

TAIK / USTBC Webinar**38th ATC Webinar Series: Digital Economy****22 April 2020, 16.30**

I would like to thank the Chamber for overseeing today's event alongside with TAIK – Turkey-US Business Council.

I would also like to thank Derya, Mehmet Ali, Liam (LEE-UM) and Greg for taking the time to join us today and for their insights on the international digital economy in the 21st century.

And on behalf of the entire TAIK and DEİK family, we hope that you and your families are safe and healthy during this very tiring time.

While it is unfortunate that we must rely on technology in order to interact during this time, I am eternally confident that once this global pandemic has ended, Turkish and American businesses, as well as the business with other countries will establish even stronger ties than we had previously, having worked together so closely as international partners to fight the spread of coronavirus.

I believe that, whoever proves the continuity of supply chain and get the confidence of the counter parts, will certainly have a better position in the business life.

Here, Turkish Business Society is one of the best to continue the production and to keep the supply chain as possible as in an optimum level, of course while taking necessary steps to save our health.

Even under this heavy pandemic conditions, Turkish products still being exported across the globe, so we can firmly and proudly say that we have a fully international economy. Our government has also created a digital transformation office so that our public sector can follow the trail into the future of our private sector; a transformation not limited to the digitization of process and operations but also of intelligence, marketing and technologies, most importantly.

You know, DEİK has been serving since 1985 as the organization charged with managing Turkey's foreign economic relations around the world.

Right now, the international health crisis has forced all of us in the private sector to rethink everything about our business models and our financial priorities. And I also believe that we're just at the beginning of a new phase since we stopped face to face close contacts, we could find pre solutions like today which will be developed to better levels.

When we started in 1985, there was truly no such thing as a "global economy." Nor was the world yet "flat" and cellular technology was not yet available to the masses.

So, a worldwide economic recovery from a pandemic such as this one would have been orders of magnitude more complicated.

I am proud to take part in today's conversation and I look forward to hearing from all our panelists regarding the future of a worldwide digital economy and its' role in Turkish-American trade relations. Thank you for joining us and thank you to our audience today for making time to hear this most integral discussion.

Nail OLPAK**President of DEİK**