

# 1<sup>st</sup> Turkey - China Round Table Meeting Held

With the main themes “**New Era in Turkey-China Relations; Multidimensional Deepening**” the first **Turkey-China Round Table Meeting** was held with participation of **Turkish-Asian Center for Strategic Research (TASAM)** and one of the effective think-tanks of **People’s Republic of China, PANGOAL’s** delegations.

Chairman of People’s Republic of China’s think-tank PANGOAL Yi Peng, Beijing University Turkic Researches Institute Member **Dr. Zan Tao**, Beijing University International Relations School Member **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wang Dong**, Academic Board Member from Australia **Winstton Jeanns**, PANGOAL Academic Researches Center **Director Li Lingfei**, and Chinese entrepreneurs **Zhao Guanglong** and **Tang Lingli**, and PANGOAL’s researchers **He Zhizhong** were present at the meeting held on **23 October 2015** Friday, in İstanbul, at Dosso Dossi Downtown Hotel.

Chairman of TASAM **Süleyman Şensoy**, Vice-Chairman TASAM **Ambassador (R) Murat Bilhan** and Vice-Chairperson of TASAM **Prof. Dr Esra Hatipoğlu**, TASAM Executive Board Members **Prof. Dr. Sema Kalaycıoğlu** and **Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Narlı**, as well as TASAM’s Advisors of Chairman **Prof. Dr. Sedat Aybar** and **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Savaş Biçer**, Boğaziçi University Asian Research Center’s Researcher **Prof. Dr. İbrahim Öztürk** and **Dr. Kadir Temiz** and TASAM Researchers **Reyyan Doğan**, **Tolga Sakman** and **Can Türe** also attended the round table meeting, as part of Turkish delegation.

The round table meeting started with the opening speech of TASAM’s Chairman Mr. Şensoy, after he introduced his delegation. Mr. Şensoy briefly explained TASAM’s project of Turkey’s Strategic Vision 2023, which has been carried out since 2008, and a future project of Turkey 2053, which is also being effectuated by TASAM for some time, after introducing and giving some information about TASAM and its activities while he was drawing attention to the potential of co-operation between Turkey and China.

It’s highlighted that the 7th International Turkish-Asian Congress, with the theme of “Trans-Pacific Trade and Investment Partnership”, and İstanbul Security Conference are

significant as some specific examples were given from mutual frameworks or study fields as well.

The issues, which were pointed out in the meeting and may be able to provide an insight into bilateral negotiations as part of G20 Summit, are as follows:

1. East Turkestan and Urumqi region is a major part of the topics that Turkish delegations will increasingly concentrate on. Well-being of this region and ensuring a peaceful environment for it are the Turks' center of attention. People's Republic of China's (PRC) future investments and social transfer expenses aimed at this region will particularly be spotlighted. This standing is bound up with PRC's new stride. In other words, since it's not expected to be achieved a new high of growth rates, and as opposed to its export oriented economy, China should take a stride forward into a new period to increase foreign demand for investment. It's also important within the context of policies, which will be employed, state expenses based on "Keynesian economic approach", in order to fight against poverty and unemployment, which will most probably increase because of the shift toward the new economic policies, being talked about, away from the current policies. Then again, how much the Uighur regions will take shares from these distribution mechanisms and whether they are sufficient or not will be watched with full interest by Turkey.

2. The funds accumulated in hands of PRC and allegedly reached up to around \$5 trillion have increasingly been invested in western-countries and particularly in technology producing sectors. A great majority of these investments happens through corporate take overs. There is still no legal agreement or legal framework, which is fairly, bilaterally and globally well thought out solutions to the problems that might result from these initiatives. Be that as it may, the future and the way of meeting sustainability requirements of these investments, which have been made under the guidance of PRC's state companies, will be looked into by Turkey with a particular concern.

3. PRC's investments towards western-countries have been conducted with bilateral agreements. In this regard, it's highly important to find some answers to the questions such as "what kind of international legal and economic relations supposed to be developed so that Turkey will be able to get a big share of "this cake". TASAM and PANGOAL will immediately start a work on how these types of investments can be constituted based on bilateral interests with the participation of experts from both countries.

4. Turkey and People's Republic of China are both making investments, as foreign direct investment, for developing countries. In this sense, it's agreed that to search and study these interconnected investments and aids through a forum or conference, including participants such as academicians from western countries and institutions and experts from both countries, would be a good and helpful step. In this type of frame-work program, it also would be very helpful focusing on some sort of promoting and making possible win-win perspective co-operation with the countries such as India, Russia and Brazil.

### **Regional Challenges were Among the Issues of Discussion**

The meeting continued with answering the questions and discussions some of the issues related to it. In this respect, Turkey's membership process to European Union, Syria and refugee crisis, South-Eastern Issues and November 1 parliamentary elections and if its results lead to a possible change in Turkish foreign policy and transformation were mutually discussed. Located in its main agenda with emphasizing on "justice and development", which has been Turkey's priorities as part of G20, and bilateral relations (bilateral meetings and activities) and Civil-20 (Youth-20, Women Summit, etc.) were among the topics of discussion.

### **The meeting ended up with 6 topics summarized below**

1. China's economic profile and its growth perspectives for following years
2. The strategies, tend to be accepted by China, to take a stand "Trans-Pacific Partnership" agreement
3. Political and ethno-political risks on Far-East Asia or Asia-Pacific, where China is a part of it.
4. China's connections outside of its region and expectations from these connections
5. China's own perspective about Africa and the Middle East
6. Some predictions, which come to the forefront, become important and have the characteristics of prerequisite in terms of the future of Turkey-China relations, and economical, political and social expectations of the countries from each other

**The following link is available for more information:**

**[http://tasam.org/tr-TR/Etkinlik/3759/turki - cin\\_yuvarlak\\_masa\\_toplantisi - 1](http://tasam.org/tr-TR/Etkinlik/3759/turki - cin_yuvarlak_masa_toplantisi - 1)**