



# DÜNYA TÜRK FORUMU WORLD TURKIC FORUM

- Türk Cumhuriyetleri; Kültür Diplomasisi ve Turizm  
Turkic Republics; Cultural Diplomacy and Tourism
- Türk ve Ermeni Diasporaları; Kamu Diplomasisi: Fırsatlar ve Riskler  
Turkic and Armenian Diasporas; Public Diplomacy: Opportunities and Risks



28-30 Mayıs 2014,  
Edirne



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**TASAM**  
TÜRK ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ  
TURKISH ASIAN CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

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## VISION DOCUMENT

# 3<sup>rd</sup> WORLD TURKIC FORUM

( 28 - 30 May 2014, Edirne )

### Main Theme - 1

## Turkic Republics; Cultural Diplomacy and Tourism

When considering geographical distributions and global and continental tendencies; obstacles have occurred which prevented Turkic Republics to develop deep economical relations among themselves. At this point; concentrating on **tourism and cultural interaction** seems to be best proper option for Turkic Republics to improve their relations with each other. On the other hand, change in technology, economics and politics which have been brought by increasing global rivalry, has not only effected the nature of cultural interaction but changed the consumption patterns in tourism. Lately; **cultural tourism** has become prominent and it has been predicted that it will develop rapidly. Also being effective in tourism is not just beneficial for the economy, but it also brings cultural interaction with it. Therefore; developing activities whether in cultural tourism or in other fields of tourism are crucially important for the improvement of relations between Turkic Republics.

**Culture** is the sum of all material, spiritual, mental and emotional features that create the characteristics of a society. Culture does not only contain art or literature but also lifestyle, basic human rights, system of values, tradition and beliefs. From this aspect, culture is the update, existence and concretization of civilization. Cultural exchange helps the people of a country to understand the characteristics of other people in different countries. It is impossible for a person to understand other cultures without experiencing them. One of the unifying features of Turkic Republics is the common cultural heritage. Therefore, the tools of cultural diplomacy should be used efficiently and interaction and deepening relations between Turkic Countries should be strengthened.

**Cultural Diplomacy** is a two stage process. On the one hand diplomatic communication networks provide the promotion and transformation of facts, ideas and cultural values of countries; on the other hand the culture itself allows the countries to carry out their political, strategic, economical interests. In this context; within the frame of cultural diplomacy and tourism in Turkic World; regional cooperation and carrying out the common goals are required.



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At this point common values of cultural heritage have become prominent as the constructive element of regional cooperation. Cultural heritage is the source of connection between past, present and future and it is also a tool for strengthening cultural dialogue. Language and religion which are the main features of cultural heritage have important role in coexistence of peoples. In today's world; the globalization has also been affecting culture in many different ways. In this new order where hierarchies have begun to disappear and have been replaced with communication network; it is possible for people to protect their cultures, languages and identities. Also through new technologies; new opportunities have occurred which can provide promotion and recognition of different cultures. These opportunities have been transforming the international arena and increasing the chance of a peaceful global order.

In this era where “**had power**” has been replaced with “**soft power**” and “**smart power**”; international politics have transformed and traditional diplomatic channels have been replaced with new diplomatic channels. This new diplomacy channel known as “**Public Diplomacy**”, besides consists of communication between governments; is also consist of communication and interaction between governments and other countries' public opinions. Within this context; new diplomacy has given crucial importance to culture, common historical heritage, language, religion and civil society. International politics has begun to found on dialogue rather than conflicts or wars. Cultural Diplomacy is defined as the exchange of ideas, information, art, system of values, beliefs and traditions. It is an important and prominent political tool in developing and stabilizing relations.

Lack of sufficient interaction between countries is one of the main factors that prevent the development of relations in Turkic World. At this point; it is required to use similar cultural characteristics as a unifying element and consider different historical experiences as cultural richness. Different historical experiences may cause estrangement or division but when evaluated properly they can be transformed into cultural richness.

Throughout the history while Turkic nations had benefited from the cultural accumulation of the peoples that they had ruled; they have also kept their traditions and language. In today's globalized world, these unifying features which had been forgotten within time; has become one of the important tools of being effective in different regions. Therefore cultural diplomacy has become a prominent method in providing cooperation in Turkic World and accomplishing co-existence of peoples by including governments and non-governmental organizations.

Turkic peoples have created a rich common cultural heritage by obtaining accumulation for centuries. Today, it is possible to see the monuments, intellectual and artistic works that have contributed to this common heritage. Emphasizing on common heritage is important and necessary for improving relations between nations, cultures, histories and lands.



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As part of cultural diplomacy; dialogue between cultures is important as a political tool that can improve mutual trust between nations and help construction of a common future for the peoples. Including non-governmental organizations to this dialogue; will contribute to the development of civil society in Turkic World.

Apart from economical benefits of tourism; there is need for development cultural diplomacy and tourism activities that will consider the common cultures of the peoples of Turkic countries as a unifying force and the gains from different experiences as cultural richness. From this point of view; in order to contribute to the cooperation process in Turkic World; it has been decided that one of the **two main themes of 3<sup>rd</sup> World Turkic Forum** is **“Turkic Republics”: Cultural Diplomacy and Tourism”** by TASAM (Turkish Asian Centre for Strategic Studies). **It has been decided that the main theme of 2014 June Summit of Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, is tourism. It is especially predicted that the studies of the Forum should pro-actively contribute to the official summit.**

We hope that this Forum will make considerable contribution to strengthen cultural and tourism cooperation with pro-active approaches and transform differences into multi-dimensional richness in the countries of **Turkic World**.

## Main Theme - 1

### Turkic Republics: Cultural Diplomacy and Tourism

## Sub-Themes

### Cultural Diplomacy: New Tools and Models

#### Cultural Diplomacy and Tourism Perspectives

- Azerbaijan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Uzbekistan
- Turkmenistan
- Turkey

#### Mutual and Multilateral Cooperation in Tourism

#### Non-state actors in Tourism; Pro-active Suggestions

- Local administrations
- Civil Society



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- Private Sector
- Media



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( VISION DOCUMENT )

## 3<sup>rd</sup> WORLD TURKIC FORUM

( 28 - 30 May 2014, Edirne )

### Main Theme - 2

#### Turkic and Armenian Diasporas; Public Diplomacy: Opportunities and Risks

At the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century; Ottoman Empire had taken precautions in order to prevent foreign powers from interfering its domestic politics and subversion of itself. Within this framework; some of the subjects of the Ottoman Empire who had been living in certain parts of Anatolia had suffered from persecution. These persecutions have been exploited by international powers against Turkey, **Armenia** and **Armenian Diaspora** from time to time.

Under objective war conditions; it is accepted by everybody that a certain ethnic group can be forced to relocate. But the definition of the incident at the point of the sufferings of both sides and the exact and objective number of the victims has been subjected to serious discussion and dissensus. At this point, it is an undoubted reality that Turkish State and its people have been subjected to extremely unfair accusations. Again the incidents that took place in 1918 and 1992 in Azerbaijan have caused enormous pain and problems.

Within this framework; due to exploitation by third actors; **Turkic-Armenian relations** have maintained within a bad and formidable vicious circle. However the current international conjuncture has cleared away the sustainability of Armenia's and Armenian Diaspora's relations with Turkey with regards to interest of parties' relation patterns.

After the **Cold War**; due to new relation patterns which have occurred with multi-dimensional international system, have forced Armenia, Armenian Diaspora and Turkey to develop different approaches with regards to their interests.

From this point of view; developing **intellectual dialogue** between Turkic and Armenian Diasporas, is a necessity with regards to Turkey which is trying to develop multi-dimensional policies and become an effective power in international arena, Armenian Diaspora which has an influence in international politics and also The Republic of Armenia which is trying to get involved in international politics and seeking unique policies.



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Development of relations between Turkic-Armenian Diasporas will not just leverage Turkey's influence in international arena and increase Turkey's strategic maneuverability but it will also improve and secure the interests of Armenian Diaspora in regions where Turkey is influential and strengthen the Diaspora's hand against other international actors.

In this case parties will contribute to the peace and stability of many regions particularly Middle East and will have the opportunity to maximize their interests. Besides, The Republic of Armenia will be able to overcome the difficulties in its foreign and domestic politics.

Besides Armenia's economical, foreign and domestic policy problems; its population has been decreasing due to emigration. The country has been trying to overcome all of its problems. The partial support that it has been receiving from the Diaspora, Russia, USA and France is not enough. A possible interaction between Turkic-Armenian Diaspora will help Armenia to build good relations with its neighbors particularly Turkey and Azerbaijan.

The economical, political and cultural consequences of globalization have been affecting the new international system. Many tools and techniques that had been used during Cold War and uni-polar post Cold War Eras are ineffective in this new international system.

**"Public Diplomacy"** is a critically important process for countries in order to increase their effectiveness in new multi-polar international system, to reach their foreign policy goals and to implement their strategic vision. Developing notion-based dialogue with regards to public diplomacy between Turkic and Armenian Diasporas has potential for affecting both parties' interests in a positive way.

**3<sup>rd</sup> World Turkic Forum** within the context of Armenian Issue, aims to contribute to the construction of consciousness through public diplomacy in Turkic societies and world public opinion. Resolution of conflicts and providing interaction with the capacity that it will build in this way; it also aims to provide Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Diasporas with strategic value. The aggregation of diaspora and opinion leaders in international forums from all sides which have been conducting studies before third parties will be beneficial to understand each other and will guide the way to improve relations.

In order to contribute to the creation of healthy academic dialogue channels between **Turkic and Armenian Diasporas** in multi-dimensional new system; TASAM has determined that one of the **two main themes of 3<sup>rd</sup> World Turkic Forum** as **"Turkic and Armenian Diasporas; Public Diplomacy: Opportunities and Risks"**.



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## **Main Theme - 2**

**Turkic and Armenian Diasporas; Public Diplomacy: Opportunities and Risks**

### **Sub - Themes**

**Historical View of Turkic-Armenian Relations from Ottoman Empire to Republic of Turkey**

**The Current Situation of Turkic-Armenian Relations, Problems and Solution Suggestions**

**The Intellectual Dialogue of Turkic-Armenian Diasporas; Proactive Perspectives**

- Turkic Diasporas
- Armenian Diasporas

**The Position of Third Parties in Turkic-Armenian Problem: Causes and Consequences**