

Dear guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you to CIEC's 9th International symposium and pay my respects to all of you. I feel pleased and honored that we and you from different countries of the world are participating in such an important symposium.

I came here from Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University. Tokat is a beautiful city of Turkey in the Mid-Black Sea Region in the north of Anatolia. Tokat, which is about 1200 kilometers from İzmir, is a province abundant in greenness.

I would like to present my speech in Turkish so that you can have at least a few words of this language which is spoken by 250 million people in the world and therefore holds an important place among other languages. You came here from different countries of the world such as Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Egypt, Pakistan and Spain. I would be pleased if you could all become ambassadors of Turkey.

Some of the European people and the press have got negative ideas about the Turkish people have got wrong impressions. Therefore I ask you to tell your people exactly what you have experienced here, positive or negative. As we are trying to participate in EEC, we are expecting you to help us by telling your people about your experiences in Turkey.

I hope this symposium will be a link of friendship between your nations and our nation.

My University and I myself are always ready for this type of symposium and will provide every kind of support.

Thus, I pay my respects and wish you a successful symposium.

Prof. Dr. Mümtaz Turgut TOPBAŞ

Rector of Gaziosmanpaşa
University, Tokat/Turkey