



TURKEY - TAIWAN

Round Table Meetings

**“New Era Turkey - Taiwan Relations in Socioeconomic Perspective:
Opportunities and Challenges”**

TAIWAN

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TÜRKİYE - TAYVAN YUVARLAK MASA TOPLANTILARI TURKEY - TAIWAN ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS

(STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT)

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“New Era Turkey - Taiwan Relations in Socioeconomic Perspective:
Opportunities and Challenges”

(21 October 2016, Sura Hagia Sophia Hotel - Istanbul)

Turkey is a prominent country with its 75 million population, growing and developing economy and geo-strategic position within Afro-Asian continents. Turkey became a key actor of the global platform with growing importance due to its historical, political and cultural ties with Europe, Black Sea, Caucasians, Asia, Middle East and Africa; increasing activities in international scope especially in United Nations, being one of the considerable members of NATO, OSCE and CICA, and recent active foreign affairs.

Taiwan is the 25th biggest economy with its 24 million population, more than 500 billion USA dollars GNP and 300 billion dollars export, annually almost 40 billion dollars current account surplus. Taiwanese economy is one of the strong economies with its stable growing performance thanks to liberal economic policies that are implemented for more than 50 years. Developing rate of life standard is higher than other OECD countries. Taiwan is one of the countries that are the least affected by financial / economic crisis. Since 1990, Taiwan has taken steps to become regional center for manufacturing, telecommunication, aerial and marine transportation, financial services and media.

Taiwan became a member of WTO in 2002 as a result of its efforts. Additionally, Taiwan is a member of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Central American Bank for Economic Integration. TAITRA (Taiwan External Trade Development Council), as a non-profit institution supported by the government, the industry and the trade unions, was founded in 1970 to develop foreign trade of Taiwan. With its 44 foreign offices, TAITRA supports Taiwanese manufacturers and businesses to increase competitive power and cope with problems of foreign markets. After signing Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) with the People's Republic of China, Taiwan signed a free trade agreement with New Zealand in 2013. It is thought that Taiwanese investment in China exceeds 100 billion dollars from 1990. In 2013, it has been reported that 70% of Taiwanese foreign investment is in China.

Turkey and Taiwan are in need of each other to develop their international positions, and to stand political, technological and commercial developments. Even though Turkish-Taiwanese relation did not reach expected level, Taipei Economic and Cultural Mission in Ankara, as a representative of Taiwan and Turkish Trade Office in Taipei continue to work. There is a traditional friendship between Turkish and Taiwanese people.



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By the established diplomatic relations, Turkey and Taiwan maintain commercial relations in a friendly atmosphere as well as political relations. Cooperations in science, commerce, economy, culture and politics progress rapidly. In politics, Turkey recognizes the People's Republic of China due to fact that Turkey supports China's "The One-China Policy". Taiwan opened Representation Office of Far East Commercial Services Center in Istanbul in 1986, then in Taipei, the capital and its largest city in 1989, and established its Economic and Commercial Cooperation Representation in Ankara. Thus Taiwan achieved to exceed 300 million dollars in trade with the Turkish Government.

Until 1995 Turkish-Taiwanese foreign trade was progressing relatively balanced, but after 1995 it was continuing at the expense of Turkey. In consideration of trade volume between Turkey and Taiwan since 1996, it is regularly developing in large, even though it has sometimes ups and downs. Trade volume was 500 million dollars in 1996, 1.37 billion dollars in 2004, 2 billion dollars in 2010, and reached 2.06 billion dollars in 2013. In spite of progress in trade volume, Turkey's deficit was 1.83 billion dollars in 2013.

Thanks to resolution process for problems between China and Taiwan, Taiwan become springboard for Turkey to get into Chinese market, and the new opportunity opened up to develop relations between two nations with new cooperations in every field, especially in trade and tourism fields. Taiwan sees Turkey as one of the 10 countries that Taiwan wants to develop its trade, for this reason many Taiwanese businesspeople are visiting Turkey. It is advised for Turkish businesspeople to attend trade fairs in Taiwan. To develop current level of political and economic relations into large scales, both countries should abolish visa mutually, start direct flights, strengthen diplomatic representation capacity, sign free trade agreements and remove the obstacles to foreign direct investment mutually.

The main tendency with gaining speed of globalization after end of the Cold War is consolidating power within regional cooperations or "trans-regional partnerships" instead of per se. Currently, countries are tending towards an open structure based on economic, political, cultural dialogue and cooperation, while the other countries that could not adapt themselves facing with significant instability. With this framework, it is obvious that Turkey and Taiwan are in need of develop a long-term "strategic cooperation" relation. **Turkey - Taiwan Round Table Meetings** are targeting to reveal how current mutual potentials and cooperation can be transformed to strategic cooperation and contribute to construction of a base for that purpose.

With the country meetings, it is aimed at getting to know relevant institutions and organizations closely, increasing the impact of civil society, contributing to development sophisticatedly, taking advantage of specialty experiences for developing resources and word field, contributing promotional activities, exploring the possibilities of academic cooperation and developing an approach to evaluating all those works integrally.



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Both countries can develop effective strategic cooperation in terms of sustainability of significantly important long-term interests. At that point, it is needed to have a broad geopolitical perspective. To reach an ideal level of Turkey - Taiwan relations within multidimensionally shaped world power system, it is supposed to face a structure that deepens every parameter mutually instead of political and strategic base alone.

Purpose of **Turkey - Taiwan Round Table Meetings**, that are planned to organize mutually, is putting forward opportunities and complementary features of Turkish-Taiwanese relations without ignoring trouble areas from a strategic perspective in the public eyes of Turkey and Taiwan, and constructing a corporate and intellectual ground.

Main Theme

“New Era Turkey - Taiwan Relations in Socioeconomic Perspective: Opportunities and Challenges”

Sub Themes

Turkey - Taiwan Economic Relations: Opportunities and Difficulties

Free Trade Perspectives between Taiwan and Turkey

Possible Cooperation Topics between Taiwan and Turkey on Syrian Humanitarian Crisis and Refugees

Turkey’s Possible Contribution to Reach of Taiwan to Central Asia Market

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