

Monday
AGRIBUSINESS

Tuesday
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday
TRAVEL, TOURISM & AVIATION

Thursday
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Friday
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



AWARD: Aydın Doğan receives an award during last year's summit.

A focus on personal progression

ISTANBUL
Hürriyet Daily News

EDUPLUS, an Istanbul-based consulting firm, will hold its fourth personal development summit on Oct. 21 at Sheraton Istanbul Maslak Hotel. The summit aims to develop the participants' knowledge, skills and creative thinking capabilities as well as increasing their personal and corporate values to bring success in business life.

Investing in oneself

Bringing together prominent speakers, the summit offers tactics and suggestions for professionals who aim to invest in themselves amid a period marked with global turmoil.

Experts including Mümin Sekman, Acar Baltaş, Banu Gökçül, Yasemin Sungur and Sedef Kabaş will attend the different sessions of the summit this year. Moreover, many leading companies such as Garanti Bank, Abbot, Vodafone, Unilever, Turkcell, Borusan Holding, Sabancı Holding, Türk Telekom, Bosch, Ülker, İşbank, Anadolu Sigorta and Efes Pilsen will participate in the summit.

Impact of the crisis on entrepreneurs debated

ISTANBUL
Hürriyet Daily News

The 9th International Entrepreneurship Forum, organized jointly by Turkey's Sabancı University and the U.K.'s University of Essex, began Thursday in Istanbul, with a focus on the global economic turmoil and related social issues.

Aiming to provide a platform for researchers, policy makers and practitioners amid the increasing interaction between businesses, institutions and governmental bodies, the forum addresses the impacts of the crisis on entrepreneurship and the creative use of technology. The forum, which ends Friday, is supported by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD, its Local Economic and Employment Development program and the National Innovation Initiative.

During the opening speech of the forum, Nakiye Boyacıgiller, dean of the faculty of management at Sabancı University and the co-chair of the conference, championed the role of the university in developing an entrepreneurial and innovative culture. Outlining the university's progress, she stated that Sabancı University founded Inovent, the first technology-commercialization office in Turkey. She also commented on the technopark venture, which opened in 2005. "We are very strong in research," she said, referring to discovery as a vital aspect of entrepreneurship.

Technology key to venture creation

The forum's central theme included the role of technology in "the generation of entrepreneurial opportunities for new-venture creation," as well as the possibility "of new organizational forms emerging from cross-border linkages."

Speaking at the opening session,

The International Entrepreneurship Forum started at Sabancı University yesterday. Aiming to provide a platform for researchers, policy makers and practitioners amid the increasing interaction between businesses and institutions, the forum, which focuses on the effects of the global economic turmoil, will continue today

SPEECH: Turkey ranks 40th on the global entrepreneurship index, reminds Zoltan Acs, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Public Policy at George Mason University.



Jay Mitra, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship Research at the University of Essex, said the International Entrepreneurship Forum, established in October 2000, is "a triple-helix forum to exchange the wealth of learning and experience on entrepreneurship with a view to developing joint platforms of activity." It aims to ask whether entrepreneurship is more than small-business management, analyze the wider dynamic of different stakeholders, and empower economic, social, cultural and personal creation, he said.

Cemil Ankan, the director of research and graduate policies at Sabancı University, made a presentation on Turkish entrepreneurship. In terms of innovation performance, Turkey is a

moderate grower among the countries playing catch-up, together with Latvia, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Slovakia, according to the 2008 European Innovation Scoreboard.

Turkey ranks low in human resources, while it is growing in terms of finance and support, he said. Private investments seem low but linkages and entrepreneurship are not bad, he added. The country's growth performance in the aforementioned categories for the period of 2002 and 2008 seems promising.

Describing the recent steps taken in Turkey, he cited the National Innovation Strategy of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, the National Innovation Initiative and the Innovation Foundation, the first nongovernmental organization in the field. Cit-

ing the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, a not-for-profit research consortium, he also said that Turkey is among the efficiency-driven countries in a group that sees innovation-driven economies as the final phase of development.

Turkey ranks 40th on the global entrepreneurship index, said Zoltan Acs, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Public Policy at George Mason University in the United States.

Other speakers of the forum included Mehtap Özkan, founder and managing partner of Golden Horn Ventures, Bülent Çelebi, founder and chief executive officer of AirTies, Pier Carlo Padoa, deputy secretary-general of the OECD and Yavuz Emre İyibilir, managing director of İş Private Equity.



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Where do you get your ideas?

I don't have a favorite location or a 'thinking space' where I go for ideas. I don't have any particular music that I listen to. I draw inspiration from the world around me

Friends often ask me, "How do you find things to write about? Where do you get your ideas?" My answer is simple: I am a curious person, curious about pretty much everything, and when a topic catches my eye, I dig deeper into it.

I don't have a favorite physical location or a "thinking space" where I go for ideas. I don't have any particular music that I listen to, nor a painting that I like to gaze at. I draw inspiration from the world around me.

When someone asked me this question recently, I got to wondering how other people get their ideas, too. I began looking into it, and I stumbled across The Economist's Thinking Space (thinkingspace.economist.com), a site showcasing the places high-profile Economist readers escape to when they want to think.

The site features both young and older professionals and talks about where they go to tap into the well of creativity. Crystal Fleming, a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University's Department of Sociology, says her favorite space is the Luxembourg Gardens, where she feels her mind is most clear and alive. Elisabeth Chavelet, Deputy Editor in Chief of Paris Match magazine, says her thinking space is her office with her books, her perfumes and other personal effects.

Two Belgians find their thinking space in Istanbul

In my opinion, though, the most inspiring thinking space of all was that of Gregoire d'Oultremont and Antoine Rolin. Of all the places in the world, these two Belgians decided to live and work in Istanbul. Their thinking space is an office overlooking the Bosphorus. In their words, "From here you can see the Golden Horn, Asia across the Bosphorus, and you can even distinguish trade ships waiting to cross the channel over to the Black Sea. This 360 degree environment where the sunset peacefully couples with the prayer's call offers inspiring breathtaking moments."

Their profile picture perfectly captures that spirit. It shows the two men standing on their office balcony, looking out over the magnificent city with their backs to the camera. In the photo you can't really see what these two men look like, adding to the creative mystique.

Bouncing ideas off with self-confidence

For years, Antoine and Gregoire have been criss-crossing the globe. They are young and energetic, very friendly and approachable, yet they have a refined, diplomatic style about them. They possess a healthy dose of self-confidence and they are very good at what they do, developing and implementing cross-cultural communication strategies based on the principles of business diplomacy. Antoine was the first of the two to arrive in Istanbul, starting IBD Associates and then reaching out to Gregoire and inviting him in as a partner in the business. They have an impressive rapport, bouncing ideas off of each other with an ease rooted in self-confidence and the ability to communicate with others diplomatically.

If you meet these two men and spend a while getting to know them, you'll understand why two Belgians consider an office in Istanbul to be their ideal thinking space. They've both travelled the world, living in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. They know how living in another country can bring a creative freedom you can't always find at home. In Istanbul they have found a unique dynamism they don't find in Europe, and all they have to do to tap into that spirit is step out onto their balcony. And for two men who make a living facilitating business diplomacy, what could be more inspiring than watching merchant vessels from one country, waiting for permission to pass through another country on their way to yet a third?

For some people the "thinking space" is a place. For others, it is a person. For yet others, it is an activity. For some, it is all three combined. It doesn't matter where you go, or what you do, for inspiration. There are many different kinds of entrepreneurs, and they all tap into that spirit in their own way. So no matter how busy your life gets, know where your own source of creativity and inspiration lies, and go there often.

Turks abroad need to strengthen unity

WASHINGTON
Hürriyet

Turkish entrepreneurs living abroad should join forces and move together, according to the leader of a business group. Giving an example of the Jewish community in the United States, Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, the chairman of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, or TOBB, reiterated his dream of a "Turkish diaspora."

"Turkish people ... don't act together. That is our only flaw," said Hisarcıklıoğlu, during an iftar dinner held at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center in Washington on Wednesday.

The World Turkish Business Council was established to sustain an united front, he said, urging all Turkish entrepreneurs around the world to be a member. "We have recently organized the Americas Region of the World Turkish Business Council meeting and met with businesspeople in the region to talk about creating a Turkish diaspora."

"We should

build up our diaspora and put forth our collective power," he called.

Many countries, especially the United States, have adopted protectionist policies against the global turmoil, said Hisarcıklıoğlu. Turkey's exports to Europe declined 30 percent during the crisis, he noted. But, despite the negative environment, Turkey is still working on diversifying its export portfolio, while its private sector focuses on reviving the domestic market, he said.

The crisis has caught the International Monetary Fund off guard, said Hisarcıklıoğlu, adding that the fund has had to revise growth figures five times since 2008. In order to halt protectionism and implement plans to revive economies, collaboration needs to be sustained, he said, adding that the private sector has had to shoulder much

of this responsibility. Muhtar Kent, the CEO of Coca-Cola, said Turkey needs a powerful U.S. and the United States needs a powerful Turkey. The world needs a powerful American-Turkish relationship, he said.



Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu

* The 'sectors' page of HürriyetDN is the venue of our weekly exploration of the deeper dynamics in Turkey's economy



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