

PROJECT: TABCON 2006
FILE: TABCON 2006 Welcome Speech
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Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman,

As the president of TABC I am honored to welcome you to the 3rd annual Turkish American Business Conference, at the Claremont Resort in Berkeley. Thank you for joining us today, we expect this event to provide an even higher quality opportunity for networking, collaboration, and interactive dialogue around a subject that is important to all of us - investing in Turkey.

This year we have a number of distinguished guests in our audience; we have a visiting delegation from the Grand National Assembly of Turkey lead by the Honorable Egemen Bağış, who is also the leader of the Turkey-USA Friendship Committee. In addition, we have some international representation, from Turkey, the Consul General in L.A., the Honorable Engin Ansay, and from Azerbaijan, the Consul General in L.A., the Honorable Elin Suleymanov. I thank you all for coming here and supporting our conference.

Our theme this year is Financing Our High-Tech Future: Investments in Turkey. Our overall goal is to enhance awareness of the positive developments in the Turkish economy, and we plan to do this with a 2-pronged approach of:

- INCREASING awareness by painting a picture of the current investment climate and the underlying infrastructure and DESCRIBING how investment resources and technical initiatives in Turkey could lead

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to lucrative opportunities here in the U.S., while attracting more Foreign Direct Investments in Turkey.

- Helping, you, our attendees, to develop a stronger, global business network, through free time for conversation and debate, scattered throughout the day

I think you'll find that our conference tracks

- Financial Perspective: Smart Moves That Turkey Should Make
- Technology Investments: US and Turkey Joint Business Horizons

Offer many interesting opportunities to pursue these goals, thanks to the hard work of the conference team.

The core conference team includes members of TABC and volunteers. TABC is a non-profit organization, with roots in Turkey and the Bay Area, founded in THE Spring OF 2004, by a handful of senior executives, entrepreneurs, and engineers. We are passionate about:

- Enhancing the careers of our members by promoting networking opportunities with both global and local professionals and ABOUT -
- Fostering an international business network between American and Turkish professionals through high-profile events such as this conference.

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Our broad member base includes CEOs, senior executives, entrepreneurs, engineers and students. We have brought together THIS group of distinguished and experienced professionals with diverse backgrounds for this conference, AND BELIEVE IT IS an important step in developing a professional and technological bridge between Turkey and the US. We welcome your interactive participation in our conference sessions and networking events, so that with your help, this event comes alive and gets us closer to achieving this important goal.

If you have any questions through out the day, you may approach our volunteer staff members designated by the blue nametags.

In addition, I would like to thank all non-TABC and TABC contributors as well our sponsors, especially our Main Sponsors: GoldenGate Systems and Istanbul Chamber of Commerce for making this unique event happen.

And now I would like to invite the Consul General of Republic of Turkey in L.A. the Honorable Engin Ansay to deliver the welcome speech.
Thank you for your attention!