

9th PPP Week 2025**25 March 2025****Minister of Trade Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat,****Chair of İstanbul PPPCOE Dr. Eyüp Vural Aydın,****President of WAPPP (World Association of PPP Units & Professionals) Mr. Ziad Alexandre Hayek,****Dear Participants,**

On behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye - DEİK, I am delighted to be with our panelists and participants from more than 50 countries, including significant decision-makers in both public and private sectors, on our PPP Week.

Yes, theme of this year's PPP week is "PPP:More with less". This theme is especially meaningful this year when we consider the near-term global developments and future expectations.

The world continue to face profound challenges that began with Covid 19 and even today extend to the ongoing Russian-Ukraine conflict, with recent tragic developments in Middle East and anticipated shifts in international trade policies. In addition to all of these, countries are confronted with a different kind cold war that stem from competition in artificial intelligence and in digital technologies.

While going through these, we need more investments, more financial resources, more strategies and more policies both at the national and at the global level. We need more, but fewer resources and minimized risks to tackle our global problems.

So, this year's topic is "PPPs: More with less."

PPP models have been used in Türkiye and in the world within the last 20 years successfully in infrastructure sectors including energy, transportation, communication, and health sectors. This model provided an optimal risk and return sharing between the public and private sectors and brought successful results with increased quality in delivering public services at reasonable costs and manageable risks. Now, we should focus on how to extend this model to address emerging global challenges.

Yes, I'm here for behalf of DEİK and naturally I'm a businessman myself, moving on, I'm also an active PPP partner with the second biggest PPP project, Northern Marmara Highway.

So, I like to bring some points to attention of panelists and guests.

First of all, we need a new understanding of PPP in addition to traditional models. I call this "next-generation" PPP model. In these models we should deal more with global developments like advancements in artificial intelligence and in digital technologies. These technologies may pose global risks or offer immense potential to drive productivity and global economic growth.

Second, PPP models have been used mainly in big projects so far. I believe we should reconsider the use of these models even in small or

medium scale projects and explore ways to attract small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to invest in such initiatives.

Last but not least, I believe that PPP models should be extended to new subjects. We can use these models in achieving UN development goals, in projects regarding sustainability, climate change, disaster management and so forth.

Throughout this forum, we will share our experiences, forge new partnerships, and I know very well that each of you will contribute invaluable insights to these important discussions.

With those, I'd like to extend my gratitude to our Trade Ministry, DEİK-PPP Committee and Istanbul PPPCoE and all international organizations for their support to make this event possible. I congratulate PPP reward winners and wish them success in their future projects.

Since I'll leave as soon as we finish the opening part to airport to attend Türkiye-Finland JETCO meeting at Helsinki, I wish a fruitful productive and insightful PPP Week over the coming two days.

Thank you for all.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK