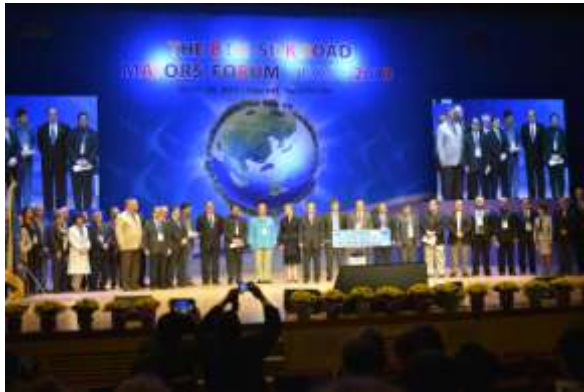


The 8th Silk Road Mayors Forum, 21-24 October 2013, Yeosu, South Korea



The 8th Silk Road Mayors Forum was held in Yeosu, South Korea between 21-24 October 2013. 130 City Mayors from 30 countries, including Russia, Malaysia, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, China, Japan, Poland, Turkey, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Kyrgyzstan attended the Forum to present their cities which were on

the Ancient Silk Road. Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Mayor's Advisor and EMA Turkish Representative Mr. Ahmet Erdönmez and Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Historical and Cultural Heritage Projects Coordinator Mr. Aziz ELBAS attended the Forum on behalf of Mayor Altepe. In the Forum which was held to revive the Ancient Silk Road, which was one of the oldest commercial ways in the world with a length of seven thousand kilometers, in terms of social, cultural and commercial branches, The mayors of the cities which were invited to the Forum gave presentations of their cities. Bursa Metropolitan Municipality's presentation was mainly about the importance of Bursa on the ancient silk

road and the textile history of the city. Within this scope, the Museums of Bursa, international and EMA relations of the museums were also presented. The presentation of Bursa was very attractive for those attending, as among all the city presentations Bursa was the only city that showed the active production of silk and the history of silk production in its Textile and Industry Museum.

Eight cities including Budapest (Hungary), Kotor (Montenegro), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) and Samarkand (Uzbekistan) were candidates to host the 9th and 10th Silk Road Mayors' Forum: at the evaluation meeting, the draft declaration was read and a final version was prepared. It was decided to hold the 10th Silk Road Mayors Forum in Bursa in 2015. In that year Bursa will be the host city to gather 130 mayors from 30 countries to talk about the future of the Modern Silk Road.

YAPEX ‘Restoration, Renovation and Cultural Heritage Protection’ FAIR Turkish Union of Historical Towns-Museums Fair

YAPEX ‘Restoration Fair’, which is the first and only Fair that is organised in this profession, was held in Antalya between 31 October and 3 November 2013 in Antalya, Turkey with the theme of ‘Restoration, Renovation and Cultural Heritage Protection’. The YAPEX ‘Restoration Fair’ primarily aims to bring the urban protection, restoration projects and necessary materials, methods together for correct restoration implementations. Within the scope of Fair, the special theme ‘Museums in Cultural Heritage and City Museums’ and its activities were supported by the Turkish Union of Historical Towns and the European Museum Academy. The Fair hosted stands of the



Turkish Union of Historical Towns member cities’ museums, among them Bursa museum stands were very interesting and attractive for the visitors. Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Mayor’s Advisor and EMA Turkish Representative Mr. Ahmet Erdönmez was invited to the seminar as a speaker, in his speech he explained the development of Turkish and Bursa Museums, and the relations with the European Museum Academy.

Turkic World Museums Forum

TURKSOY designs its aimed projects in co-operation with international associations like the United Nations, Council of Europe, IRCICA, UNESCO, ISESCO and MFGS. In this respect, on 21 May 2013, a ‘Museums of Central Asia: Tradition and Innovation’

conference was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan and on 23 May 2013, a Regional Seminar on the Importance of Handcrafts in Cultural Industries and the Development of Tourism in Central Asia was held in Manas University of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. A Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Delegation and EMA Turkish Representative was invited to this Seminar as well as the member countries’ museum or culture specialists. The meetings were held in Almaty, Kazakhstan at Kazakhstan National Museum, EMA was introduced as an organization and the development of Turkish Museums was explained. Bursa was very attractive for the Turkic World; furthermore, at the

conference TURKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture) and Bursa Metropolitan Municipality decided to co-organise the next conference in Bursa.

The Turkic World Museums Forum was held between 6-10 November 2013 at Ördekli Culture Complex in Bursa by TURKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture) and Bursa Metropolitan Municipality with the support of Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Directorate of National Affairs. 35 representatives from 12 independent and 7 autonomous countries, a total of 19, attended the forum. The museology and historical heritage specialists presented the museums in their countries. Directors of world famous St. Petersburg, Khakas Museums also attended and contributed the forum with their valuable co-operation opinions. Moreover, as EMA Turkish Representative European Museum Academy was presented and the relations to gather European and Asian Museums on a same platform were built.

Representatives from the National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan, National History Museum of Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan History Museum, National Museums of Tajikistan, T.R.N.C, Museum of Fine Arts in Turkmenistan, Zanabazar Museum of Artin Mongolia, Gagauz Museum of Ethnography, Crimea-Bakhchisaray Museum, Bashkir National Literary Museum, National Museum of Tatarstan, L. R. Kızlasov Khakas National History Museum, Northern Peoples of Yakutia State Yaroslavskiy History and Civilization Museum, Tiva Republic Afis-Madır National Museum, St. Petersburg (Kunstkamera) Anthropology and Ethnography Museum, St. Petersburg Ethnography Museum and Moscow National Eastern Works Museum State undersigned the 'Bursa Declaration'. In this Declaration it was decided to publish the book of the 'Turkic World Museums Forum, to start projects of specialist exchange, common conferences and seminars and to establish a network of 'Turkic World Museums Association' between TURKSOY member countries under the leadership of Bursa Metropolitan Municipality. The next meeting will be held in Tatarstan's capital city, Kazan in 2014.

Ahmet Ömer ERDÖNMEZ
EMA Turkey Representative



