

TİSK *information*

MARCH 2017 / VOL. 37 / NO: 1

Viewpoint



We are focused on employment

At the national level, "Employment Mobilization Campaign" was promoted in response to the fact that the unemployment rate had been rising since the summer of last year due to the relative slowdown in the rate of economic growth in Turkey. President Erdoğan started the Campaign with the goal of %5 rise in total employment on 7 February 2017 in Turkish Economic Council to which I also attended. As Turkish Employers, we strongly support the employment mobilization campaign.

The government provides social security premium and tax subsidies at a remarkable level to employers in order to generate additional employment. Moreover, businesses with collective agreements will benefit from increased subsidy, so that industrial relations will see more incentives.

The government also put in place a number of other regulations to stimulate the relatively slowing economy. Tax reduction on residence and durable consumer goods, surety system for SME's, supports to tourism enterprises, tax concessions and lending facilities for agricultural producers, credits to start-ups in underdeveloped areas, investment locations, relocation supports, "super incentives" to advanced technology investments are amongst other implementations that I can specify in this context.

In this regard, along with generating additional employment through efforts of GAN TURKEY under the Global GAN (Global Apprenticeships Network) and providing financial support for baby care expenses within the scope of the "Grandmother Project", TİSK is delivering significant contributions.

On the other hand, TİSK's Corporate Social Responsibility 2016 Awards were presented to the winners. In addition to 5 categorical awards, a GAN TURKEY Special Award and a Grand Award were presented to 7 large scale companies and 2 small and medium sized enterprises. You can find the relevant news on our pages.

I sincerely wish for peace and stability at global level in the upcoming spring-summer period.

**President
Kudret Önen**

Employment Mobilization Campaign



Turkish Economy Council was held on 7 February 2017 with participation of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, Deputy Prime Ministers Numan Kurtulmuş, Mehmet Şimşek, Nurettin Canikli, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology Faruk Özlü, Minister of Labor and Social Security Dr. Mehmet Müezzinoğlu, Minister of Economy Nihat Zeybekçi, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Berat Albayrak, Minister of Food Agriculture and Livestock Faruk Çelik, Minister of Customs and Trade Bülent Tüfenkçi, Minister of Development Lütfi Elvan, Minister of Finance Naci Ağbal, TİSK President Kudret Önen, TOBB President Rifat Hisarcıkhoğlu, TOBB Members and business leaders.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has called on businesspeople to step up in an "employment mobilization campaign" to create new jobs to enliven Turkey's stuttering economy, urging city governors to supervise the campaign.

"Today, we are launching a new employment mobilization with TOBB members. We will outreach the 2011 record. I invite all of us to participate in the mobilization of employment we started today. In our provinces, our governors have to make an individual effort to closely follow this issue together with our

chambers and stock exchange presidents. "Erdoğan stated.

"I am calling on our governors, giving instructions. All of our cities will participate in this employment campaign. I would especially like to say it is very important for our municipalities to take part in this employment campaign. Coordination will also be done by our government through our governors," Erdoğan said.

Erdoğan underlined that consultations made a great impact to Turkey in the last 14 years of growth and the future cooperation will accelerate the march towards 2023 targets.

Prime Minister Yıldırım stated that "If each member here hires one more person, we can create 1.5 million new jobs for unemployed people. If we make this number two we will provide 3 million new jobs" he added.



TİSK Working Life Counsultation Meeting



Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations (TİSK) "Working Life Counsultation Meeting" was held on 24 February 2017 in Istanbul with the participation of Minister of Labor and Social Security Dr. Mehmet Müezzinoğlu, TİSK President Kudret Önen, Deputy Secretaries of Minister of Labor and Social Security Osman Arıkan Nacar, Tarkan Alpay, Senior Bureaucrats from Ministry, TİSK Board Members, employers' associations and member companies.

In the opening speech of meeting, TİSK President Kudret Önen stated that, within the "National

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Mobilization on Working Life” new regulations on taxes and premiums are highly appreciated from the employers’ community. One of the most comprehensive employment incentives of Turkey will have a positive impact on unemployment indicators.

Önen emphasized that the enactment of the legislative regulations on the flexibility provisions in the framework of the National Employment Strategy covering the period of 2014-2023 and making them available to the labor market, accelerating the administrative steps requiring temporary business relations through private employment agencies and extending the resources allocated to the Occupational Training Program are

the important expectations of enterprises.

“In the past, very positive outcomes have been obtained with the application of short-term working which is an important regulation from the aspects of preservation of employment. I believe that a legislative amendment that will support short-term working will prevent problems in the future regarding unemployment and protect the current employment” Önen added.

In his speech, Minister of Labor and Social Security Mehmet Müezzinoğlu stated that the problems Turkey has faced such as Russian Aircraft Crisis, July 15 Coup Attempt and terrorist attacks adversely affected the economic targets. “We could

not achieve the desired increase in employment. To be more ambitious, to be brave, to be able to take risk that will make us stronger, we will carry this country, this nation to those big goals. As the Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk said, this nation is worthy of the level of modern states. This is the will that the Great Leader leaves us and we will accomplish his will” Minister Müezzinoğlu said.

Referring to the mobilization of employment in his speech, Minister Müezzinoğlu stated that “This project aims to lessen the burden of investors in order to compete with world and provide them to take bigger steps on investment. In this context, a total number of 2 million new employment will be provided.”

“Producing Turkey Speaks” Meetings



In order to provide confidence to producers regarding the future, determine problems and generate solutions related to production and raise awareness about the importance of the production, several meetings in the scope of “Producing Turkey Speaks” are held across Turkey.

With “Producing Turkey Speaks” meetings, a platform was created in which the measures taken

by the government in economy, the incentives it provides, and the situation in which Turkish economy has come, and the expectations of the future, can be consulted with representatives of the business world. Needs and impacts of the producing economy are analyzed with the assessment of regional synergy centers and their development lines.

In this context, public authorities, Turkey-EU Joint Consultative Committee Member Organizations’ Presidents in which TİSK President Kudret Önen is included and other various business world representatives are attending the meetings.

Relevant meetings are held in 3 cities including Van, Adana and Bursa.

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TİSK CSR Awards Presented

Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations' (TİSK) traditional "TİSK Corporate Social Responsibility Award Ceremony" was held in İstanbul with participation of Minister of Labour and Social Security Dr. Mehmet Müezzinoğlu. Projects were evaluated in the areas of Comprehensiveness, Effectiveness, Good Practice, Innovativeness and Sustainability. 9 companies were awarded for their social responsibility projects.

TİSK President Kudret Önen, who made the opening speech of TİSK CSR Award Ceremony, thanked all participating companies and continued his words as follows: "The importance of CSR activities of our companies undertaken with the aim of achieving social benefit beyond their legal obligations on voluntary basis is incrementally increasing. The CSR activities are becoming a necessity in order to create value in our Country. However, visibility and recognition of and awareness on activities demonstrated in this context should not be overlooked. I believe that TİSK CSR Award Programme is a valuable instrument in this perspective".

Kudret Önen also gave information about the evaluation process: "This year we got 55 applications for our CSR Awards Programme. 48 applications were from large companies and 7 of them were from SME's." Having said that the applications were assessed carefully, Önen gave the following information: "Following the preselection, 4 projects were taken into consideration as a part of GAN TURKEY Special Awards which we've been awarding since 2015, as well as the projects belonging to 18 large scale companies and 2 SMEs and winners were determined by the Selection Committee Meeting held on 20 March 2017.

I would once again like to thank the respected names of the workers, employers, government, the media, the universities, private sector and the NGO's, who have participated in the Selection Committee and supported our work".

In the contest, Grand Award was given to the Anadolu Sigorta's "One Master, Thousand Masters" project, Comprehensiveness Award was given to TETRA PAK's "Little Things Renews Nature" project, Effectiveness Award was given to İÇDAŞ's "Little Archaeologists" project, Good Practice Award was given to Ford Otosan's "Honey Bees are Becoming Engineers" project, Innovativeness Award was given to Coca Cola's "3.2.1 Move!" project and the Sustainability - Refik Baydur Special Award was given to Anadolu Efes' "Future is in Tourism" project.

Rönesans Holding's "Young Discovery Program-Pusula" was awarded with the GAN TURKEY Special Award.

In SME category EGEDENİZ Tekstil's "Carbon Foot Print, Recycling of Electrolyte Wastes, Provide Employment" projects were awarded with the Sustainability Award, Lokman Pharmaceutical Warehouse's "Digi Youth" project was awarded with the Good Practice award.

Anadolu Sigorta's "One Master Thousand Masters" project, aiming to revitalize local values of our



country prone to disappear over time and to provide job opportunities for young people by relaying the experiences of masters over to future generations was awarded with the TİSK 2016 CSR Grand Award, while scoring highest in all Good Practice, Comprehensiveness, Effectiveness, Sustainability and Innovativeness categories.

İÇDAŞ's "Little Archaeologists" project, which aims to increase students' awareness of cultural heritage, won the Effectiveness Award with bringing the past to the present and reintegrating cultural heritage into the society.

Ford Otosan's "Honey Bees are Becoming Engineers" project which aims to increase the awareness of the importance of equal opportunities for men and women in the choice of the engineering profession and increasing the percentage of women in engineering was awarded the Good Practice award. With this project, Ford Otosan reached out 8,100 female students, 1,620 teachers, 8,100 male students and parents from 81 high schools in 81 different cities.

In order to increase environmental consciousness in our country and contribute to the development of more conscious generations in recycling by forming cooperation with public authorities "Little Things Renews Nature" project of TETRA PAK won the Comprehensiveness Award.

Aiming to reflect natural, cultural and social values to future generations and creating a sustainable tourism the "Future is in Tourism" project of

Anadolu Efes won the Sustainability Refik Baydur Special Award.

Supporting the creation of environments that encourage youth to take up sports in schools and elsewhere in order to raise a physically active young generation, as well as empowering physical education teachers and encouraging teachers to develop their projects Coca Cola's "3.2.1 Move!" project won the Innovativeness Award.

Rönesans Holding's "Young Discovery Program - Pusula" project which aims to present an environment in which especially new graduates who are regarded as one of the most disadvantaged groups in labour market can develop themselves professionally, won the GAN TURKEY Special Award.

In SME category Egedeniz Tekstil's entered the contest with 3 projects. "Carbon Foot Print, Recycling of Electrolyte Wastes, Provide Employment" projects were evaluated together and awarded with the Sustainability Award.

Lokman Pharmaceutical Warehouse was awarded with the Good Practice Award by successfully implementing the "Digi Youth" project, which aims to prepare young people to the digital age in order to generate individuals who produce and provide collective benefit.

The Selection Committee of the contest in which a total of 55 companies applied with their social responsibility projects, included active names of the media, politics and business world. In the Selection Committee chaired by TİSK President Kudret Önen; TİSK Vice President Nevzat Seyok, Nationalist Movement Party Vice President Dr. Ruhsar Demirel, Minister of Labor and Social Security Undersecretary Ahmet Erdem, HAK-İŞ President Mahmut Arslan, TÜRK-İŞ General Organization Secretary Eyüp Alemdar, ILO Turkey Director Numan Özcan, Ministry of EU Project Implementation President Bülent Özcan, Dünya Newspaper Chief Editor Hakan Gülday, Sabah Newspaper Ankara Representative Okan Müderrisoğlu, Hürriyet Newspaper Columnist Erdal Sağlam, Social Innovation Center Co-Founder Suat Özçağdaş, Association of Private Sector Volunteers Director Başak Güçlü Elbir voted for the projects.

GAN Turkey Members Meeting in Istanbul

GAN Turkey established by TISK made their member company representatives meeting in Istanbul on 27 January 2017.

Representatives of the member companies of GAN TURKEY, İŞKUR Employment Specialist Eser Erol and the Ministry of National Education General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education Head of Educational Policies Department Dr. Recep Altın attended the meeting.

Following the presentations made by the TISK Representatives on recent developments in GAN TURKEY and the Global GAN, Kürşat Uç, Director of Human Resources at Dedeman Hotel & Resorts International, shared their work in the field of apprenticeship.

In his presentation, Ministry of National Education General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education Head of Educational Policies Department Recep Altın gave information regarding the legal regulations on the development of vocational and technical education.



İŞKUR Employment Specialist Eser Erol explained the current developments regarding the Apprenticeship Program. Erol stated that utilization of the program will be 320 days for those who enters labor market for the first time and 160 day for others. "The programs will be opened

by taking at least 50% employment commitment from the enterprises and that the duration of the employment will be more than 60 days and the participants must be unemployed for the last 3 months." Erol added.

The business community says "Equality means business"



Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Implementation Guide, prepared to offer guidance to private sector institutions in their work towards gender equality, was introduced to the representatives of the business community in Istanbul on January 25 2017. During the launch event of the Implementation Guide, which was prepared as a result of a two-year multi-stakeholder and participatory work, company CEOs, civil society organizations and representatives of United Nations (UN) agencies came together.

The meeting that was organized at SALT Galata with the support of UN Women and Garanti Bank started with an opening panel by UN representatives. The event further continued with a presentation to the business community by UN Women on the Implementation Guide which will offer guidance not only to enterprises in Turkey but also to businesses in other countries, followed by a panel participated by the CEOs of Eczacıbaşı Holding and Vodafone Turkey and the Executive Vice President of Garanti Bank. At the end of the event, all WEPs



signatories who said "Equality Means Business!" were presented with a plaque.

With more than 1200 signatories from around the world, the WEPs have 148 signatories from Turkey. Turkey is the second country in the world with the highest number of WEPs signatories. The launch event was concluded with the presentation of plaques to the WEPs signatory businesses that made a commitment to implement the Women's Empowerment Principles in their companies and disseminate them in their impact area.

Borsa İstanbul's Opening Bell rings for Gender Equality

A bell-ringing ceremony was held at Borsa İstanbul on March 8, 2017 with the participation of the UN Global Compact, United Nations Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Unit (UN Women), World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), Women in Exchange Traded Funds, Sustainable

Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE) and a World Bank Group corporation International Finance Corporation (IFC) in order to invite the business world to improve gender equality and support the empowerment of women economically.

At the ceremony, Minister of Family and Social

Policies of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Dr. Fatma Betül Sayan Kaya said, "Our target for 2023 is to increase female employment rate to 41%".

This year, 40 stock exchanges from all over the world, from Australia to Toronto, and from London to Hong Kong host bell-ringing ceremonies.

5 Presidents to Attend Key Economic Summit in Istanbul

Some 40 countries and five presidents will attend the 20th Eurasian Economic Summit, a prestigious gathering. The summit 'Humanity at a Crossroads' will be held between April 4 and 6 in Istanbul.

The presidents of Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, Turkish Cyprus and Macedonia are expected to attend the 20th Eurasian Economic Summit in Istanbul.

Former presidents of Croatia, Latvia, Moldova, Nigeria, Romania and Serbia will also attend the summit's "Contemporary Sagacious Men" session.

The European Parliament, United Nations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Vienna Economic Forum, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, The Slavyani Foundation and Slovenia Life Learning Academy have said they will attend the summit too, where Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Morocco, Kosovo and Romania will also attend on a ministerial level as well.

This year, future of the EU to discussion will be brought in the 20th Eurasian Economic Summit, which will host the presidents of Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, Albania and Turkish Cyprus.



Turkey Is the Most Open Country to Technology



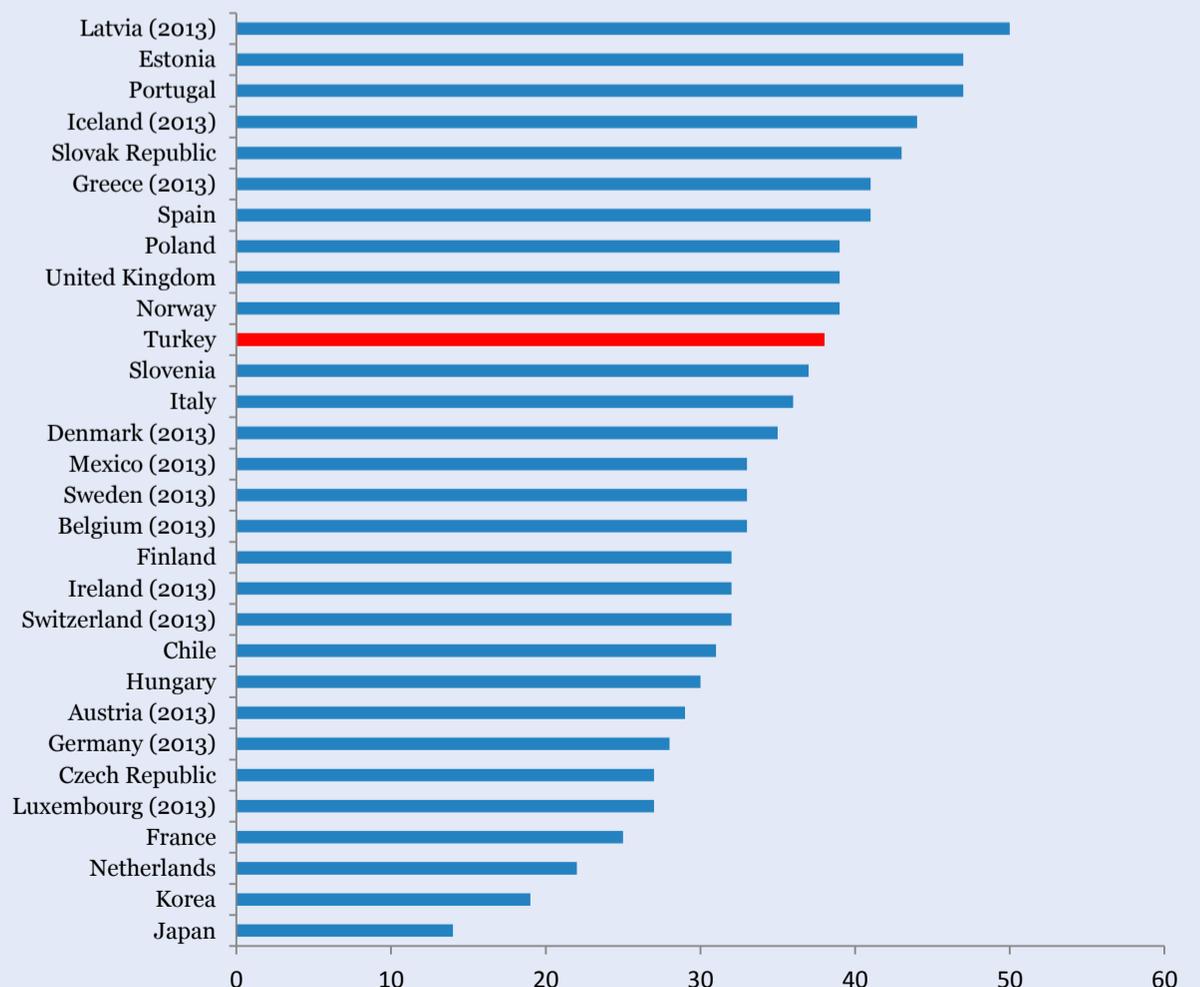
According to the report "Creating the Future of Workforce" which was announced by Accenture Strategy in World Economic Forum, Turkey has become the most open country to technology.

Accenture surveyed over 10,000 workers from countries such as Germany, U.S.A., Australia, Brazil, France, Japan, Italy and Turkey. Research shows that the %88 of the employees in Turkey desire to set up their own business which indicates that Turkey is advanced in terms of entrepreneurship. Another data in the research shows that the %88 of the employees in Turkey aware that they have to improve their selves in order to do their job more efficiently. %45 want to improve their technical skills, %38 want to improve their creativity and %34 want to improve their human resources management skills. Employees in Turkey also believe that digital development will affect the business models in a positive way.

The Success of Turkish Women in Science

OECD's "Main Science and Technology Indicators Database 2016" shows that Turkey is one of the leading countries in terms of percentage of women researchers. In the ranking that consists 30 countries, Turkey has passed many EU Countries and placed as 11th country.

Women Researchers as a percentage of total researchers 2014 or latest year available



Source: OECD Main Science and Tecnology Indicators Database, June 2016

The Altay Tank of Turkey will be in service in 2020

With the publication of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan of the Undersecretariat for Defense Industries, the date on which the first ALTAY Main Battle Tank will come into service has become certain. With the signing of the mass production contract this year, the first 15 tanks are expected to be in service in 2020. The strategic plan that is published by Undersecretariat included the following statements; “The ALTAY Main Battle Tank developed as a joint pride of the Turkish Defense Industry with its national and original design and its sub-systems with the latest technologies of the world, has completed the most challenging tests in terms of mobility, firepower and survivability and has been qualified in a much shorter time than the ones in the world and the serial production has been made ready “.



New High-speed Train to Link Antalya to Istanbul

A new high-speed train project connecting Eskişehir to Antalya will be realized, Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communication Minister Ahmet Arslan announced on February 19.

Arslan said the line between the Central Anatolian province of Eskişehir and the Mediterranean province of Antalya would pass through the Aegean province of Afyonkarahisar.

Turkey's long-awaited high-speed railway line between the capital Ankara and the financial capital Istanbul was inaugurated on July 25, 2016.

The train is capable of reaching speed of up to 250 kilometers an hour. The train stops in Ankara, Polatlı, Eskişehir, Bozüyük, Bilecik, Pamukova, Sapanca, İzmit, Gebze and Pendik.

The project, which is worth \$4 billion, was completed in phases. The Ankara-Polatlı-Eskişehir section opened in March 2009, followed by Polatlı-Konya in August 2011. A through service from Konya to Eskişehir was introduced in 2013.

Arslan also stated that the Eskişehir and Bolu high-speed train lines would be connected to each other in due course.

“Bolu is known for its thermal tourism. We have issued a tender for that part of the line, approximately 25,000 kilometers of which will be a dual carriageway. We will connect to Bolu through Göynük, which is known as an important touristic center,” he added.

Arslan said Turkey became sixth in Europe and eighth in usage and production of speed-trains,

remarking that the first Turkish automobile was produced in Eskişehir during his visit to the factory of TÜLOMSAŞ, a leading local locomotive maker.

Arslan has announced that a new train line between Istanbul and Bulgaria's capital Sofia will start its journeys.

Arslan said the construction works of the railway, which stands on 292 kilometers between Kapıkule and Istanbul, has been completed, adding that there was no need to extend the railway beyond these points.

Arslan stated that new lines connecting to Bucharest and Belgrade will be added in the summer.

“The train will start from the Halkalı district of Istanbul at 10:40 p.m. Another train will run its journey from Sofia at 9:00 p.m. The travel time will be approximately nine hours and 50 minutes,” he added.

Arslan said train services to and from Sofia and Istanbul will be in both directions.



10-year-old Turkish Girl Becomes Youngest Person Ever to Address the UN

Talya Özdemir, a 10-year-old Turkish girl became the youngest person to address the United Nations General Assembly on the momentous occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.



Speaking at the panel titled ‘Gender, Science and Sustainable Development: The Impact of Media,’ Özdemir received a standing ovation for her speech “Girls for Girls in Science”.

“I came to share my thoughts with you on this very important day, which encourages girls like me to choose to become scientists, honors women in science and contributes to the development of the world,” she said in her opening remarks.

Özdemir stated that although the UN has many internationally important days on a range of issues from science and gender equality to social justice, she and her friends have little knowledge of these days and emphasized that it was the responsibility of governments and the UN to raise awareness about these issues.

She called on the UN and local authorities to visit schools to talk about environmental issues, science, poverty, equality, climate change and renewable energy.

Stating that it was not possible for the UN to reach its Sustainable Development Goals without scientific developments, Özdemir said that women's and girls' contribution was crucial in that sense.

Little Talya also touched upon the issue of refugee women and girls, saying that among them there were many scientists and urged everyone to help them pursue their careers.

Speaking to reporters after the panel, Özdemir said that she was proud of representing her country, Turkey, and all girls in her country at the UN General Assembly.

She said that there were many women working as doctors, engineers and teachers in Turkey but that women's achievements in Turkey or other countries were never really heard of and were not talked about. She said that the media should cover more news about women in science and schools should give lessons about successful female scientists.

Özdemir also asked Peter Thomson, President of the UN General Assembly to be the first person to sign the new campaign she launched “Girls4GirlsInScience” to promote the efforts of girls in science working on sustainable development through education.

Concerts & Exhibitions

Royal Opera House Screening: The Sleeping Beauty

28 April, 2017 19:00

Zorlu Performing Arts Center, Istanbul



The Sleeping Beauty, the classic ballet with music composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and choreography by Marius Petipa, is coming to Istanbul on April 28th, with a screening of the Royal Opera House performance.

With a text by Ivan Vsevolozhsky based on Charles Perrault's La Belle au bois dormant, the ballet carries the classic tale to the stage and has become one of the foremost ballets of classical repertoire since it premiered in St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater on January 15, 1890.



Beth Hart Concert

10 May, 2017 20:00

Zorlu Performing Arts Center, Istanbul

Grammy Award nominated American singer/songwriter Beth Hart, who brings blues rock, jazz fusion and soul together, will be at Zorlu PSM on May 10th, as a part of PSM Jazz Festival.

Having released a number of albums in the 1990s, Beth Hart continued her solo projects in the 2000s, as well as her collaborations with guitar legends Joe Bonamassa, Jeff Beck and Slash. Don't Explain, Hart's first collaboration with Bonamassa which featured covers of blues classics, was released in 2011. This album was followed by the Grammy Award nominated Seesaw (2013) and Live in Amsterdam (2014).

Diane Reeves

April 18, 2017 20:30

Zorlu Performing Arts Center, Istanbul

Dianne Reeves, the world renowned jazz singer with 5 Grammys, will be in Zorlu PSM on April 18, 2017, with an exceptional performance on the 40th year of her career. Having discovered by trumpet player Clark Terry at a young age in Chicago and released a total of 18 classic albums after her debut with her namesake album in 1987, Dianne Reeves is considered as following the steps of jazz legends such as Dinah Washington and Carmen McRae by music authorities.



Istanbul Music Festival Starts on May

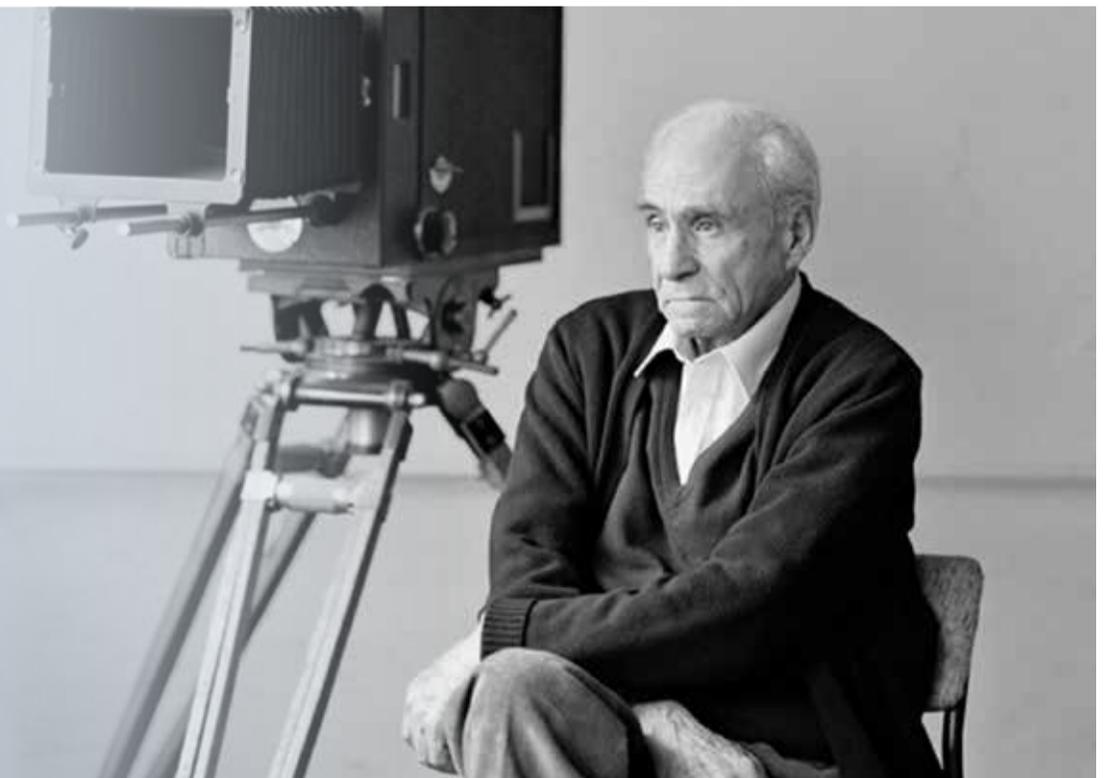
The Istanbul Music Festival is returning for a 45th time this year, with a program centered on the theme of "unusual" between May 29 and June 21. The event will host over 600 local and international artists, including some of the world's leading ensembles such as the Russian Chamber Philharmonic St. Petersburg, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, London Chamber Orchestra and Ebene Quartet, remarkable soloists like Hüseyin Sermet, Fazıl Say, Alina Pogostkina and Mathias Goerne, as well as young generation artists at 15 venues in Istanbul.

Masters of Cinema in Turkey: Lütfi Akad

May 18-June 4, 2017

Istanbul Modern Art Museum, Istanbul

Istanbul Modern Cinema has initiated a new project titled "Masters of Cinema in Turkey". The first guest for this series, which is devoted to founding directors of cinema in Turkey, is Lütfi Akad, who has come to be known as the "masterless master" and is a pioneer of the period referred to as the "Filmmakers' Era" in the history of cinema in Turkey. An archive exhibition will be presented within the scope of the project commemorating the director's 100th birthday. Taking a look at the cinema of Lütfi Akad, whose filmography and 95-year life reflect the story of Turkish cinema, the exhibition which will be held in the cinema foyer brings together 100 pieces of archive material such as production stills, film stills, original scripts, and posters from Akad's filmography that had not seen the light of day until now.



Sagalassos Ancient City

Sagalassos is one of the best-preserved ancient cities in Turkey. It is located in southwest Turkey, more than one hundred kilometers north of the coastal city of Antalya, part of the province of Burdur. Sagalassos was the most important city of ancient Pisidia, located in the Taurus Mountain chain, with the Mediterranean Sea to its south and the Anatolian plateau to its north. The city spreads over south-facing slopes between 1450 and 1600 meters above sea level. The city was surrounded by a series of valleys that were gradually incorporated into its territory.

Sagalassos was conquered by Alexander the Great in 333 BC on his way to Persia. It flourished after joining the Roman Empire in 25 BC. The city was linked to the Anatolian road network and was connected with the interior, with the ports on the western coast of Ionia, and most importantly with those on the Mediterranean coast. The city was an export center for pottery and agricultural products throughout antiquity. After Alexander's death, the region became part of the territories of Antigonos Monophthalmus, possibly Lysimachus of Thrace, the Seleucids of Syria and the Attalids of Pergamon. The archeological record indicates that locals rapidly adopted Hellenic culture.

After centuries of Hellenization and Roman rule, a third major change took place in Sagalassos from the fourth century onward: the city became Christian. Significant administrative developments occurred and after a pause in construction of nearly 235 years, building activity resumed at the end of the fourth century. Local elites were less involved in the city than before. From the fifth century on, Christianization widely influenced the architecture of Sagalassos.

Three events in the sixth and early seventh centuries caused the gradual decline of Sagalassos: an earthquake at the beginning of each century and a plague epidemic in 541-542. Even after these devastating events the city remained inhabited but its people mainly lived off agriculture; only in the thirteenth century did the last vestiges of Sagalassos disappear. Meanwhile, the neighboring town of Ağlasun developed. The last stronghold on Alexander's Hill was possibly destroyed by the Seljuk Turks who arrived in the area in the early 1200s.

Sagalassos survives today in Ağlasun, whose name is derived from the ancient city. Ağlasun was established in the 13th century under the Selçuk dynasty, when a caravansaray and hamam were built near the current town square. It was a thriving center in the 16th century, when it hosted a regional market. The city has been excavated since 1990 by archaeologists from the University of Leuven in Belgium. The site features a huge Roman bath complex, library, urban mansion with more than 80 rooms, and theatre with seating for up to 9000 people, as well as other monuments from the city's 1000 year history. Excavated finds have been exhibited at the Burdur Museum.



How to Reach Ağlasun

Ağlasun is easy to reach with vehicle.

From Antalya City Center (115 km, 1:15): take Highway D650 towards Burdur for 83km, and then turn east toward Ağlasun on Highway D685.

From Burdur (35 km, 0:45): take Highway D650 south towards Antalya until you see the left-hand turnoff for Ağlasun.

From Isparta (40 km, 0:45): take Highway D685 south towards Antalya and take the right-hand turnoff for Ağlasun.

Regular minibuses go to Ağlasun from nearby Antalya, Burdur, and Isparta. Look for the minibuses that say 'Ağlasun/Sagalassos'.

How to Reach Sagalassos from Ağlasun

If you arrive in Ağlasun by car or taxi, a scenic and winding road going up the mountain will guide you to the ancient city. Entrance to the archaeological site is about 7km north of the town centre.

If you arrive in Ağlasun by minibus, you can ask at the office of the minibus cooperation about the possibility of taking another one up to the site.

Usually a taxi is also available and can be found parked near the monumental plane tree in the town centre. Another alternative to get to Sagalassos from Ağlasun is to go by foot.