

PRESS RELEASE

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Think Tanks of OIC Countries Meet in Baghdad

Fifth Think Tanks Forum of OIC Member States will be held in the Iraqi capital Baghdad on February 21-22, 2014

The TASAM (Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies) initiated and coordinated Think Tanks Forum of OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) Countries has been held four times since 2010 in Istanbul, Baku and Cairo. The fifth edition of this forum will be held on 21-22 February 2014, in the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

The Wise Persons' Committee that was established within the framework of the Islamic Countries Think Tanks Platform ISTTP will get together for their fourth meeting time on Thursday, 20 February 2014.

The opening speeches will be made by Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Director of the Iraqi Strategic Studies Group Dr. Watheq al-Hashimi, Conference Chairman and Iraqi Minister of Communication Dr. Torhan al-Mufti, TASAM Chairman Süleyman Şensoy, D-8 Secretary General Sayyid Muhamed Ali Mousavi and representatives of Turkey and the OIC.

The main theme of the 5th Think Tanks Forum of OIC Member States is **“Unity in Diversity: The Source of Power”** and has following sub-themes "Historical Background and Economic, Cultural and Psychological Factors", “The Effects of Ideological and Theological Backgrounds Outside Powers, Dynamics of Governing”, “OIC Countries’ Perspectives; Turkey, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia”, “Models of Governing with Regional References”, “Difficulties of Developing Original Policies in a New Multipolar World System” and “Systemic/Structural Issues, Opportunities, Cooperation”.

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TASAM Chairman Süleyman Şensoy: “Establishment of Power and Justice in Resolution of Conflicts”

The social, economic and political situation of OIC member countries today, exhibit a large group of countries full with problems. It is evident that OIC countries have fallen behind accepted international norms on issues such as freedoms, welfare, justice, education and environment. Ideological and sectarian conflicts have grown into a pile of internal and external problem among OIC countries.

On the other hand, the developments in the areas of communication and transportation, democratization and globalization have paved the way for hitherto unknown controversies and identities to become visible. Under the pressure of urbanization and due to technological developments and increasing possibilities in education, communication and transformation, interaction among civilizations, countries and social groups has intensified and has made developing of a culture of co-existence mandatory.

The disagreements and divisions that exist in the Islamic World are a sociological inevitability. However, the following words of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) “Diversity of opinion in my ummah is a blessing” are a testament that this diversity is to be cherished and can be preserved through unity, mutual tolerance and dialogue. History shows that in the periods when this belief and approach was upheld, diversity in the Islamic World led to real stability, prosperity and wealth. Moreover, due to present-day business imperatives and advancements in transportation and communication, the aforementioned necessities do not only apply to the various minorities that exist in one country but are equally relevant to the relationships between the countries of a region. It is therefore imperative to end disputes, tensions and conflicts between different groups and minorities and foster a culture of peaceful co-existence based on “establishing power and justice”.

In this perspective, the “5th Think Tanks Forum of OIC Member Countries” aims **to construct a sphere of consciousness unique to OIC countries** in the frame of **unity in diversity**.

For more information click below link:

http://www.tasam.org/tr-TR/Etkinlik/501/5_iit_ulkeler_dusunce_kuruluslari_forumu

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