



TAA Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 4
April 2014

Dear Friends,

April marked the exciting month of the 4th Annual Turkic Convention! TAA's flagship event took place April 8th and 9th and included both pre-convention and post-convention related events. This newsletter includes reports from each of the individual convention events. Be sure to also check out uploaded convention videos on our YouTube site and photos from the convention on our convention website. April was also a time of intercultural study trips to Turkey, multiple state house receptions across the country, Turkish Olympiads and the 3rd Annual U.S.-Azerbaijan Convention.

On May 1st, Freedom House released its 2014 Freedom of the Press report, which exhibited an unfortunate status downgrade for Turkey from 'Partly Free' to 'Not Free.' Aside from the familiar reports of government pressure on journalists, censorship, and imprisonment, in addition to one deportation, the Freedom House report addressed the more nascent concern of hate speech demonstrated by top leaders of the Turkish government. During an election rally on March 5th, 2014, for instance, the Prime Minister propagated hateful rhetoric, referring to followers of the Hizmet movement as worse than leeches, for at least leeches purify dirty blood. The Turkic American Alliance calls for an end to such press censorship and pressure and hate-filled rhetoric by Turkey's leaders. Moves to limit press freedom stray far from the path of democracy.

Additionally, in early April, I had the distinct honor of being selected as one of the most influential Turkish Americans in the United States. The list was published for the first time by the TurkofAmerica magazine. In addition to myself, celebrity TV host and cardiologist Dr. Mehmet Öz, CEO of Coca-Cola Muhtar Kent and founder and CEO of Chobani Hamdi Ulukaya, among many others, were also recognized. Such successes, however, are much less about me and far more about the dedication, hard-work and passion of TAA's staff, its regional federations and councils, its local member organizations, and its countless volunteers. Thank you to all of you for elevating the importance

Visit Our Social Media



TAA Video



Turkic American Alliance

In This Issue

[Rumi Forum Education Conference at Georgetown University](#)

[Gulen Institute Youth Platform Awards in Washington, D.C.](#)

[ATFA's International Festival of Language and Culture](#)

[TAA and TUSKON Hold TAC14 Press Conference](#)

[5th Annual Missouri State House Reception Welcome Reception](#)

and work of the Turkic American Alliance since it first opened its doors in 2010. I greatly look forward to all that we will accomplish in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

[Breakfast Reception with Ambassadors Roundtable](#)

[From Beijing to London: The New Silk Road Initiatives](#)

[Trials and Tribulations of Turkish Democracy](#)

[Luncheon](#)

[Eurasian Energy Corridor and Energy Security](#)

[U.S. Strategic Partnership & Cooperation in Central Asia & the Caucasus](#)

[Pre-Gala Reception](#)

[Convention Dinner and Gala](#)

[U.S. Senators Attend Turkic American Convention](#)

[Post-Convention Events](#)

[3rd Turkish Cultural Day at Vermont State House](#)

[3rd Annual Turkic Cultural Day at Maine State House](#)

[U.S. Senate Chiefs of Staff Trip to Turkey](#)

[U.S. -Azerbaijan Convention: Part I](#)

[U.S. -Azerbaijan Convention: Part II](#)

Rumi Forum Education Conference at Georgetown University



April 2nd, 2014

On Wednesday, April 2, 2014, Rumi Forum hosted the conference, "Education and the State of our Future: Critical Issues Facing Our Children," as a part of its new annual Social Issues Conference Series. The event was held at Georgetown University's Copley Formal Lounge and was attended by stakeholders from...[Read More](#)

Gulen Institute Youth Platform Awards in Washington, D.C.

April 3rd, 2014

On April 3, 2014, the Gulen Institute Youth Platform held an award ceremony for its 4th annual International High School Essay Contest at the Rayburn Building in Washington, D.C. The event brought together students from several continents and very diverse backgrounds. A total of 23 countries were



represented. Over...[Read More](#)

ATFA's International Festival of Language and Culture



April 6th, 2014

On April 6, 2014, the American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) held its annual International Festival of Language and Culture at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Virginia. The event brought together over 1,400 guests, which included families from various ethnicities, cultures and religions. The opera-styled venue housed a vast...[Read More](#)

TAA and TUSKON Hold TAC14 Press Conference



April 8th, 2014

The Turkic American Alliance (TAA) in collaboration with TUSKON (Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey) held a Turkic American Convention Press Conference. TAA President Dr. Faruk Taban, TUSKON President Rizanur Meral, and TUSKON Vice President Mustafa Gunay answered questions posed by Turkish Media representatives. Stay tuned for a...[Read More](#)

5th Annual Missouri State House Reception

April 8th, 2014

On Tuesday, April 8, 2014, members of the Niagara Foundation and the Turkish American Society of Missouri (TASOM) accompanied a delegation from Kyrgyzstan to the Missouri State Capitol building to



attend the 5th Annual Intercultural State House Reception. The honorable delegation consisted of delegates from the Osh Province of...[Read More](#)

Welcome Reception



April 8th, 2014

Last night kicked off the 4th Annual Turkic American Convention, hosted by the Turkic American Alliance (TAA), the Rethink Institute, TUSKON, and the Turkic American Chamber of Commerce (TACC). The President of TAA, Dr. Faruk Taban, welcomed delegations from various Turkic member countries at the historic Andrew W. Mellon...[Read More](#)

Breakfast Reception with Ambassadors Roundtable



April 9th, 2014

Day two of the 2014 Turkic American Convention commenced with opening remarks from members of the U.S. Congress, in addition to a roundtable discussion with Ambassadors from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and the United States. Congressmen Xavier Becerra (CA), Paul Tonko (NY) and Paul Gosar (AZ) welcomed guests by expressing their...[Read More](#)

From Beijing to London: The New Silk Road Initiatives

April 9th, 2014

The First Session of the Rethink Institute's Energy Trade and Development Forum hosted at the Willard Intercontinental in Washington D.C, directed their dialogue to the Central Asian region and its efforts



taken to capitalize upon the Silk Road Initiative. The panel consisted of Vladimir Fedorenko, from the Rethink Institute...[Read More](#)

Trials and Tribulations of Turkish Democracy



April 9th, 2014

"Turkey has long been considered a model country that successfully fuses democracy, Islam, and economic growth. Lately, this model is facing challenges as the country tackles serious corruption charges, questionable moves by the government that curb judicial autonomy, and rising social opposition. This session will focus on these challenges...[Read More](#)

Luncheon



April 9th, 2014

After the conclusion of two successful Forum sessions, attendees of the 4th Annual Turkic American Convention gathered in the Ballroom of the Willard InterContinental Hotel for the Luncheon. The Luncheon focused on the importance of our sponsors and the help they provided to make the 4th Annual Turkic American Convention a...[Read More](#)

Eurasian Energy Corridor and Energy Security

April 9th, 2014

David Koranyi, Acting Director of the Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center of the Atlantic Council, moderated a panel discussion on the new energy developments in the Eurasia and its political implications. Forum



Session III had the distinct honor and privilege of hearing remarks delivered by Senator Gillibrand (NY), who represents...[Read More](#)

U.S. Strategic Partnership & Cooperation in Central Asia & the Caucasus



April 9th, 2014

The Fourth Panel of the Rethink Institute's Energy, Trade and Development Forum focused primarily on the improvement of U.S.-Central Asian relationships and the promotion of the importance to establish partnerships domestically and internationally. Serving as moderator for the fourth panel was Dr. Andrew Kuchins, Director and Senior Fellow of the CSIS Russia and Eurasia...[Read More](#)

Pre-Gala Reception



April 9th, 2014

The 4th Annual Turkic American Convention Pre-Gala Reception kicked off at 6:00pm in the Willard Room. VIP remarks were delivered and appearances were made by distinguished U.S. and Turkish legislators, including Rep. and DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), Rep...[Read More](#)

Convention Dinner and Gala

April 9th, 2014

Alison Starling emceed the Convention Dinner and Gala, welcoming guests at the Ballroom of the Willard



InterContinental Hotel and thanking all of the partners and sponsors for making the 4th Annual Turkic American Convention a reality. A dozen honorable Members of U.S. Congress attended the Gala and each took...[Read More](#)

U.S. Senators Attend Turkic American Convention



April 10th, 2014

For the 4th Annual Turkic American Convention, there was a strong presence from the United States Senate. Four prominent U.S. Senators attended, stopped by, and delivered remarks on April 8th at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium and on April 9th at the Willard InterContinental Hotel. On April 8th, Senator...[Read More](#)

Post-Convention Events



April 10th, 2014

On Thursday, April 10th, in conjunction with the 4th Annual Turkic American Convention, the Turkic American Alliance organized a full day of events for representatives of TAA member federations, councils and organizations, the TAA Board of Directors, TAA staff and other representatives from the Turkic American community. The events...[Read More](#)

3rd Turkish Cultural Day at Vermont State House



April 15th, 2014

On April 15th, the Turkish Cultural Center-Vermont and the Council for Turkic American Associations (CTAA) held a reception at the Vermont State House Capitol to mark annual Turkish Day celebrations. The event brought together Vermont Attorney General William Sorrell, Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos, who were the keynote...[Read More](#)

3rd Annual Turkic Cultural Day at Maine State House



April 21st, 2014

On April 20th, the Council for Turkic American Associations (CTAA) in collaboration with the Turkish Cultural Center-Maine hosted a group of Maine state Senators and Representatives to a festive evening aimed at promoting the Turkish culture, cuisines and folk dances. The reception was held at the Maine Hall of...[Read More](#)

U.S. Senate Chiefs of Staff Trip to Turkey



April 22nd, 2014

In mid-April, the Turkic American Alliance took a delegation of Senate Chiefs of Staff from Texas, Utah, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Maryland and Indiana on a week-long exploration trip to Turkey accompanied by TAA Staff. During the trip, the Senate Chiefs visited the cities of Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara, and Kayseri and...[Read More](#)

U.S.-Azerbaijan Convention: Part I



April 30th, 2014

Congressional Breakfast On Wednesday, April 30th, 2014, the 3rd annual U.S.-Azerbaijan Convention resumed at the Willard InterContinental Hotel in Washington, D.C., from 7:30am to 9:00am in the Ballroom. Throughout the convention's exciting events, U.S. Members of Congress, delegations from Central Asia, law and policy makers, academics and religious leaders...[Read More](#)

U.S.-Azerbaijan Convention: Part II



April 30th, 2014

Forum Session 3: Azerbaijan: Developing the Nation's Human Capital Dr. Michael Rubin, moderator and Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, opened the discussion by highlighting the importance of friendships, praising Azerbaijan as being a "good model of how things get done right." In addition, Rubin noted that the...[Read More](#)

[Forward this email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe™

This email was sent to info@turkicamericanalliance.org by info@turkicamericanalliance.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Turkic American Alliance | 750 First Street NE | Suite 1125 | Washington | DC | 20002