

TURKEY - IRAN VAN FORUM

**“Turkey - Iran:
Sectoral and
Financial
Deepening”**

**23 - 25 October
2014**



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VAN FORUM

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STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT

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(23-25 October 2014 | Elite World Hotel, Van, Türkiye)

Turkey distinguishes on global agenda with its population of 75 million, developing and growing economy, and its geo-strategic location in the middle of Afro-Eurasian, the main continents. Turkey has become an important actor with its historical, political and cultural ties with Europe, Black Sea, the Caucasus, Asia, Middle East and African countries; especially with the rising activity in the United Nations and the whole international arena, and with its key memberships in organizations such as NATO, AGIT and CICA, and with active foreign policy in the recent years.

Similarly, Iran is one of the oldest countries, which has historical, intellectual, cultural and traditional background in the world. Today Iran is a prominently important state with the population over 75 million, exceeding the GDP of 400 billion dollars and an area of 1,648,000 square kilometers as well as its big oil and natural gas resources; its advanced technology, strategic location adjacent to Indian Ocean, South Asia, the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, the Caucasus and West Asia and especially being a member of many international institutions and organizations such as UN, CICA, D-8, ECO.

In the recent years Turkey and Iran seemed to have accomplished a lot in bilateral relations. Bilateral political, economic, trade and cultural relations, as well as regional and international issues of bilateral relations have been on the agenda.

In the recent period there has been a notable increase in the fields of commerce and tourism between Iran and Turkey. Authorities of the two countries aim to increase the trade volume up to \$ 30 billion by 2015. The products majorly imported from Iran to Turkey are oil, gas and byproducts. The main export products to Iran are industrial machinery and equipment, textile, fiber, iron and steel and their products, motor vehicles and furniture.

In 2011, according to the nationalities of foreigners visiting Turkey from Iran (about 1.9 million tourists) is the 4th after Germany, Russia and England. In 2012 and 2013 this rate has decreased in the context of the current economic conditions in Iran. The number of outbound tourists from Turkey to Iran has remained at low levels.

Relations between the two countries have been developing rapidly in the field of culture. In this context, in order to provide closer contact of people of the two countries mutual activities such as "Cultural Weeks" and "Movie Weeks" are planned. New relations between universities, museums, libraries and civil society organizations are being established to develop stronger relations between the two communities.





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Today's Iran and Turkey in the region have become much more dependent on each other in the globalized and territorialized world conditions. Neither country can ignore each other in the fields of regional and global policies and they should be aware that mutual strong relations are a chance of success in the region.

Turkey and Iran are two candidate regional powers which share common interests in Central Asia, South Asia, Middle East, the Caucasus basins, which have common history and shared values in the the historical background. In addition, both states define their relation as a strategic partnership. The cooperation between the two countries to find solutions to regional and global issues is deeply important for both sides. In the multi-dimensional power system of the world; in order to raise Turkey - Iran relations to an ideal level, a structure has to be built not only on political and strategic basis but also on a basis that can form mutual depth on any parameter.

In this context, the basic matter in Iran - Turkey relations is both basins are characterized by having complementary structure economically throughout the history. Historical commerce networks such as the Silk Road are the most important witnesses of this matter.

As is known, economic activities comprise a basis for political, social, and cultural relations. All non-economic fields of relations will vanish in the future. Iran and Turkey have a strong economic potential to rebuild their relationship on a solid foundation.

Nowadays economic factors such as energy, industrial production and tourism infrastructure are the main elements in complementary relations for deepening cooperation between Iran and Turkey.

Van in Iran and Turkey Relations

Van has had a strategic location not only for Iran - Turkey connection but also for the Middle East, the Caucasus and the Black Sea countries. Furthermore, Van has been one of the key cities in bilateral political and economic relations throughout history.

Today, Van plays the role of an exit door for Turkey through Iran to Central and South Asia as well as the Caucasus countries.. Van, likewise, is the access point to all European countries and European world.

In the context of economic relations' contribution to political relations; signing a preferential trade agreement between Iran and Turkey, establishment of a free trade zone, opening an Iranian consulate in Van, modernization of border crossings, opening of new border crossings, development of relations between commerce and industry chambers, intensification of cooperation between Iranian & Turkish Business Councils, organizing effective fairs for mutual trade, development of opportunities for -highway, - railway and airway, creating close relations between twin towns, establishing effective civil society in both countries are important topics for mutual relations.





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Through possible accomplishments in the fields mentioned above, Van will become a regional destination for both Turkish businessmen and Iranians. Additionally Van, with the three hundred kilometers of borderline to Iran, will be one of the leading cities of Turkey, economically.

In addition, the development of Turkey-Iran relations will make major contribution to the economic development of Van.. The development of trade and economic relations of the two countries will also contribute to the solution of socio-economic problems in Van and other Southeastern Anatolian cities.

Inspired by the meeting of foreign ministers of Turkey and Iran in early 2014 in Van; **Turkey - Iran Van Forum** aims to provide strategic and intellectual contribution for the development of the economies of the city Van, in particular, and Turkey and Iran, in general.

Main Theme

Turkey - Iran: Sectoral and Financial Deepening

Sub Themes

Public Diplomacy

Culture and Tourism

Education (Language)

Health and Health Tourism

Energy and Petrochemistry

Industry

Turkey - Iran Civilization Dialogue

Logistics, Transportation and Correspondence

Banking and Finance

Economy and Commerce

Media and Communication

Science and Technology

Construction, Contracting and Infrastructure

