



TAA Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 8 August 2014

Dear Friends,

This month, Turkey witnessed two historical events--its first direct presidential election on August 10th, with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan emerging victorious, and the inauguration of the President-elect on August 28th. The former Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davutoğlu, has been selected as the new Prime Minister. Now only at the nascent beginnings of this new political reality, the Turkic American Alliance wishes nothing but the best for Turkey and urges its government to stay due course towards a liberal democracy and towards the strengthening freedoms of press, speech, association and free enterprise and reifying the separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary.

In other firsts, the Turkic American Alliance was honored to be a part of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, which took place in Washington, D.C., during August 4th-6th. In concurrence with this summit, TAA attended high-profile meetings and events, such as the D.C. Mayor's Welcome Reception, a luncheon with His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, 'A Dialogue with African CEOs' hosted by Congressman Gregory Meeks, a luncheon with His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, a luncheon with His Excellency Goodluck Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and a dinner with His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya.

Additionally, TAA hosted at its office headquarters His Excellency Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Jean-Baptiste Natama, Chief of Staff to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. TAA also received a delegation of Tanzanian businesspersons from Tanzania's private sector.

In other news, the Turkic American Alliance was invited to speak at Sister Cities International's 58th Annual Conference in San Jose, California, before the 'Vulnerable Populations in the Middle East' panel. Additionally, TAA was invited to attend the National Conference of State Legislatures' annual Legislative Summit in Minneapolis to deliver a speech before a panel deliberating on the 'Geopolitics of Energy.' Rumi Forum successfully hosted its Annual Eid Lunch Celebrations here in Washington D.C.

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Also, Pacifica Institute invited LAPD Chief Deputy Michael Downing to discuss the challenges faced by the Muslim Americans in the wake of ISIS's recent ongoing attacks.

Turkish Islamic Scholar Fethullah Gülen released a statement strongly condemning the atrocious acts and activities undertaken by the radical group ISIS. In his message, Gülen declared the group's acts as 'cruel and inhuman' which also 'contradicts the Principles of the Quran and the Tradition of the Prophet'. He further stressed that the goal of religion is 'to establish peace based on universal and human rights'. Turkic American Alliance sends its deepest condolences to the families and friends of the deceased that were as a result of ISIS's actions. As a global community, we pray and hope for a more tolerant, and peaceful society that shuns violence as a means to an end.

The Turkic American Alliance is also very excited and pleased to announce the 2nd Annual Kyrgyz American Convention, which will take place on Thursday, September 25th in Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic. Broadly speaking, the convention aims to provide a platform to facilitate engagement between the U.S. and the Kyrgyz Republic across various sectors. Be sure to stay tuned for next month's newsletter and its recap of this premier event.

Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

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TAA Attends Sister Cities International Conference



August 1st, 2014

On Friday, August 1st, Dr. Faruk Taban attended the 58th Annual Conference hosted by Sister Cities International in San Jose, California. The theme of the conference was 'The Power of Diplomacy.' Dr. Taban was invited as a panelist on the 'Vulnerable Populations in the Middle East' panel. During the... [Read More](#)

Rumi Forum Holds its Annual Eid Lunch Celebrations

August 4th, 2014

On Monday, August 4th, Rumi Forum hosted an Eid Lunch to mark the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan which signifies the importance of friendship, dialog and community. Among those in attendance was Former U.S. Ambassador David Newton, who served in at the U.S. Embassy in Yemen and... [Read More](#)



H.E. Erastus Mwencha Visits TAA



August 5th, 2014

On Tuesday, August 5th, H.E. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AU), visited the TAA headquarters where he received a tour. During the lunch meeting, TAA President Dr. Taban presented on TAA and its activities across the United States. H.E Mwencha was impressed by TAA's work...[Read More](#)

TAA Hosts Business Delegation from Tanzania



August 6th, 2014

On Wednesday, August 6th, TAA hosted a group of businesspersons from Tanzania's private sector for a breakfast at its headquarters. The delegation is actively involved in finance, labor, energy and agriculture sectors within Tanzania. During the meeting, TAA President Dr. Taban presented on TAA and its activities in the...[Read More](#)

Jean Baptiste-Natama Visits TAA

August 7th, 2014

On Thursday, August 7th, Jean Baptiste-Natama, Chief of Staff to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AU) visited TAA headquarters which included an office tour and a meeting. During the meeting, TAA President Dr. Taban shared the mission and goals of the organization as well as its current...[Read More](#)



TAA Activities during the U.S. Africa Summit



August 7th, 2014

Turkic American Alliance was honored to be a part of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, which took place in Washington, D.C., during August 4th-6th. In concurrence with this summit, TAA attended high-profile meetings and events, such as the D.C. Mayor's Welcome Reception, a luncheon with His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of...[Read More](#)

TAA Presentation at Annual NCSL Summit in Minneapolis



August 18th, 2014

On Monday, August 18th, Dr. Faruk Taban attended the Annual NCSL Legislative Summit held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. Taban was invited as a panelist on the NCSL Task Force on Energy Supply which was attended by international parliamentarians, U.S. state legislators and legislative staff. During the session, Dr. Taban...[Read More](#)

Pacifica Institute Hosts LAPD Chief Deputy Michael Downing

August 20th, 2014

On Wednesday, August 20th, Pacifica Institute of Los Angeles hosted LAPD Chief Deputy, Michael Downing, as part of their Luncheon Forum Series to discuss "Policing Convergent Threats of the 21st Century". Chief Deputy Downing shared his insights on how the traditional role of law enforcement in the



aftermath of...[Read More](#)

Fethullah Gülen Releases Statement on ISIS

August 21st, 2014

On Thursday, August 21st, Turkish Islamic Scholar Fethullah Gülen released a statement strongly condemning activities and the I.S.I.S (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). According to Gülen, the group's activities represent those of a "terrorist group", further labeling them as "completely ignorant of the spirit of Islam". In the...[Read More](#)

TAA Board Members Meet With Legislators in CA and NV

August 26th, 2014

On Tuesday, August 26th, TAA Board Members held meetings throughout Sacramento, California. The Board Members meet with Deputy Secretary of State, Debbie O'Donoghue and Assistant Deputy



Secretary of State Carrie J. Martin from the offices of the Secretary of State Debra Bowen, Chief of Policy, Daniel Suvor, from the...[Read More](#)

CATA Chamber Hosts Turkic American Legislative Dinner



August 26th, 2014

On Tuesday, August 26th, the California Turkish American Chamber of Commerce (CATA Chamber) hosted its 4th Annual Turkic American Legislative and Business Dinner's in California's capital city, Sacramento. The event was co-sponsored by West American Turkic Council (WATC), TUSKON, California

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