

PROJECT: TABCON 2006
FILE: TABCON 2006 Welcome Remark
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DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY,

**DEAR PANELISTS, GUESTS, COLLEAGUES, MEMBERS OF TURKISH AMERICAN
BUSINESS CONNECTIONS ASSOCIATION,**

I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN WELCOMING YOU TO THE 2006 TURKISH AMERICAN BUSINESS CONNECTIONS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.

I EXTEND MY SINCERE THANKS TO THE TABC ASSOCIATION AND ITS CHAIRMAN, MR. EFE ORHUN, FOR THE TIRELESS EFFORTS HE AND HIS FRIENDS PUT IN BRINGING THE TURKISH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS, THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, LOCAL OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS TOGETHER.

MARKING ITS THIRD YEAR AS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND SUCCESSFUL TURKISH AMERICAN, BUSINESS ORIENTED ASSOCIATION IN CALIFORNIA, TABCA IS ORGANIZING ITS SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE THIS YEAR WITH THE THEME OF "FINANCING OUR HIGH TECH FUTURE INVESTMENTS IN TURKEY". AFTER PERSONALLY WITNESSING ITS SUCCESS AND THE PROFOUND INTEREST AND POPULARITY THE LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE GENERATED, IT HAS BEEN MY ARDENT DESIRE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THIS EXERCISE BY TURNING IT INTO AN ANNUAL EVENT. HENCE, THIS YEAR'S EVENT MARKS THIS INSTITUTIONALIZATION.. NOW, IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT, FOR MANY YEARS TO COME WE GET TOGETHER ANNUALLY AND REALIZE VERY MANY MORE FRUITFUL CONFERENCES.

TABCA DID NOT ONLY PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT VENUE FOR BUSINESS EVENTS SUCH AS THIS ONE TO BRING TURKISH AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TOGETHER, BUT ALSO, THROUGH THE VISIONARY APPROACH OF ITS LEADERS, THIS ORGANIZATION SUCCESSFULLY HOSTED THE PRIME MINISTER OF TURKEY, IN SAN FRANCISCO LAST YEAR AND COOPERATED WITH THE STATE SENATE OF CALIFORNIA IN THE PREPARATORY STAGES OF THE TURKISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION'S VISIT TO SAN FRANCISCO AND SACRAMENTO THIS YEAR.

THE TURKISH COMMUNITY OF CALIFORNIA WELL APPRECIATES THE DYNAMISM AND EFFICIENCY INTRODUCED BY TABCA AND I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FOUNDED THIS ORGANIZATION, CONTRIBUTE TO RESPOND TO A VERY SIGNIFICANT NEED LONG FELT WITHIN THE TURKISH COMMUNITY.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK TABCA AND ITS LEADERS ONCE AGAIN FOR ORGANIZING THIS CONFERENCE AND EXTEND MY GRATITUDE TO THE PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE HELPING TO STRENGTHEN THE ALREADY STRONGLY ESTABLISHED BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL TIES BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE SILICON VALLEY IN PARTICULAR AND THE US IN GENERAL.

BEFORE LEAVING THE FLOOR TO MY DEAR FRIEND, THE CHAIRMAN OF TABCA, MR. EFE ORHUN TO INTRODUCE THE HONORABLE EGEMEN BAĞIŞ, MEMBER OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY, HEAD OF TURKISH-USA PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR INVALUABLE PARTICIPATION.

THANK YOU.