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Turkish entrepreneurs abroad to visit Istanbul

ISTANBUL - Organized by the Foreign Economic Relations Board and the Undersecretary for Foreign Trade, the World Turkish Entrepreneurs Assembly will bring together Turkish businesspeople from around the world in Istanbul this month.

The World Turkish Entrepreneurs Assembly, held by the Foreign Economic Relations Board, or DEİK, and the Undersecretary for Foreign Trade, or DTM, will bring together Turkish investors and entrepreneurs from around the world in [Istanbul](#) on April 10-11.

Around 2,000 Turkish entrepreneurs operating in 80 countries will attend the assembly, which will take place at the [Istanbul Lutfi Kırdar Convention & Exhibition Center](#).



Uniting forces is the "miraculous formula" for a stronger Turkey brand, said Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, chairman of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, or TOBB. "Istanbul, the 2010 European Capital of Culture, recently hosted the World Water Forum. As the Turkish economy becomes stronger, Turkey also becomes stronger and hosts events that are important for both Europe and the world. The assembly aims to 'form a single body under an institutionalized umbrella,'" Hisarcıklıoğlu said. The two-day assembly will put Turkey as a global power and will loom large globally with the ground it serves for meetings and cooperation.

The panels, meetings, sessions and bilateral talks aim to make Turkish entrepreneurs robust. At the panels, solutions for economic, social and cultural problems will be sought. Decisions will be made to make Turkish entrepreneurs around the world more resistant to the global crisis climate. During the panels, the role of Turkish entrepreneurs in the global economy and business opportunities on all continents will be assessed.

The assembly, to be attended by President [Abdullah Gül](#) and Prime Minister Recep [Tayyip Erdoğan](#), will include state ministers, bureaucrats, public institutions, Turkish professionals managing world giants, nongovernmental organizations, academics and economists.

This year, the board election of the World Turkish Business Council will be held during the assembly. The election will determine the regional presidents to represent five continents. Their term will be renewed in two years in an attempt to monitor the council's activities more efficiently on a regional basis. Turkish entrepreneurs, associations, foundations and federations that are organized loosely around the world will use their rights to elect and be elected in administrative organs under the auspices of DEİK.

Scattered around the world

Turkish investors' performance is rising. Europe, the Balkans, Central Asia and Russia play a crucial role for Turkish entrepreneurs, who have invested in 90 countries.

The volume of direct investments abroad, which was \$3.5 billion in 2007, reached \$5 billion in 2008. Kazakhstan and Germany loom large among the countries where Turkish entrepreneurs invest the most. To date, Turkish entrepreneurs have invested \$8.7 billion in Kazakhstan, which has 800 Turkish enterprises, employing 75,000 people.

In Germany, where 2 million Turks dwell, Turkish investments total \$7.5 billion. More than 70,000 Turkish entrepreneurs employ around 350,000 people in the country.

Russia is also among the top countries for Turkish entrepreneurs with a volume of \$6 billion. Around 1,000 enterprises belonging to Turks operate in the country and employ 36,000 people, including seasonal workers. Azerbaijan draws attention in the list with \$5.5 billion worth of investments by Turks. There are around 2,000 Turkish enterprises that provide jobs for 50,000 people in total. Meanwhile, the Turkish investments in the Netherlands have surpassed \$2 million.

The country has 14,600 Turkish enterprises, and they employ 62,000 people. Afghanistan also draws attention with Turkish investments, with a volume reaching \$1.5 billion. There are 62 Turkish firms in the country with job opportunities for roughly 3,000 people.



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