Ambassador’s Reception at Embassy Residence
1606 23rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 (For registrants only)

Saturday, April 14, 2012

9:00am-9:05am  Commencement
Seçil Göksu, Programs Director, ATAA
Sesahat Güven, Vice President of Youth Relations, FTAA
Ilhan Dervis, Turkish American Community Center (TACC)

9:05am-9:45am  Welcoming Remarks
Günes Ervin, Convention Chairperson (Remarks and Introductions), ATAA
Engin Kılıçkılı, President, ATAA
Ali Can, President, FTAA
Adem Bıyıkkıracı, Secretary General, TACC
Semtir Akçelik, Vice-President, George Mason University TAA
Leila Ross, Project Manager, UTSA
Elchir Abdullayev, Founder and President of Azerbaijani Youth of America (AYA)

9:45am-10:30am  Plenary Session, “Sakın Buluṣma!”
Introductions by Esra Uğurcu, Treasurer, ATAA
H.E. Namik Tan, Ambassador of Turkey to the United States
Cenk Uygur, Young Turks, Talk Shows Host - “Politically Directed” (via pre-recorded video)
Hürrényet Aykin Ok, Producer, Turkish American TV - “How to Start Your Public Access Television”
Hükmert Aslan, Former Turkish National Team Soccer Player - Presentation: “Yarta, Cihanada, Biz Midil Taktüms”

10:30am-10:40am  Coffee Break

10:40am-12:00pm  Session 1: Turkish in America Heritage Panel
Introductions by Moderate: Ferhat Belk, ATAA Regional VP Mid Central Region & President TACAM
Harith Tairin, Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) - “Muslim in America”
Jason Epstein, American Jewish Committee (AJC) - “Diversity in America”
Islam Shahbandor, President, Ahiwa Turkish American Community Center of Dayton
Turgut Avet, President, Azerbaijani Society of America (AYA)
Metodija A. Koloski, President, United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD)
Aija Delićić, The Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina (ACBH)
Questions & Answers

12:00pm-1:30pm  Lunch
Commencement Remarks: Engin Kılıçkılı, President, ATAA
Ali Can, President, FTAA
Adem Bıyıkkıracı, Secretary General, TACC
Keynote Speaker: Hanife Bozhat, President, Istanbul 2nd District Council EU Enl. Relations Commission Empowering Youth and Women for a Progressive Turkey

1:45pm - 3:00pm  Session 2: Turkish Students Survival Guide
Introduction
Student Visa Rights and Duties - Efe Puroğlu, Barret Long Tugay Patton PLLC
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties - Kareem Shroor, US Department of Homeland Security
Forming and Running a Turkish Student Association - Aylin Sagon, V.P., TAFUS
Transferring to American Schools - Vincent Stumpo, Headmaster, Linden Hall Prep School for Girls
A Turkish Physician’s Journey - Ulaş Camsar, Director, U Chỉs Strategy Center (USMER)
A Turkish Lawyer’s Trials of Life - Ayhan Oğmen, Attorney at Law
A Turkish Engineer Builds High - Göğhan Gelsiğen, Vice President, FTAA