

DTIK Webinar: Grassroots Actions to Provide Medical Care and Equipment to Communities During COVID-19

15 December 2020, 17.00

Distinguished Panelists and Dear Participants,

Thank you Asma Yousef,

I wish you all healthy and safe days and it is my honor to host you today for our World Turkish Business Council webinar.

And of course our prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives and our sincerest well wishes to those who are sick.

I specifically want to extend my appreciation to the first responders, doctors, nurses, health workers, scientists and researchers working tirelessly to defeat the coronavirus.

Despite these extremely challenging conditions, I am proud to note that we have never surrendered. Although the pandemic has largely kept us in our homes, we immediately adapted ourselves for our daily lives and especially for business activities.

After this entrance, let me continue with a short brief explanation of DEIK and DTIK. Some of you may already know that, I am the President of DEIK, the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey, as well as the President of World Turkish Business Council (DTIK), which operates under

the umbrella of DEIK, together with our 146 Business Councils all over the world.

DTIK is a diaspora-aimed organization. Its' main aim is to bring together Turkish diaspora members with disregard for differences in political views or social status or ethnic or religious backgrounds. In this regard, we have two main priorities; On the one hand, we intend to facilitate networking and trade among diaspora Turks in a safe environment. On the other hand, we aim to strengthen the worldwide communication between Turkish societies living abroad. As DTIK, we also approach other friendly diaspora organizations. Their support and contribution are of major importance for us in realizing our goals. Our motto is to embrace all with no distinction. We stand against animosities, hatred and discrimination.

Dear Participants,

Yes, we are stronger with our diasporas and friendly diasporas. In this context, The United States is a very important country for DTIK. More than four hundred thousand Turks live in the US. There are also a considerable number of friendly and cognate diaspora groups who are extremely effective and support our priorities. I hope, we'll be more united to work for more trade and investment in the long view.

The pandemic has been the main issue of most webinars since March. Today, our topic is "Grassroots Actions to Provide Medical Care and Equipment to Communities During Covid-19." We have distinguished physicians with us who are fighting in the field. We will listen to their valuable experiences and their shrewd advice. We are proud of their

courageous work. Turkey, in line with its culture of sharing and extending a helping hand to those in need, has sent medical aid to roughly 140 countries to help combat the pandemic. Turkey's spirit of solidarity and hope was inscribed on the aid packages, as put into words by Rumi: **“After hopelessness, there is so much hope and after darkness, there comes much brighter sun.”** At this point, I commemorate the symbol of peace Rumi with love, when we're in Rumi Week.

2020 will definitely be a year to remember. No matter what, I hope and believe that a spirit of peace, friendship and solidarity will prevail and bring us all closer. Events like today make us remember the superior merits of being a human in this world. Thank you all very much.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK & DTİK