

**REPORT ON THE
PIONEER OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT
GOALS: A T A T Ü R K**

Two-Day International Conference

**ATATÜRK'S VISION
LIVES
THROUGH THE U.N.**



Concept and Directed by: Bircan Ünver

Organized and Presented by:

**The Light Millennium and
College of Arts and Letter at the
Stevens Institute of Technology
Hoboken, New Jersey - April 19-20, 2013**



STEVENS
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY

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Day-One – Friday, April 19, 2013:

High Level Inaugural Session dedicated to:

MDG#8: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS & INTERNATIONAL PEACE



Day-Two – Saturday, April 20, 2013:

PAPER Presentations dedicated to:

MDG#3: Women Empowerment and Gender Equality;



and

MDG#2: Universal Education

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*“As the world changed after [Atatürk] his death,
the United Nations emerged and adopted a new framework for achieving
globally the goals Ataturk sought for Turks.” – Stephen Kinzer*

PIONEER OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: ATATÜRK

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FULL REPORT ON THE
PIONEER OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: ATATÜRK
Two-Day International Conference - April 19-20, 2013

ATATÜRK'S VISION LIVES
THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS

"Mankind is a single body and each nation a part of that body. We must never say 'What does it matter to me if some part of the world is ailing?' If there is such an illness, we must concern ourselves with it as though we were having that illness."

*"For everything in this world—for civilization,
for life, for success—the truest guide is knowledge and science."*

– Atatürk

"There is no deliverance for any people on this earth or for all the people of this earth except through truth and non-violence in every walk of life without any exceptions."

– Gandhi

REPORT BY:
The Light Millennium

CONTRIBUTERS IN THIS REPORT:

Liz Lennon, Hande Subasilar, Prof. Mehmet Ozay, Prof. Stephen Kinzer, H.E. Ambassador Carlos E. Garcia Gonzales (El Salvador), Dr. Aysegul Durakoglu, Prof. Sevinc Ozer, Prof. Edward Foster, and Erman H. Sener.

INTRODUCTION

The Light Millennium and the *College of Arts and Letters at the Stevens Institute of Technology* jointly organized presented an international two-day conference on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations and their relation to ideals advanced by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938), founder and the first president of Republic of Turkey. The two-day conference was entitled *Pioneer of the Millennium Development Goals: Atatürk*, which was held on the campus of Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, on Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20, 2013.

The conference has formed and conveyed through below three key components:

- 1) High Level – Inaugural Session – Dedicated to: MDG#8 Global Partnerships and International Peace;
- 2) PAPER Presentations – Dedicated to: MDG#3 Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, and MDG#2 Universal Education; and
- 3) Lecture-Live Concert – Demonstrated an example of Atatürk’s development agenda through music-art and cultures.

Co-chair of the conference, Prof. Edward Foster of the College of Arts and Letters, opened the Inaugural Session of the conference by inviting Dr. Nariman Farvardin, president of Stevens Institute of Technology, for his welcoming remarks. The dean of College of Arts and Letters, Dr. Lisa Dolling, followed Dr. Farvardin with her own welcoming remarks. She articulated the importance of Ataturk’s dedication to art and science education and the need to imprint ethical responsibilities on students. Then Prof. Foster invited Bircan Ünver, founding president and permanent representative to the UN-DPI of The Light Millennium, for her own concept that led to the conference.

Prof. Foster then briefly thanked the *Inaugural Session* participants for their time, involvement, and support. He mentioned that he has had an enduring fondness and relationship with Turkey over the years and has tried to strengthen ties among Turkish universities and Stevens Institute of Technology.

Prof. Foster’s introductory comments were followed by the session’s chair Ms. Suzanne Bilello, Senior Communications and Liaison Officer for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She invited H.E. Ambassador Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, for his opening remarks. Following his speech, Hon. Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations presented H.E. Ms. Bryganym Aitimova’s (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations) statement. This was followed by then H.E. Pajo Avirovikj’s, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations; keynote speaker Stephen Kinzer, author and professor of International Relations of Boston University, and H.E. Carlos E. Garcia Gonzales, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations. Ms. Bilello also made a comprehensive presentation about UNESCO and its role and visions within the context of the MDGS.

1. HIGH LEVEL INAUGURAL SESSION

Summary of the Statements – Presentations:

CONCEPT: Why can't we achieve the MDGS?

Co-chair of the conference Bircan Ünver told the audience about her concept. She indicated that it evolved from the annual UN-General Assembly gatherings, which she has been attending annually as an NGO representative through the Department of Public Information of the United Nations since 2006. This led her to compare the era of Atatürk and the MDGS. She asked “*Why can't we accomplish the Millennium Development Goals in this decade of the 21st century?*” She referred to the era of Atatürk and invited the attendees to compare Atatürk's Turkey in and the MDGS. She went on to describe the fact that over 3 billion of the world's population remain illiterate and that developing countries might be able to improve these statistics if they were to consider Atatürk's approach to the development agenda for Turkey after its devastation following WWI.

The conference's *High Level Inaugural Panel* on Friday evening was dedicated to *Millennium Development Goal #8, “Global Partnerships and International Peace”*, and was chaired by Suzanne Bilello, Senior Communications and Liaison Officer for UNESCO at the United Nations.

“Turkey aims to become a member of the G10 by 2013.”

H.E. Mr. Halit Çevik, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, made the opening remarks of the Inaugural Session. H.E. Çevik stressed the point that Atatürk left his mark, and is remembered with pride and inspiration both in Turkey and internationally. He indicated it was Atatürk's goal to reach the best state of civil society and enacted concrete reforms providing a path to achieve that goal. Those reforms included the empowerment of woman, such as the right to vote, and access mandatory education for all members of Turkey's emerging society. He described the significant progress towards these goals that occurred between 1923 and 1938 when the literacy rate more than quadrupled. Ambassador Çevik said that *National Sovereignty and Children's Day* is celebrated on the 23rd of April to highlight the achievement of these reforms and encourage their continued application. He also indicated that the progress made by Turkey after WWI helped Turkey grow to become a member of the world's present-day G20 economies, and that Turkey aims to become a member of the G10 by 2023. He stressed that this would not have been possible without progress in gender equality and education first fostered by Atatürk. He indicated that the Millennium Development Goals were first proposed in 1998 and included the effort to eradicate extreme poverty, and that Turkey can help point the way to development, gender equality, and education thanks to the vision and force-of-will exhibited by Atatürk.

“Kazakhstan has been a global leader in “nuclear test ban”.

“If my neighbor is poor, I'm poor too...”

On behalf of H.E. Ms. Byrganym Aitimova, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, Hon. Akan Rakhmetullin, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, presented her speech.

Hon. Rakhmetullin mentioned that Kazakhstan as a landlocked country focused on MDG 8, the building of global partnerships for development. He also stressed that Kazakhstan has been a global leader in the *nuclear test ban* and “*nuclear weapons disarmament*,” a fundamental key for *global partnership and international peace*. Hon. Rakhmetullin indicated the importance of building an economic system in which youth has the opportunity for decent and productive work. Hon. Rakhmetullin also indicated that the availability of new technological systems and the benefits of it/is were critical aspects of economic development. He emphasized the correspondence between gender equality and real development. He drew parallels between Atatürk’s belief in science for social progress and the Goal#8. He said that we must build partnerships globally and locally to overcome poverty. “If my neighbor is poor, I’m poor too...”

“Macedonia aims to foster self and mutual respect for the maintenance of peace.”

H.E. Mr. Pajo Avirovikj, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations, reiterated the notion suggested by Atatürk, *‘Peace at home, peace in the world.’* He stated that, Atatürk’s impact and importance in his country is also due to the fact that Atatürk had study in Macedonia. He stressed that peace and development are highly interconnected and interdependent and drew analogies to the Balkans’ own trials and tribulations over the last 30 years. H.E. Avirovikj noted Macedonia’s leadership in achieving an independent state through peaceful means and the need to foster self and mutual respect for the maintenance of peace. H.E. also indicated that education for all and equality for woman showed Atatürk was well ahead of his time. H.E. Avirovikj took the concept further and made a personnel opinion, which follows: “Though in my opinion, everyone else has just been behind the times for thousands of years.” He said that, they are advancing their own educational systems by providing laptops to all high schools and attempting to integrate the Roma people into all facets of daily Macedonian life. These efforts are congruent with Atatürk’s development ideals, he emphasized.

**[Atatürk’s] “Six Arrows were an attempt at an organizing principle for society.”
Or “Atatürk believed in reason, science and progress—a true child of the Enlightenment”**

The keynote speaker, Stephen Kinzer, author of *“Crescent & Star: Turkey Between in Two Worlds,”* and professor of International Relations at Boston University, presented his keynote, *“Changing the World: From Atatürk’s ‘Six Arrows’ to the Eight Millennium Development Goals,”* with a great enthusiasm and passion. Prof. Kinzer opened his keynote indicating that Atatürk was unique and astonishing because he had a “force-of-mind that could achieve what others would consider unachievable.” He was able to use that force-of-mind to transform a backwards nation into a modern day Turkey.

Prof. Kinzer’s keynote presentation was built on the following question: “A central question for society is: how can we organize to provide happiness and prosperity for our citizens?”

The talking points of Prof. Kinzer were as follows:

It is not enough to have good intentions—a framework or organizing principle is necessary. In the chaos of the early 20th century, democracies proved unable to tame turbulent societies and search for new ideologies. Authoritarianism, Bolshevism, fascism, and Nazism emerged around the same time as Kemalism. They have collapsed after causing untold suffering. Why did Kemalism survive and lead to a successful society in Turkey?

The Six Arrows responded to the needs of that era.

Cumhuriyetçilik (Republicanism): Rule of law replaces Ottoman absolutism; laws should be based on people's actual needs, not divine revelation.

Halkçılık (Populism): Rule on behalf of ordinary people; women's rights; pride in citizenship.

Laiklik (Secularism): End religious influence on the state; freedom of thought; Diyanet (Directorate of Religious Affairs).

Devrimcilik (Revolutionism): Far-reaching reform rather than small changes; Atatürk's grand vision for Turkey; its effect beyond Turkey.

Milliyetçilik (Nationalism): Build a coherent modern state on the ruins of the Ottoman Empire; Turkey was the first Republic in a Muslim country; *"Ne mutlu Türküm diyene."*

Devletçilik (Statism): Government would actively develop the country; no one else had enough capital or vision.

These principles created the success of modern Turkey. But before Atatürk died, he said, *"I am leaving behind no sermon, no dogma, nor am I leaving as my legacy any commandment that is frozen in time or cast in stone."*

Also: *"For everything in this world—for civilization, for life, for success—the truest guide is knowledge and science."*

Above all, Atatürk believed in reason, science, and progress—a true child of the Enlightenment. As the world changed after his death, the United Nations emerged and adopted a new framework for achieving globally the goals Atatürk sought for Turks.

That framework is the Millennium Development Goals: eradicate hunger and extreme poverty; universal primary education; gender equality; reduce child mortality; maternal health; fight HIV/AIDS; environmental sustainability; global partnership for development.

These are the Six Arrows of the modern age. They show that Atatürk's vision lives through the UN.

At the end of his life, Atatürk did what few authoritarian leaders do: retire from power. In his last years, he complained that he was bored and did not have enough to do. If he were alive today, there would be an ideal job for him: director of the UN Millennium Development Goals program.

In his keynote, Prof. Kinzer illustrated Atatürk's revolutionary and forceful vision through various examples and quotes, and stressed that Atatürk demonstrated the need to structure goals in order to better execute them overall. This is very similar to the structure of the UN's MDGS. He held that Atatürk wanted to anchor people in the "real world" of knowledge and sciences and withdrew from power after a fixed amount of time.

"Some countries are now following culture-sensitive approaches in their development strategies."

Chair of the Inaugural Session as well as a panelist Ms. Suzanne Bilello, Senior Communications and Liaison Officer for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) highlighted the strong connection between sustainable development and culture. Ms. Bilello stressed that UNESCO acknowledges and promotes a respect for cultural diversity within human rights. She added that

understanding culture this way makes development more sustainable. Underlining culture's potential as a socio-economic resource, Ms. Bilello emphasized that the integration of culture into sustainable development strategies and policies advances development and can be a significant factor in achieving MDGS beyond 2015. Stressing the significance of increasing the influence of cultural concerns in the UN, she mentioned that the post-2015 agenda should include the specific contribution that culture has made towards achieving MDGS, especially in environmental sustainability and social inclusion. However, she also stated that culture was mentioned in less than 30% in the UN development agenda 5 years ago. Currently, this has been greatly improved that it is now mentioned at least 70% of the time. Moreover, Ms. Bilello said that some countries are now following culture-sensitive approaches in their development strategies. She described UNESCO's efforts in a variety of ways but mainly in policy. She concluded her speech by expressing UNESCO's concerns over Syria and Mali, and how her institution wants to take an active role in the reconstruction of these countries, and sustaining social cohesion. She ended by mentioning that UNESCO is also working with governments, like the Nigerian government, to collaborate on how to prevent conflict in the country through eliminating the perception of cultural differences as a negative factor.

Cuidad Mujer (City of Women) and Pool of Hope

The last speaker of the Inaugural Panel was H.E. Ambassador Carlos E. Garcia Gonzales, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations, who brought both a successful model for Global Partnership and International Peace.

H.E. Garcia emphasized the need for MDGS in El Salvador and his neighboring brother and sister countries in parts of South and Central America. He emphasized that women are 52% of his country that his government has focused on MDG#3 *Women Empowerment* through *The Cudiad Mujer* (City of Women) project that sets up criteria and solutions for women as well as a model for solutions in the world. Ambassador Garcia also stressed about how poverty used to recruiting children/teens by crime oriented groups and drug dealers. Then he has presented a program entitled "Pool of Hope", which is an Olympic size pool in one of the poorest areas in Salvador as well as the only pool within the public school system. This project implemented through an international cooperation that has helped the country to transform it to a safe environment as well as fun for children and teens. This first pool in the poorest area in El Salvador clearly indicated the great amount drop down gang-violence and drug related crimes.

H.E. Garcia highlighted El Salvador's accomplishments within the context of MDGS, and in particular, MDG#8 as follows:

- The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) projects benefited approximately 900,000 people.
- 84% of beneficiaries are first-time farmers of fruits and vegetables.
- 4,400 livestock farmers received technical assistance and technology, resulting in about \$94 million in sales.
- The first compound gave access to public services like water and electricity to many communities.
- Approximately \$57 million worth of new private investments were attracted to the area. The Northern Highway, a transportation project valued at \$278 million, covered a distance of 138 miles, from the city of

Metapán in the Northwest to Anamorós in the Eastern end of El Salvador. Prior the building of this highway, the northern territories were excluded from the development policies of El Salvador.

Further, he emphasized that his government has been able to achieve these things with international collaboration. He alluded to the fact that knowledge of the complexities of certain regions in addition to

courage and commitment to change are also essential to see the MDGS achieved in the near future. His presentation included a success story evolving the MDG#8 from Latin America.

After the main addresses the panelists were made brief closing remarks, and the floor was opened to questions.

The first question asked the panel was, "Where are leaders like Atatürk today, especially given the challenges facing developing nations?" Kinzer highlighted the rarity of personalities like Atatürk to address this question, while H.A. Garcia of El Salvador indicated we could consider a leader like Hugo Chavez of Venezuela as Atatürk for the people of Venezuela but alluded to the fact that in the United States or other wealthy, northern developed countries, he is often perceived much differently and that makes it difficult to make this comparison into full effect. H.E. Garcia indicated he believes there are Atatürks today.

The event concluded after the panelists answered the questions.

CONCLUSION

The High Level Inaugural Panel of the *Pioneer of the Millennium Development Goals: Atatürk – International Conference*, is delivered in full, and achieved its overall goal and vision that has brought in a rich spectrum and diverse ambassadorial level statements along with the UNESCO that each and everyone of the panelist's of the session presented statement ~not only~tremendously contributed into concept of the conference also the proposed thesis of the conference is nailed it down on the global as well as academic level. The Inaugural Session also achieved successfully presenting its dedication theme "*Global Partnership and International Peace*" effectively that also demonstrated both concerns and reasons that why the MDG#8 is left behind as well as exhibited four successful model from the "developing" countries, and the highest country based representative levels at the United Nations, who are already achieved the MDG#8 target prior the 2015.





Media (attended): Anatolian News Agency (Cahit Oktay), Hurriyet News Paper (Razi Canikligil), Turkish Press Atache (Islam Dogru) and HaberTurk (Gulzade Ozgur) were present at the High Level Inaugural session of the conference.

Peace at Home, Peace in the World.
–Atatürk

Day-Two: Saturday, April 20:
2. PAPER PRESENTATIONS - REPORT OF THE SECOND DAY

“Everything we see in the world is the creative work of women.”

On Saturday, April 20, the conference brought in a diverse and multi-cultural group of academics, students, independent authors/researchers and non-governmental organization representatives. Geographical participations were from Liberia, Turkey in four universities such as Kadir Has, Maltepe (Istanbul), Firat (Elazig) and Anatolian (Eskisehir) universities as well as from Atlanta (Middle Georgia State College), W.DC (NGO), Virginia, Connecticut (State University), Toronto (Carleton University), Michigan (NGO), New York (Columbia University), and New Jersey (Stevens). Selected, and all previously announced papers or summary presented.

The morning session of the second day was dedicated to the *“Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality, and Universal Education”* moderated by David C. Cuthell, Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia University.

Sally Shatila Kader, Co-Founder and President of the United States Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP, NGO) presented her keynote from a non-governmental organization perspective, which entitled *“Women, Education and Development in the Middle East.”*

She said the **USMFEP** strives to educate citizens of the world as we believe that education is essential for students, society, and the world. The Federation aims to mobilize ordinary members of societies in all regions of the world, particularly women and youth, in contributing to the establishment of a lasting peace in the world. We believe that women and youth are under-utilized members of society whose potential could be harnessed and channeled towards effective peace efforts.”

She added *“We strongly believe in a peaceful solution to even the most difficult situations”*.

In her presentation, Mrs. Kader emphasized women suffering and pain in the Middle East, and referred to the Arab Spring that she hoped, it might have been a solution but it has failed. She also introduced her NGO as follow: “The **USFMEP** Non-Governmental organization with consultative status with ECOSOC and associated with the Department of Public Information at the United Nations based in the United States, with branches in Four Continent. Its offices are at the United Nations Regional Headquarters in Geneva (ECE), Addis Ababa (ECA), Beirut (ESCWA), Bangkok (ESCAP) and at the United Nation office in Vienna (UNOV)”

On behalf of Atatürk Society of America (ASA), Hüdai Yavalar, Founding President, and Mirat Yavalar, Founding Member and Treasurer, contributed to the conference a comprehensive paper entitled *“Ataturk’s Reforms Empowered Turkish Women and Set an Example for the Developing World.”* Ceren Olga Sayan presented it. The *Atatürk Society of America* is a leading organization promoting Atatürk’s vision and principles in the U.S. It was one of the two sponsors of the conference. In the ASA’s comprehensive paper, Atatürk is introduced as follows:

“As the first president of the new Republic, Kemal Ataturk led one of the world's most effective modernization campaigns ever. He was well ahead of his time; he prepared an extraordinary reform strategy to the finest detail, in order to create the new *modern and secular state* that exists today. He said that “As an advanced and civilized nation, we will live in the midst of contemporary civilization... Those nations which insist on the maintenance of irrational traditions and irrational beliefs, do not progress”. As part of his strategy, he launched a program of revolutionary social, political, cultural, and judicial reforms. These reforms included the separation of religion and state affairs (*secularism*); introduction of modern, contemporary education; co-education for boys and girls; a new alphabet; equal rights for women, and the introduction of Western legal codes, dress, and calendar.

A great statesman, leader and reformer, Kemal Ataturk converted a backward, illiterate, Islamic society to a modern, secular (*laic*), educated and progressive State, governed by the rule of law. He pursued a foreign policy of neutrality, establishing friendly relations with Turkey's neighbors. Atatürk's Turkey became an example of hope towards independence for many emerging nations around the world. He was admired as a pioneer of national liberation. 29 nations around the world followed his example and gained independence. And today, in 2013, Ataturk's principles and reforms still represent the most suitable social and political enlightenment movement which can contribute to the future of Muslim countries.

Status of Turkish Women Before Ataturk's Reforms: His Philosophy and Ideals; The Change from a Theocratic and Religious to a Democratic and Secular State: The New Turkish Republic; Women's Rights and Equality; Rise and "Relative" Decline In the Status of Turkish Women; Ataturk's Reforms and Other Islamic Countries are subsections of the Atatürk Society of America's comprehensive paper, which concluded with: ***Ataturk's Ideals and Reforms Empowered Turkish Women and These Will Continue to Set Example for the Developing World, in the 2000s and Beyond.*** The following section is taken from the conclusion:

A great leader, reformer and a brilliant statesman, Kemal Ataturk converted a theocratic, backward and illiterate Islamic society into a modern, secular, and progressive new nation: the Turkish Republic. Ataturk's primary goal of “elevating people to the level of contemporary civilization” was a dynamic, non-ending objective and process. He believed that civilization was universal in which all nations participated, and it was dynamic. Modern education and science, and intellect and rational thinking were the elements of contemporary civilization. These would set aside religious disagreements and conflicts, and bring peace and continuous progress to the world. Secularism, therefore, was essential to eliminate the influence of religion and dogma, on education and state affairs. Similarly, democracy, the rule of people, would assure individual freedoms and liberty, and people's own participation in the nation's governance.

Judy Light Ayyildiz presented her speech titled “**Ataturk, His Incredible Gift to Inspire: a New Nation Built on Equality and Justice—an Enduring Spirit for the Future.**” Ayyildiz's summary in her words as follows:

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's progressive visions, humanitarian teachings, straightforward examples, and his leadership in implementing laws of justice and equality for both women and men established the course for the Turkish Republic. Among Ataturk's incredible abilities, none was more important

than his gift to inspire his citizens to commitment and fortitude. In my epic novel, *Forty Thorns*, the heroine, Adalet, is a symbol of the generation who took Atatürk's spirit into their hearts and minds. Thus, they accomplished the most astounding social and political revolution of the twentieth century.

Forty Thorns is framed within the documented history of the rise of modern Turkey. It is based on the oral memoir of a 91-year-old progressive Turkish woman, Adalet, a foot soldier in Atatürk's army, marching toward progress and peace. "I'm not important, but my story is," she said, although her life parallels the nation's journey.

Women like Adalet breathed the life in Atatürk's words on a daily basis. They laid the foundations for the future. Out of the ashes of total ruin into an ordered government built to enhance, educate, and enlighten the masses, their new republic grew as a flat-out miracle.

A classical hero himself, Atatürk's republic became an enduring example of triumph of the human spirit. Like Adalet, many of her generation outlived trial and loss with remarkable hope—believing in ideals greater than themselves. Atatürk instilled in his men and women the courage to walk toward the future as equals. Only then could society be whole, centered, and joyful.

M. K. Atatürk's ability to inspire greatness into the spirit of the millions of individuals like Adalet is at the heart of the journey of the Turkish Republic. In today's world of war-torn and hopeless masses that dream for freedom, Atatürk's accomplishments are a universal hope.

Ayyildiz gave a very personal account, insightful history through her involvement with Turkish culture and her Turkish mother-in-law's story. She indicated that when the followers of the feminist movement in the U.S. read *Forthy Thorns* or hear about her mother-in-law's story, they are surprised and very impressed. Further, Ayyildiz emphasized that there are numerous similar stories that are not known outside of Turkey as indications of early feminism and women rights in the U.S.

Dr. Gül Çelkan, Middle Georgia State College, Atlanta presented her paper titled "**Turkish Women From Past to Present**". The Abstract to Dr. Çelkan's paper is as follows:

It was the Turkish women who benefited most from the adoption of the Swiss Civil Code following the proclamation of the Turkish Republic; through this, women were placed on the same social level as men, in contrast to the position hitherto reserved for them. In this way women became, in Turkey, an active element in the evolution of the Republic and in national life.

In fact there exists today no difference between the formerly captive Turkish women, and women of countries which are the most socially advanced in the world. Feminine emancipation is one of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's most brilliant humanitarian victories.

During the War of Independence, the women of Anatolia became fellow workers with their men, as they had been in ancient times; they worked the land, served in hospitals and carried ammunition. The creaking of the "kağrı", sacred song of liberty, sounded only to the rhythm imposed by those fearless peasant women who, without ceasing to look after their small children, followed the treacherous roads which led to the front.

Atatürk gave a special place amongst his plans for reform to the emancipation of women, who had

proved their vitality and patriotism before his eyes. In February 1923, he spoke in Smyrna of the necessity for both sexes to take part in progress, since a society was composed of two sexes both of which were indispensable, and if one of them remained backward, society and the country would be incurably weakened. “Women’s original duty consists of motherhood,” he said. “Let us remember that it is our mother who gives us our first education, and let us recognize the importance of that, at its true value. Our women will be taught all the sciences, and will pass through all the grades of instruction that the men do. The women will go forward to the future together with the men, and will work with them. I was say to our mothers that it is their duty to make us perfect beings; they have achieved their mission in the way they have been able, but from now on we shall need men endowed with another mentality, men who are perfected in a different way. It is the mothers of the future who will educate these men.”

In August 1924, he said publicly: “I must categorically declare when speaking of civilization, that family life is the basis of progress and the source of strength. It is necessary that the male and female elements which constitute the family enjoy their natural rights, and are in a condition to fulfill their duties in the family.”

Turkish women happily entered the new way of life; thousands of women took employment in various enterprise. When the Civil Code was adopted in 1926, women felt the protection of the law within their homes and outside them. This event marked the free and final collaboration with that precious factor that women truly represent in the life of civilized peoples.

After five more years of observation, Atatürk was confident that women could be admitted to the Grand Assembly. They were therefore given the right to be elected to it and vote in it, and in 1936, 20 female members took their seats in Parliament, not as representatives of their sex, but of the various electoral districts which had voted for them.

Any talk that focuses on the emancipation of the Turkish women would be incomplete without referring to the first female aviator, one of the adopted daughters of Atatürk, Sabiha Gökçen who had followed the course of the ‘Türk Kusu’ (The Turkish Bird), with complete success, and also the courses of the School of Military Aviation.

Dr. Celkan’s paper discussed how the current Millennium Goals are actually founded on the principles set forth by Atatürk since his emergence as the liberator of the Turkish nation.

Professor, Dr. E. Nezi̇h Orhon, and Research Asst. Gzde Efe, Anatolian University, Eskişehir, Turkey jointly authored the paper entitled **“A Different Approach to Education: The Village Institution Experience of Turkey and the UNMDGS.”** Research Asst. Gzde Efe presented it at the conference. Below is the summary of this speech:

Following the acquisition of the War of Independence in the year 1922 and proclamation of the Republic, approximately 80% of Turkish population acquitted from the protection of the Ottoman Empire was dwelling in villages. Only 1.5% of the population was literate while most of Anatolians were without schools and teachers.

There was need of an institution, which would help support society in development of its own power to bring education to children in villages and to train the teachers. This institution, which was

configured to serve in rural regions in many fields was 'Village Institutes'.

Village Institutes of Turkey were founded by a law enacted on April 17, 1940. Village Institutes, provided education to farmers' children who could not go to school because they had to work in fields, helped to increase literacy rates among adults, empowered women through education in these institutes and trained peasants in agriculture to win environmental awareness therefore ensured most efficient use of the farmlands. Atatürk's work with Village Institutes which he initiated towards the mid of 1930s ensured success 73 years ago of what is in today's United Nations 2015 Millennium Development goals of universal education, gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as the provisions of environmental sustainability.

This study, led by Atatürk's efforts to implement Village Institutes of Turkey served between 1940-1954 can serve as the example for the realization of United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The study offers an analysis of Village Institutes within the framework of providing Universal Primary Education, achieving Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women and Sustainability of Environment, which are in the objectives of United Nations Millennium Development goals.

Seden Anlar, student, Maltepe University, (Istanbul) represented Youth generation from Turkey at the conference. Her presentation gave a brief overview of **“The Women’s Movement in Turkey: From Tanzimat towards Atatürk’s reforms.”** A summary of her speech is as follows:

Firstly, we should take a trip in the history of Turkish societies to understand life conditions of Turkish women in which they lived throughout the centuries. In old Turkish states of Central Asia women were equal with men and had many important roles in the society. Turkish women were not only independent also respected by the society. They had rights for ownership and inheritance. Most importantly some women had an impact on politics; sometimes they had governed the country with their husband. So especially those women in social life were much apparent than their contemporaries in other societies. The birth of a daughter was a very happy incident for Turkish families. There was no difference between having sons or daughters. Daughters were just as valuable and cherished as sons and they had also the right of inheritance. It is a fact that women in pre-Islamic Turkish society were equal participants with men in the family and in almost all parts of social life: mother at home, farmer on the ground, merchant in the market and even soldier in the war. Furthermore, the influence of women over social and political life was so apparent.

After adoption of Islam by Turkish people, Islamic Law became the main element for the structure of social life. The new religion made many changes in the society and these changes affected women and their status in the society. However, the changes were not striking the status of women. In the Karahanid state, founded in 840 by the Turkish tribes and in the Seljukid Empire, a Turkish-Islamic state has ruled over the parts of Central Asia, Middle East and Asia Minor between 11th and 14th centuries, women have maintained their role in social and cultural life even though their participation and influence on social life has considerably eroded.

Additionally, women lost their equal status of inheritance. Although Islam advises monogamy, it also approves polygamy in the cases of illness, infertility. This meant a loss of status for the Turkish women who had been equal with men and had not taken part in polygamous household.

The co-organizers were very pleased by Anlar's participation that the conference presented a young 19 years old Turkish student's voice and her interest both in "women rights" and MDGS. She is also a multi-talented student, who added a song in her paper presentation's conclusion section, which she wrote and sang for women rights.

Dr. Sebahattin Devecioglu, Assistant Professor, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey presented his paper titled **"The Birth of the Celebration of Youth and Sports and the U.N.'s Agenda for Youth and the Encouragement of Sports."** He focused on Youth and Sports within the UN frameworks, and proposed it to be included into the "Beyond 2015" Agenda. He illustrated Ataturk as also being pioneer and visionary of Turkey's "May 19th Youth and Sport Celebration" as part of official annual holiday since the Atatürk Era as well as investing in education and emphasizing importance of Youth and Ataturk's full trust in them.

In his paper, Dr. Devecioglu captured the following:

If we look into life quality and values in the present time, it is seen that Millennium Development Goals (MDGS for 2015), which haven't targeted beyond the "social protection floor" yet!

Recommendations/opinions regarding developing- improving Youth and Sports Activities in Turkey on the basis of main failures and deficiencies in implementations parallel to their pioneership at 'regional and international level', it is presented in an analytical perspective after evaluating the conditions pertaining to pre-Ataturk, late period of Ottoman Empire, (1900-1922) Ataturk period in the first years of Turkish Republic (1923-1938) and post-Ataturk period.

In Dr. Devecioglu's paper, the following is argued: "By means of various examples and sources, that goals and policies of Ataturk related to youth and sports, his activities, organizations and studies were among the influencing factors for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which were accepted and taken to national development program by 193 countries and two observers; Palestine and Vatican. This observation is especially a true fact, in particular, within the context of 'the least developed', and "developing countries.

In addition, this study emphasizes the meaning and importance of 19 May Youth and Sports Day and the Republic, presented by Ataturk to the youth, within the development period of Turkish Republic and highlight that contribution and leadership of Ataturk to youth and society is a significant need and an exemplary model across the world.

As a result of assessing the data obtained in this study together with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (2015), it is recommended that Youth and Sports be included as a new goal for the Beyond 2015 Agenda of the Millennium Development Goals."

Robert M. Weir, Writer, Author, Editor, Speaker, Michigan, sent his speech as a power point presentation entitled **"Educational Paradigms in Earth's Global Village."** Weir creates an interesting connection in between Turkey and India and from the global perspective in reference to the MDG#2 Universal Education. Below is a summary of his presentation:

"It takes a village to raise a child," says an African proverb. *"The world is a global village,"* many declare. *"Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish, and he will eat for a lifetime,"* Confucius

taught. Yet, with the world illiteracy rate at 16.3 percent, the global village is not following this wisdom. We are not adequately educating Earth's people.
Why?

Children enter the world with curiosity, and they learn from their families and neighbors. At the global level, world leaders strive to eradicate illiteracy. The United Nations' #2 Millennium Development Goal (MDG) is to "*Achieve Universal Primary Education*" by 2015. Education is part of MDG #4 to "*Reduce Child Mortality*" because children of educated mothers "are more likely to survive than children of mothers with no education."

UNICEF is "committed to ensuring that all children ... realize their right to a quality education." So, why can 163 people out of every 1000 still not read even their native languages? Statistics and stories indicate the problem occurs within legislative jurisdictions where geographic breadth is too large to foster individual care and political viewpoints are too narrow to care about the world at large.

Colonizing cultures deprived indigenous people of land, language, and customs and made slavery a staple of their empires' economies.

International interference with education is happening currently in Tibet where the occupying Chinese forces are obliterating the Tibetan Buddhist language, culture, and religion. In various nations, governments have banned and burned books to inhibit free thought.

Fortunately, history also provides us with uplifting stories.

One of those is of educational advocate Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (1881-1938), founder and first president of the Republic of Turkey. When Ataturk took office in 1923, his goal was to modernize Turkey through education, which he regarded as the force that would galvanize the nation in social and economic development. Under Ataturk's leadership, education was declared to be free, secular, co-educational, and compulsory for all children from grade school through graduate school.

On April 23, 1929, the Turkish Grand National Assembly acted on Ataturk's proposal and decreed that day as a national holiday for children, making Turkey the first nation to celebrate an official Children's Day—a tradition that continues today.

India is one of eight nations in the world where over two-thirds of the world's 793 million illiterate adults, most of them women, reside. The illiteracy rate in India is more than 25 % overall, with 18 % of men and 35% of women unable to read. In 2007, India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assessed the country's university system as being "in a state of disrepair."

Yet many global villagers from developed countries bring educational materials and expertise as well as humanitarian services for underprivileged peasant children.

I see philosophical discussion as the foundation to education, an elevated, thought-provoking method of teaching and learning. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk taught in Turkey's public places. Socrates and Plato initiated conversation under trees. Christ, Mohammad, Buddha, Ramakrishna, Confucius, and Lao Tzu freely spoke their parables. In our own way, the monks and I did likewise.

Our ability to read and to express oral histories are humanity's connection to our past, the continuation of our living traditions, and the foundation for our fulfilling future. Education is our tool through which we—all of us in our global village—can raise ourselves and everyone to a higher level of information-sharing and understanding.

David C. Cuthell, Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia University, presented the paper titled **“Against All Odds: Atatürk's Legacy and Its Impact on Contemporary Turkey.”** Abstract of Prof. Cuthell's paper is as follows:

Mustafa Kemal, better known as Atatürk is often view as the father of modern Turkey. Monuments, buildings, airports, monuments and a host of other civic structures are named after him. Most Turks associate him with military victories dating from World War I and even earlier. His mausoleum in Ankara is the focal point of millions in their pilgrimage to honor his memory. It is therefore ironic that Atatürk is better known as the Turkish George Washington than as the man who led a broad and deep series of social reforms in Turkey. This paper explores the life of the man as well as how the reforms, including women's rights, educational and legal reform as well as language reform was politicized after his death and how contemporary Turkey is rediscovering not only the process of reforms as they were intended but also the complexities of Atatürk's genius as a man made of flesh and blood and not a bronze figure.

The afternoon session was also dedicated to *Millennium Development Goal #8, “Global Partnerships and International Peace”*. *This session has aimed tied in and contribute to the Inaugural session from the academia, civil society/non-governmental organizations and independent thinkers perspectives as the other indispensable component of the “Global Partnership and International Peace”*. This session is moderated by **Gül Çelkan**, Associate Prof. Dr. Middle Georgia State College.

The afternoon session began with a paper by **Sevinç Özer**, Professor, Çanakkale University, Çanakkale, Turkey, titled **“Peace vs Pact: Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's Concept of Peace”**. On behalf of Prof. Özer, her paper was presented by Prof. Edward Foster. Abstract of Prof. Özer's paper is as follows:

Atatürk knew that a permanent Peace is not something to be maintained or preserved through pacts, alliances, blocs, unions or in any form of treaties. His vision, as always, went far beyond the surface of the mere conceptualizations of many arrangements of peace-making. His concept of peace, as far as I can see, rises basically on the following four tenets:

1. Turning to and demythologizing ancestral origins (His famous Nutuk/The Speech based on the method of Old Turkic, Göktürk/Orkhon Scripts)
2. An enlightenment idea of freedom and independence of peoples (as a natural reaction to human suffering based on the knowledge of slavery and class distinction)
3. A humanitarian belief in the equality of nations (a great respect for man as man)
4. An Emersonian urge for activism for the protection of the future of the world as a whole (secularism, education, women's rights)

Starting out from the messages sent to the Turkish government on the occasion or after the death of the great visionary leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, her paper illustrated how he has wrought a permanent influence on the future national projects and the policy-making of the various leaders and intellectuals of the world as they appear in these messages. It is also redefined of *Leadership* with reference to Atatürk's stance in the face of wars and domination putting an emphasis on his concept of Peace."

Augustine G. Johnson, Executive Director; Martin T. Tumoe, Chairman and Pauline Tonnelle, Project Director of LCA-Global Initiative (Liberia Cultural Association) in Liberia, authored the following paper, **"Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger through Universal Education."** The LCA-Global Initiative's Executive Director in New York, **Rev James Bestman**, presented the paper on behalf of his organization. The summary of the paper is as follows:

The government of Liberia is at a crossroads. After almost 15 years of civil conflict, local and international non-governmental organizations have surveyed the social economic and educational landscape opportunities to assist in sustainable development projects in Liberia.

It is an established standard that no government has all the resources of ideals and finances to meet the needs of its citizens. We need the collaboration of global partners of strong vibrant force to reach out to us and to help our government, through the Liberian Cultural Association-Global Initiatives Inc, a non-governmental organization to utilize our manpower energies in the most efficient way.

Economic stability and the revitalization of Liberian's infrastructure must go hand in hand with our education and food reforms which to a large extent forms the basis of our hope and expectation upon which our children of this generation and the destitute and underprivileged and jobless will find a glimmer of light. As we deliberate during this conference, it is our hope that strategies will be developed for a long-term sustainable goal in our country, Liberia.

We command these distinguished custodians, knowledgeable of the tireless and immeasurable support of the international community to our rebuilding process, we feel a ray of hope for our democratization and economic sustainable efforts.

We sincerely urge our international partners to closely work together with us to substantively address Liberia's sustainable needs, as we count on representative groups of conference participants to help implement the strategic plans.

We shall now proceed to address the objective of our goals featuring our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges.

This paper mainly focused on Liberia, but also covered the region and referred to Turkey in relation to the MDG#2. The conclusion of the paper suggests that *Universal Education* is/will be the key to combat hunger and poverty. LCA Global Initiative also presented both as a civil society organization as well as a voice from one of the least developed countries and its struggle to achieve the MDGS in Africa.

Hamid Akin Ünver, Dr. Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey, presented his paper titled “**Sovereignty and Legitimacy as the Basis for Peace: Atatürk’s Principles and the future of the Arab Spring.**”

Dr. Ünver, started his presentation responding to one of Dr. Cuthell’s statement that during Atatürk’s Era, there were merely one-two democratic leader(s) in the world as we understand today. Dr. Ünver viewed the concept of the conference through lens of the Arab Spring. Summary of Dr. Ünver’s presentation is as follows:

“In 1918, at the end of World War I, the breakaway states of the collapsed Ottoman Empire faced two choices of nation building and modernization; that of Amir Faisal – the leader of the Arab Revolt, whose democratization/modernization model prescribed a strong British presence and oversight, and that of Atatürk, who argued that countries can only modernize and democratize if they are completely sovereign and independent, with no outside oversight or mandate. The Arab countries that followed Faisal’s model fell into an insurmountable legitimacy deficit, never able to fully modernize or democratize, being hubs of anti-Western thought. Turkey on the other hand, was the only country emerging from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire fully independent and sovereign, making an unprecedented progress in modernity and establishing a representative political system, also being a close ally of the West and a part of NATO.

While Turkey maintained its independence and legitimacy since its foundation, Arab countries have been plagued by repeated regime-changing movements, lack of state-building consolidation and poor democratic record.

In his presentation, **Dr. Ünver** eloquently dealt with how Atatürk’s ideas and practice on sovereignty shaped Turkish modernization and democracy, contrasting this progress with that of Egypt, Syria and Iraq. Specifically, his metrics of comparing Turkey to Egypt, Syria and Iraq are:

- Regime legitimacy as the basis for domestic peace,
- The role of the military as a domestic suppression tool in the Arab countries versus its role as a deterrent factor in Turkey, as the basis of Turkey’s less problematic relations with its neighbors during Atatürk period,
- Modernization as a pre-requisite for good inter-state relations. (The case of Atatürk and Pahlavi period Turkish-Iranian relations),
- Secularism as a bridge between states with different religions and how to maintain cooperative structures in regional systems with more than one religion.

In conclusion, Dr. Ünver’s presentation compared Turkey’s record to that of Egypt, Syria and Iraq, discussed why Atatürk’s principles on sovereignty, modernization and secularism are currently the most relevant models for the post-Arab Spring in the Middle East and why such model is a serious framework for any supranational structure aiming to achieve international peace.

Christopher Vassilopoulos, Professor of Political Science at Eastern Connecticut State University, presented his speech titled “**Ataturk: Homeric Hero.**” In his paper, Prof. Vassilopoulos compared on the personnel level both Homer and Atatürk. Summary of Prof. Vassilopoulos’s paper is as follows:

“Ataturk is arguably the greatest soldier/statesman of the 20th century and perhaps has only a handful of peers throughout all history. Less well known is his capacity for friendship, forgiveness and reconciliation. These profound and underappreciated values were an important part of his

personality and were inextricable from his extraordinary success in extraordinarily difficult circumstances. ”

Prof. Vassilopoulos's paper illustrated this proposition with an analysis of Homer's greatest hero, Achilles, who can be seen as the ancestral archetype of Atatürk. Prof. Vassilopoulos concluded his presentation by quoting of Atatürk in the following lines (Speech at Cankaya Pavilion, 29 October 1933):

“Heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives! You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and Mehments to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.”

On behalf of **Mehmet Özey**, Professor Emeritus, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, Bircan Ünver presented a brief summary of his paper titled **“The UN Millennium Goals in Gandhian and Atatürkist Perspectives”** as the concluding presentation of the *Paper* presentations of the second-day.

In his paper, Prof. Özey profiled of Atatürk as a nation-builder who is still very much relevant today in achieving global peace, prosperity and development.

The UN Millennium Development Goals (UN MDG), focused on Human Development Indicators (HDI) are very much Gandhian. HDI were established in 2000 under the intellectual leadership of Amartya Sen, a Nobel Laureate in Economics of Indian origin with strong Gandhian roots. Considerable progress has been achieved since 2000 in implementing the MD Goals, but in two specific areas MDGS strategy has failed:

- (1) It is little known beyond the specialist development community, and
- (2) development aid has been declining, owing, among many factors, to world financial crises.

Looking beyond 2015, when a new strategy of MDGS will be designed and implemented, it is argued that Mustafa Kemal Atatürk can show the way forward. **He needs to be globalized.** Globalizing Atatürk, making him relevant to the Third World today, one is amazed at how much similarity there is between him and Gandhi. Atatürk's Golden Era, from 1923 to 34 stands out as a magnificent example of social and economic development: democratic, egalitarian, pro-rural and generally peaceful.

During this period, after winning military victories, Atatürk embarked on a fury of social and economic reform, peaceful and radical ...just like Gandhi in India. Both leaders, contemporaries, fought Western imperialism. Both sought national independence through mobilizing mass support for national independence and then reform to empower the citizens. Atatürk travelled all over Anatolia, the Turkish heartland, (just like Gandhi on his marches), mobilizing, educating and showing by example the way to modernity, development and democracy. In his dress reform, adoption of surnames and European calendar, the introduction of the Latin alphabet, his agricultural experiments, village institutes, and gender equality, Atatürk believed in social justice.

Atatürk wanted to make the peasant and the villager “the master” of the Turkish Republic. He believed in democracy. For him sovereignty emanated from the grass-roots. “National sovereignty belongs

unconditionally to the people” that is the motto enshrined in Turkish Parliament today. Mass education conquered ignorance and paved the way for secular democracy based on “one man/woman, one vote.”

Finally Ataturk’s vision of a prosperous Anatolia is coming to pass, some seven decades after his death, as the Turkey’s center of economic gravity moves to such growth centers as Kayseri, Konya, Gaziantep, Adana, Manisa, etc. Next, hopefully it will expand into Diyarbakir and southeast regions of Anatolia.

The Anatolian peasant is empowered through education and socio-economic development...but much yet remains to be accomplished. Of course, there are major dissimilarities as well between Ataturk and Gandhi. They fought and won against Western Imperialism, Ataturk militarily, Gandhi through non-violence. As well, Ataturk did not hesitate to borrow from the West in his secular, modernizing project, whereas Gandhi was guided by Hindu spiritualism and religion. But they both had an abiding belief in the nobility of the peasant, a deep confidence in the dignity of the individual, and in the peaceful pursuit of human development (civilization). **What our divided and conflict-ridden world needs today are leaders like Ataturk and Gandhi.**

3. CLOSING SESSION: LECTURE – LIVE CONCERT

As the third component of the conference, which concluded with a successful concert by the celebrated musicians **Dr. Aysegul Durakoglu**, pianist and professor of music, College of Arts and Letters, Stevens Institute of Technology, and **Yigit Karatas**, violinist. Prior to Dr. Durakoglu's performance, she also presented a paper titled, **"Ataturk, Creating a Universal Language in Turkish Musical Culture"**.

In Dr. Durakoglu’s paper, she has focused on Ataturk’s reforms in the development of music to transform Turkish musical culture. Summary of Dr. Durakoglu’s presentation is as follow:

Ataturk, who stated that culture was the foundation of the Turkish Republic, advanced cultural reforms in conjunction with the political, economic, legal, social and educational reforms needed to further the newly formed Turkish Republic. His principal ideal was to create a nation with a background steeped in the artistic and cultural traditions that would be developed to a high level of refinement. Music, in particular, holds a special place in Ataturk’s ideals to advance the Turkish culture. Ataturk was a leader with a vision who knew that music served as a unifying element at all levels of society and that it functioned as a medium for expressing individual and collective feelings and aspirations. He also thought that music existing in Turkish culture was the music of an exalted civilization, and he felt the need to bring it to higher standards by using western techniques combined with traditional elements.

Ataturk was aware that the Turkish nation had great potential in music, and he aimed to improve it by using Western polyphonic techniques fundamentally influenced by Turkish Folk Music. Atatürk was always fond of Turkish music, and never criticized Turkish music. However, he enjoyed listening to Western music as well, and opened a society unaccustomed to Western sounds through an instructional approach of playing it on radio stations. For that, he was strongly criticized by Turkish music experts, saying that Ataturk was trying to ban Turkish music from the radio stations.

Right after the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923, Atatürk did not wait at all! In such a devastating time, following the Independence War, there were 13 million people, almost no budget, no schools, hospitals, or restaurants in Turkey's capital Ankara. Meanwhile, Atatürk was sending young musicians to abroad for musical training and planning to establish music institutions such as conservatories, orchestras, and opera houses. These were the efforts of a leader who believed the necessity of showing the power of Turkish music to the western world by using the national and international elements integrated with Turkish cultural values and musical traditions, and wished to take the new nation to a different place in the world.

The first generation of Turkish composers called "Turkish Five" was sent to Europe by Atatürk on state scholarship to receive their music education in Europe's finest music schools. After they returned to Turkey, they conducted research on the modal and rhythmic structures of Turkish folk music, and recomposed them with Western techniques. They aimed to add a polyphonic character to the monophonic structures of Turkish melodies. This is how they were able to create a universal language that was based on Turkish musical tradition. Among these composers are Ulvi Cemal Erkin, Cemal Resid Rey, Necil Kazim Akses, Ferid Alnar, and Ahmed Adnan Saygun. Now, in today's Turkey there had been at least three generation of composers who continuously grow in numbers and who have been internationally recognized as well.

As the concluding component of the conference, Dr. Durakoglu's paper was conceptually linked with Ms. Susan Bilello's presentation at the Inaugural Panel that culture is one of the key elements to advance countries. Dr. Durakoglu's paper was followed by an excellent piano performance from the first period of Turkish polyphonic composers. She was accompanied by violist Yigit Karatas, brought in a new angle and dimension into the conference as well as completed to its full spectrum presentations as the conference was initially designed and announced. With that, the concluding section of the conference, also demonstrated a powerful example of Atatürk's another decisive development agenda and investment through/into music-arts and culture in the 1920s and 1930s, which has not matched in the developing and Islamic rooted countries so far!

The co-chairs of the conference, jointly signed and Bircan Ünver presented "*Appreciation for Participation*" certificate to each of the *Paper* presenters of the second day of the conference.

Permanent Representative of N. Cyprus to the United Nations, Ambassador Mehmet Dana, and Third Secretary Sertac Guven were present at the Inaugural session, and the President of Turkish-American Federation Ali Cinar briefly attended the morning session of April 20. Several representatives of civil society and NGO representatives, faculty members and students as well as general public attended the two-day conference, and lecture-concert.

Estimated total attendees for 2 days (April 19, 20 and including the concert session) about 150 -160.

The conference was sponsored by **Ataturk Society of America** and the **ONE UN New York**.

CONCLUSION:

The two-day international conference has immensely contributed to the discussion of the [Millennium Development Goals](#) on the ambassadorial, United Nations, academic, non-governmental levels as well as among independent thinkers and students. Atatürk's development agenda on all levels for Turkey was examined extensively during the conference, and showed that they are more advanced than targeted MDGS for the 2015 for the world.

During the conference, through aforementioned diverse presentations, one of the most accomplished world leaders of the 20th century and founder of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's (1881-1938) visions, principles, and his development agendas and their implementation from the 1920s on until his departure in 1938, which are nailed down as the pioneering acts on the multiple level and dimensions with the UN Millennium Development Goals for 2015! Further, the conference is also brought in several proposals to be considered for inclusion into the Beyond 2015 Agenda of the MDGS.

Afternoon session of the second day of the conference presented “*Global Partnership and International Peace*”, at this time from the academia, NGOs and independent thinkers that also acted as the counterpart of the *Inaugural Session*. At the conference, along with his visionary leadership and outstanding futuristic personalities, Atatürk was also profiled and highlighted as a humanitarian who believed in the equality of girls-boys, youth, women, peasants, peoples at large and nations, and his urge for activism for the protection of the future of the world as a whole (secularism, education, women's rights).

Overall, the conference's deliverance also illustrated a very interesting spectrum in amongst different presentations and three components of the conference. In this context and based on the each *Statement* or *Paper's* focused *goal on MDGS*; each has created a conceptual connection and interaction with one to another that also functioned as if the counterpart of the dedicated theme(s) on the regional as well as global level.



AFTERWARDS:

The conference was reported in over 100 media outlets including print, on-line, and television both in the US and Turkey. For the conference related news and announcements, please see the following link: <http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/media-conf-links-4-24-13.pdf>

PROGRAM (Final) – April 19-20: <http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/mdgs-ataturk-program-apr19-20-13.pdf>

FLYER (Final): <http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/image/invite-april19-20-print.pdf>

Further, the organizers aim the conference's proceedings in a book when the conditions met.

Facebook page of the Conference: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pioneer-of-the-Millennium-Development-Goals-Ataturk/192524144224137?ref=hl>

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- 2) **Below hyper link to the actual Report should be included:**
<http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/report-april19-20.html>
- 3) For the full Report, please refer to its original link or not permitted for re-production. It also will be part of the planned BOOK publication.
- 4) For the post-production of the conference's video-recording as a mini television series (4+1 Highlights) or (6+1 parts) to be edited and scheduled in Fall 2013; **The Light Millennium is seeking for sponsorships and donations for post-production of this mini-series.**
- 5) **Timeline of the Book Publishing:** Depending on availability of sponsorship, in Fall/Winter 2013 or Spring 2014.

*"Humankind is made up of two entities: man and women.
How could it be possible for the whole to progress
if we let one half progress and neglect the other?"*

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS

H.E. Mr PAJO AVIROVIKJ, Ambassador, *Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations – Inaugural Session – Panelist.* Ambassador Avirovikj has served as the Permanent Representative to the United Nations from the Macedonia since May, 2011. Until his appointment, he was his country's Ambassador to Israel beginning in September, 2009. Before that he served as chargé d'affaires at the embassy beginning in June, 2008. From May to June, 2008, he was the head of the embassy's liaison office. Between June, 2006, and May, 2008, he held the position of State Counselor and Director for Public Diplomacy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having served as Head of the Sector for Bilateral Relations with European Countries from January to May, 2006. He was Deputy Head of the the Sector for the coordination of the Minister's Cabinet Affairs between May, 2005, and January, 2006. In addition to serving as the Minister Counselor at his country's embassy in Paris from February, 2001, to April, 2005, he was the Director of the Department for European Countries between 1998 and 2001, and Head of the Division for Western Europe from 1997 to 1998. An award-winning author and journalist, Mr. Avirovikj studied at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris, France, and holds a master's degree in oriental philology from the University of Belgrade in Serbia, having earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ms. SUZANNE BILELLO, *Senior Communications and Liaison Officer for UNESCO at the United Nations – Chair & Panelist – Inaugural Session.* Suzanne Bilello is the Senior Communications and Liaison Officer for UNESCO at the United Nations. Prior to joining UNESCO in 2003, she was the acting Director of Communications for U.N. Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean, ECLAC, in Santiago, Chile. Before joining the UN system Ms. Bilello spent 12 years in different postings in Latin American initially as a foreign correspondent and later as a foundation representation supporting press freedom and the role of independent and pluralistic media in good governance. As a journalist, Ms. Bilello covered Mexico and the Central American conflicts. She received an Alicia Patterson fellowship to examine the roots of Mexico's political and economic crisis, which led to democratization. Bilello has worked for various U.S. media organizations including *Newsday* and *The Dallas Morning News*. In 1991 she was part of the *Newsday* team that was a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news reporting. She is a graduate of Barnard College and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and currently enrolled in a M.A. in a business administration program.

H.E. Ms. BYRGANYM AITIMOVA, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations. Represented by Mr. AKAN RAKHMETULLIN, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the U.N. – Inaugural Session.* Ambassador Aitimova has been the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in New York since February 2007. She heads her country's delegation in the deliberations of the United Nations on almost all items on the global agenda. With a wide and versatile background and experience, she holds leadership positions on various agencies and entities of the United Nations system and is currently the Vice President of the executive board of UNICEF and a board member of UN Women. She served on behalf of Kazakhstan as the Chair of the Permanent Representatives of the group of Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in New York from 2011-12, and as Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in 2010. She is presently actively engaged with the group of Landlocked Developing Countries to further their progress and is taking leadership in advance for the United Nations agenda on Sustainable Development. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, peace and security, sustainable energy for all, accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

promoting human rights, humanitarian assistance and effective UN reform are some of the other issues she is deeply committed to as Kazakhstan's contribution to the overall objectives of the United Nations. She was a Vice President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly and is currently President of the International Association of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York. Prior to her assignment to the United Nations, she served as Ambassador from her country to Italy and Israel

H.E. Mr. YAŞAR HALİT ÇEVİK, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations– Opening Remarks – Inaugural Session. Prior to his latest appointment in fall, 2012, Mr. Çevik was the Undersecretary for Political Affairs at his country's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, beginning in 2009, having previously served as Ambassador from Turkey to Syria from November, 2004, to August, 2009. In addition to holding several positions in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 2000 to 2004, including that of Deputy Director-General of Central Europe and Baltic Region, he worked in the Prime Minister's Office as Deputy Special Adviser in 1999. In 1997, he served as First Counselor at the Turkish Embassy in Beijing and in 1995 as Consul General of Turkey in Zurich. From December, 1993, to August, 1995, Mr. Çevik was Deputy Special Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, having served as Head of the Section at the Ministry's Department of Maritime Affairs in 1993. He was Counselor at the Turkish Embassy in Athens in 1991 and Consul at the Turkish Consulate General in Athens in 1989. In 1987, Mr. Çevik was First Secretary at the Department of International Economic Organizations at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Prior to that, he was Consul at the Turkish Consulate General in Stuttgart in 1983 and Second Secretary at the Turkish Embassy in Khartoum in 1981. He joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1979 as Third Secretary at the Department of Bilateral Economic Affairs.

Dr. LISA A. DOLLING, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and Associate Professor of Philosophy – Welcoming Remarks – Inaugural Session. In addition to serving as Dean, Lisa Dolling is Associate Professor of Philosophy in the College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology. Her areas of expertise include the philosophy of science (specifically quantum theory), aesthetics, and feminist philosophy. She was the founding director of the Women's Studies program at St. John's University in New York as well as the Gender and Cultural Studies program at Stevens. Dolling has published on such varied topics as the philosophical writings of Niels Bohr, Edith Stein, Simone Weil, and Ayn Rand. She is the co-editor of *The Tests of Time: Readings on the Development of Physical Theory* (Princeton University Press) and has recently edited the volume *Science, Technology and the Humanities: A New Synthesis*. Dolling is currently working on a book-length project that focuses on the philosophical writings of American conservationist and scholar George Perkins Marsh.

Dr. NARIMAN FARVARDIN, President of Stevens Institute of Technology – Welcoming Remarks – Inaugural Session. Nariman Farvardin was appointed the seventh president of Stevens Institute of Technology in January 2011. He joined Stevens from the University of Maryland, where he was a member of the faculty for twenty-seven years. He served as that institution's Acting President for two months in 2010, during his tenure as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, positions he held since 2007. Dr. Farvardin is an accomplished researcher in the areas of information theory and coding, multimedia signal compression and transmission, high-speed networks, and wireless networks. Among his accomplishments as Provost was spearheading the development and implementation of the University's ambitious strategic plan, *Transforming Maryland: Higher Expectations*. From 1994 to 2000 Dr. Farvardin served as Chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, where he was Professor. He was appointed Dean of the

A. James Clark School of Engineering in 2000. Dr. Farvardin has made significant contributions to a number of communications standards and practical systems in data communication, image and video compression, and voice coding in wireless applications. A fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Dr. Farvardin holds seven U.S. patents in data communication, image coding, and wireless communication, and has co-authored more than 150 technical papers in journals and conference proceedings. A passionate advocate of technological innovation, Farvardin has served on the boards of several companies and educational non-profit organizations. He was chosen by the Governor of Maryland to serve on the state's task forces for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and Nano-biotechnology, and he chaired the University System of Maryland's Task Force on Cybersecurity. A native of Tehran, Iran, Farvardin earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, in 1979, 1980, and 1983, respectively.

Dr. EDWARD FOSTER, Co-Chair and Professor of American Studies, College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology. Former Department Head, Director of Humanities, and Associate Dean at Stevens, Edward Foster has also been a Visiting Professor at the Drew University Graduate Faculty and at Beykent University (Istanbul) and was a Fulbright Lecturer at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, and at the University of Istanbul. Professor of American Studies and the recipient of numerous awards, he is the founding editor of *Talisman: A Journal of Contemporary Poetry and Poetics*, Talisman House, Publishers, and Jensen/Daniels, Publishers. He is a widely published critic and essayist with studies of the Black Mountain poets, American landscapes, William Saroyan, Jack Spicer, and many others to his credit. Well known as a poet, his work has been translated into, and published in, many languages, including single-author volumes in Slovenian, Romanian, and Russian. His most recent publications, among more than twenty books and monographs, include his selected poems, *What He Ought to Know* and *The Beginning of Sorrows*. A new collection of his poetry, *Dire Straits*, was published this year. He is currently working on a long poem, *Requiem*.

H.E. Mr. CARLOS E. GARCIA GONZALES, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations – Inaugural Session - Panelist. Ambassador Carlos Garcia was appointed as the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations on March 13, 2013. Prior to that he served as the Deputy Permanent Representative beginning in June, 2010. He is a career diplomat who has served his country in the United Nations since July, 1996. He has followed several issues of the United Nations agenda, inter alia, Political & International Security; Decolonization; Economic, Financial and Environmental; Social, Humanitarian & Human Rights; and Peace building issues during his post in New York. In this regard, he has represented El Salvador in the Economic and Social Council and many others subsidiary bodies such as the Commission on Social Development, the former Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the Peace Building Commission as well as the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA, the Executive Board of UNICEF, the Executive Board of UN-Women and the former Executive Board of INSTRAW. Ambassador Garcia is currently the Vice-Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW -2012-13) and the Vice-Chairman of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD 2013-2014). He also served as the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNDP-UNFPA-UNOPS in 2011, the Vice-Chairperson of the Second Committee during the 64th UNGA, and the Vice-Chairperson of the Third Committee during the 59th and 56th sessions of the General Assembly.

Mr. STEPHEN KINZER, Author of *Crescent & Star: Turkey Between in Two Worlds*, and Professor of International Relations at Boston University - Inaugural Session - Keynote.

Stephen Kinzer is an award-winning foreign correspondent who has covered more than 50 countries on five continents. His articles and books led the *Washington Post* to call him “among the best in popular foreign policy storytelling.” His most recent book, *Reset: Iran, Turkey, and America’s Future*, traces the modern histories of Turkey and Iran and recommends a new approach to US policy in the Middle East. In 2006 he published *Overthrow: America’s Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*, recounting the 14 times the United States has overthrown foreign governments. He is also the author of *All the Shah’s Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror*. Kinzer spent more than 20 years working for the *New York Times*, most of it as a foreign correspondent. From 1983 to 1989, he was the *Times* bureau chief in Nicaragua. In that post he covered war and upheaval in Central America. From 1990 to 1996 he was posted in Germany. He was the Chief of the *New York Times* bureau in Bonn and after German unification became the Chief of the Berlin bureau. From there he covered the emergence of post-Communist Europe, including wars in the former Yugoslavia. In 1996 Kinzer was named the Chief of the newly opened *New York Times* bureau in Istanbul, Turkey. After completing this assignment, he published *Crescent and Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds*. Before joining the *New York Times*, he was a Latin America correspondent for the *Boston Globe*.

<http://www.stephenkinzer.com>

Ms. BİRCAN ÜNVER, Co-Chair, Founding President and Permanent Representative to the UN DPI/NGO of The Light Millennium – Inaugural Session – Concept. A native of Turkey, Bircan Ünver is the Originator (1999) and the Founding President of The Light Millennium (LM, 2001), a public benefit and multi-media organization. She has been the Executive Producer and Director of the LM, and LMTV programs since its inception and is the Permanent Representative of the organization to the UN DPI since 2006. As an advocate for “freedom of expression” and “public benefit media,” she has compiled and e-published over 53 e-issues and produced over 90 original television programs, garnering several awards. Developed, organized/co-organized, presented/co-presented, hosted/co-hosted over 60 open to public events. She is also the founder of the ISIKBINYILI.ORG based in Istanbul, Turkey (January 2010), a sister organization to the LM. Bircan holds a master’s degree in media studies from the New School University. Her thesis project was a half-hour video documentary titled “All Ideas: Freedom of Expression in Turkey” (1999).

SPEAKERS - Second Day: Saturday, April 20, 2013

SEDEN ANLAR, student, Maltepe University, Istanbul, Turkey. Born 18 June 1994 in Gaziantep, the southeastern part of Turkey, Anlar was brought up in a nuclear family of four. During primary and secondary education, she organized several school events such as Turkish Folk Music and Dance ceremonies and school concerts. She graduated in 2012 from Gaziantep Anatolia High School, the leading state school where students with a high score are accepted based on a centralized test. She is currently a scholarship student in law at Maltepe University, a private college in Istanbul. She has been working as the international supervisor at the Alumni Contact and Career Research Department and is in charge of organizing exchange programs, including the Erasmus program and international human and women’s rights projects. Seden is also involved in many Education First seminars in the Global Education Organization, a foundation in Gaziantep focusing primarily on helping students with high potential realizing their goals and providing them with opportunities to study abroad.

JUDY LIGHT AYYILDIZ, Teacher, Author, Poet, Roanoke, Virginia. Ayyildiz has taught creative writing at all education levels for 30 years. She was an instructor and a presenter at literary workshops, international conferences on poetry, writing, and women's studies. She is internationally published, was an editor of *Artemis, Artists and Writers from the Blue Ridge* for 13 years and was a Blue Ridge Writers Conference founder. Her books include *First Recital, Smuggled Seeds, Mud River, Creative Writing across the Curriculum, Easy Ideas for Busy Teachers, The Writers' Express, Nothing but Time*, and *Some of My Ancestors are Ottomans and Turks*. *Forty Thorns* in Turkish translation by Kirk Diken was published in 2011 by Remzi Book House, Istanbul. *Forty Thorns* was 2012 Literary Fiction winner in International Book Awards. Literary magazine in which her work has appeared include *New York Quarterly, Mickle Street Review, the new renaissance, Sow's Ear, Pig Iron Press, Hawaii Pacific Review, Black Water Review, Northeast Journal, Kalliope, Fjords*, and *www.editerranean.nu*. The international anthology, *Women in Dialogue* includes her essay, "Weaving This Woman's Life and Work" with excerpts from her books. The winner of the Nazim Hikmet 2009 Poetry Festival Prize and a 2010 Educator of the Year Award, she is completing a memoir and compiling another book of poems.

Dr. DAVID C. CUTHELL, Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia University – Moderator – Speaker. Dr. Cuthell is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia's School on International and Public Affairs. Previously he served from September 2005-2011 as the Executive Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies in Washington D.C. and is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the Institute as well as the Board of Directors of the Middle East Institute at Columbia. Raised in Istanbul and Washington D.C., he attended Phillips Academy and Yale, where he majored in art history with a focus on early film comedies, graduating in 1975. He received his M.B.A. from Columbia University in 1979 and worked in the capital markets in New York and London with Citibank and Morgan Stanley was the managing director of mortgage securities at Mabon Securities. After leaving Wall Street, he returned to Columbia, receiving his Ph.D. in history in 2005. His research at Columbia focused on the 19th century immigration of Muslims from the Caucasus and the Crimea and their role in transforming late Ottoman Anatolia. Dr. Cuthell has taught at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey where he taught in the Turkish, Middle East and Central Asian Studies Program from 2000 through 2005. In addition to the Institute of Turkish Studies, he also was a Visiting Associate Professor at Georgetown University. Dr. Cuthell is a Trustee of Robert College in Istanbul and a board member of the American Friends of Turkey in Washington, DC.

Dr. GÜL ÇELKAN, associate professor, Dr., Middle Georgia State College – Moderator – Speaker. Dr. Gul Celkan, Associate Professor of English Language and Literature is currently working as an adjunct in the Department of Humanities of Macon State College, in Georgia. She received her elementary, middle and high school education at TED Ankara College and then pursued her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at Ankara University, Faculty of Language History and Geography, Department of English Language and Literature. Following her graduation from the Department with a B.A. degree, she continued working toward her M.A. and Ph.D. but at the same time taught varied courses in the Department, followed by her employment at the Ankara War Academy, Texas A & M University, Ege University, Near East University and Eastern Mediterranean University, the latter two located in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. She retired in 2009 after almost 28 years serving higher education in different locations but with one motto in mind: our future relies on the youth! She worked in different capacities at N.E.U. and E.M.U. She founded and worked as the director of the English Preparatory School as well as the English Department at N.E.U. Then she transferred to E.M.U. as a faculty member and as the Director of the Center for Women's Studies, coordinator of the education programs, dean of students, Coordinator for the President's Office, editor of

E.M.U. Press, and translator for the President's Office. She also contributed to Promotional Activities by preparing pamphlets as well as appearing on such Turkish TV Channels as CNN-Turk, NTV and MSNBC.

Dr. SEBAHATTIN DEVECIOGLU, assistant professor, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey – Speaker. Dr. Devecioğlu was born on May 19, 1968 in Elazig. He completed elementary, middle, and high school there followed by graduation from Gazi University, Faculty of Education, Physical Education, and Sports department in 1990. In 1996, he completed his M.A. at Firat University of Health Sciences, Department of Physical Education and Sports Program, and began working there as a research assistant at the department of Physical Education and Sports. After his national service, he started his Ph.D. at Gazi University, Institute of Health Sciences Department of Physical Education and Sports, and started to work as a research assistant in 2002. He was appointed as a lecturer in Firat University upon completion of his Ph.D. He is currently the founder and Head of the Department of Sport Management, Sports Economics there.

Dr. AYŞEGÜL DURAKOĞLU, professor in music, College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology – Lecture-Live Piano Concert. Juilliard-trained, Aysegul Durakoglu is a performer with versatile interests and a repertoire that encompasses both the earliest styles and contemporary. Her main expertise in the classical repertoire lies in the scores of Claude Debussy's piano music. Aside from presenting many performances and lecture-recitals on Debussy's works, she innovatively focused her Ph. D. dissertation on the contrapuntal and rhythmic organization of his piano etudes; and most recently completed a recording of Debussy's Twelve Piano Etudes. In the area of world music, she uses her piano technique to bring together a fusion of sounds and cultures in the hopes that her work will inspire others to extend beyond modern-day divisions and strife. She has performed solo and music programs that have brought together the music of different cultures and civilizations, including the Sephardic and Turkish traditions, the Americas, Eastern Europe, France, Greece, and cultures throughout the Mediterranean. Since her highly acclaimed New York Debut Recital at Merkin Concert Hall, where Bernard Holland of the New York Times described her musicality as, "nothing false or artificial but naturally come by." Durakoglu has concertized widely as a soloist and chamber musician both nationally and internationally. She was the featured soloist at the International Istanbul Music Festival with James Galway; Musical Intersections and International Niagara Chamber Music Festival in Canada; music festivals throughout Russia where her performances with the renowned Russian pianist Gregory Haimovsky were described as "genuinely expressive with intense emotional concentration;" and, recently in the Allen Room of Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York.

Research Asst. GÖZDE EFE and Prof. Dr. E. NEZİH ORHON, Anatolian University, Eskisehir, Turkey - Speaker. Presented by Gözde Efe. Gözde Efe was born in İzmir in 1988 and graduated from the School of Communication Sciences, Department of Cinema&TV, in Anadolu University in 2011. She started her M.A. in film and began work as a research assistant at the same department in 2012. She has been a part of various international academic and artistic projects. Her academic writings on social sciences and her artistic work on social documentary making continues.

Dr. Nezih Orhon is the Dean and a professor in the School of Communication Sciences of Anadolu University, in Eskisehir, Turkey. He completed two master's degrees in Turkey and in the U.S.A., respectively, followed by a Ph.D. earned in Turkey. Besides his administrative responsibilities, he teaches "Television Journalism," "Television News Programming," "Production and Directing," and "Cultural Diversity and Communication." At the same time, he has established E.U. projects, currently running. One is called "Digital Bridges" for journalism and communication students.

AUGUSTINE G. JOHNSON, *Executive Director, LCA-Global Initiative, Liberia - Presented by Rev. James Bestman.* In 1996, Johnson enrolled at the Masada Vocational School, graduating with a diploma in General Building Construction in 1998. He then emigrated to Ghana to attend Ghana University. Because of financial difficulties, he was not able to complete his study in Project Management at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. He moved back to Liberia in May, 2001, employed by the Firestone Rubber Plantation Company, where he began working in the Engineering Department as the supervisor of water and sanitation while at the same time enrolling in the Trinity College. Unhappy with young girls getting becoming pregnant at 14, young boys dropping out school because of the lack of support, he established an organization called Global Initiatives, began training drop-out students, in basic computer courses, plumbing, building construction, catering, etc. After graduating from Trinity with an Associate Degree in Information Technology in 2007, he moved to Monrovia and began working with the Ministry of Lands, Mines, & Energy as an IT Assistant while at the same time enrolling in the Jerubbaal University of N.G.O.s, where he obtained a B. A. in N.G.O. Management in 2011. The needs for education continue to increase in his community, and Global Initiatives vocational training was extended to Monrovia.

Mrs. SALLY SHATILA KADER, *Co-Founder and President of the United States Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP, NGO), and Permanent Representative to the United – Keynote.*

Mrs. Sally (Salwa) Kader is the President and the Founder of the United States Federation for Middle East Peace, a non-profit organization promoting the United Nations' Principle and commitment to Human Rights and to international peace and justice. With USFMEP chapters around the world, Mrs. Kader has led and facilitated peace conferences, seminars, workshops, roundtables and public forums focusing on mutual respect and better understanding of the religious philosophies, cultures, history and affairs of the Middle East and the West. A world renowned public speaker on women's issues, human rights, children's rights, human trafficking, and interfaith dialogue, she has spoken before the U.N. headquarters in Geneva, the U.N. Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo in China, and the University of Wollongong in Dubai, among others. Mrs. Kader has organized and participated in many events and panels at the U.N. headquarters, throughout the continental U.S., Europe, and the Middle East. Reinforcing one of the USFMEP's primary objectives, to build bridges of understanding between different groups of people to achieve peace, Mrs. Kader organized and hosted the first and foremost panel for interfaith dialogue at the U.N. Headquarters. Her focus is on increasing the role and participation of women in the peace process. A recipient of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal awards in 2010, she has also received numerous awards from governments and organizations worldwide, including the Senate Award for promoting Peace and Interfaith Understanding, the Empowerment of Women Award, and the Youth empowerment Award, to name a few.

YIGIT KARATAS, *Violinist – Guest Performer.*

Violinist Yigit Karatas was born in Mersin and started studying violin at the age of 11 at Mersin State Conservatory with Alper Özcan. He was awarded the First Prize of the 4th National Gulden Turali Violin Competition. He participated in the Keshet Eilon Violin Festival and Eilat Festival in Israel. Karatas studied with well-known soloists such as Cihat Askin, Shlomo Mintz, Hagai Shaham, Chloë Hanslip, Haim Taub, Itzhak Rashkovsky, and Albert Markov. He performed Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the Presidential Symphony Orchestra in Ankara, and Mendelssohn's E Minor Violin Concerto three times at the International Belfort Music Festival.

Dr. ÖZAY MEHMET, Senior Fellow, Modern Turkish Studies & Professor Emeritus, International Affairs/Economics, Carleton University, Ottawa – Panelist – Presented by Bircan Ünver.

Özay Mehmet is of Turkish-Cypriot origin. Married, has three sons and lives in Ottawa with wife Karen. He was educated in Cyprus and was the first Turkish Cypriot to go to the London School of Economics (1959-62). Subsequently he received his M.A. and Ph.D. in economics at the University of Toronto (on a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship). He has taught at various Canadian universities [Windsor, York, Toronto, Ottawa and Carleton]. He is currently a Senior Fellow in charge of a new initiative to launch a Modern Turkish Studies Program at Carleton University. Professionally, Ozay Mehmet is a specialist in economic development, with special reference to Asian Tigers, Turkey, and Cyprus and is consulted extensively for W.B., A.D.B., C.I.D.A., C.F.T.C., U.N. agencies (I.L.O., W.H.O., U.N.D.P.) and others. He is the author of 21 academic books and over 100 articles in top academic journals. Now retired, he has started writing historical novels. His latest books include *Westernizing the Third World* (1st ed in 1995 Routledge, several editions, hardcover and paperback), *Islamic Identity and Development* (1st ed in 1990, several editions, translated into other language), *Towards a Fair Global Labor Market* (1999, Routledge – with Errol Mendes and Robert Sinding); *Global Governance, Economy and Law* (Routledge, Taylor & Francis, 2003 – with Errol Mendes); *Sustainability of Micro States: The Case of North Cyprus* (University of Utah Press, 2010).

SEVINÇ ÖZER, professor, Çanakkale University, Çanakkale, Turkey – Presented by Prof. Edward Foster. Prof. Özer is a teacher and researcher in American culture and literature, myth and women studies, and comparative literature. She is a theorist and writer of the short stories, the translator of books (to mention one, Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*), and a mother with a daughter. She occasionally writes for newspapers, mostly articles on the problems of the university system. An activist for that cause, she is the member of associations working towards freedom and autonomy in the university. She is finishing a short story theory book titled "The Long-Casting Power of the Short Tiny Story." She is also planning a book on the myths and politics of literature.

Dr. HAMID AKIN ÜNVER, Dr., Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey - Speaker. Dr. Ünver is the Ertegün Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, Near Eastern Studies department. Previously he was a joint post-doctoral fellow at the University of Michigan's Center for European Studies and the Center for the Middle East and North African Studies, where he authored several articles on Turkish politics, most notable of which is "Turkey's deep-state and the Ergenekon conundrum," published by the Middle East Institute. Born and raised in Ankara, Turkey, he graduated from T.E.D. Ankara College in 1999 and earned his B.A. in International Relations from Bilkent University (2003) and M.Sc. in European Studies from the Middle East Technical University (2005). He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Government, University of Essex, where his dissertation, "A Comparative Analysis of the Discourses on the Kurdish question in the European Parliament, U.S. Congress and Turkish National Assembly" won the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 2010 Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award in Social Sciences. Akin also assumed entry-level policy positions at the European Union Secretariat-General, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Eurasian Center for Strategic Studies, and the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (D.C.), as well as teaching positions at the University of Essex (Theories of International Relations) and Sabancı University (Turkey and the Middle East).

Dr/ CHRISTOPHER VASSILLOPULOS, professor of Political Science at Eastern Connecticut State University – Speaker. Professor Vasillopoulos received his undergraduate degree in political science from Hobart College and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. For over thirty years Professor Vasillopoulos has taught in several American universities and lectured in universities in

Europe and the Middle East. Although he has taught a wide variety of courses, the unifying thread has been political theory, with an emphasis on ancient Greek thought, especially as it relates to tragedy. He has published many articles in journals such as the *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Journal of Philosophy and Education*, *International Journal of Social Inquiry*, *Skepsis*, *Arab Studies Quarterly*, *Armed Forces and Society*, *Social Science Journal* and many others, and is a regular contributor to *Today's Zaman*, a leading Turkish Newspaper, and *Celestia*, a contemporary Greek journal of ideas. He has written a book, a theoretical study of the Third Reich, entitled *the Triumph of Hate: the Political Theology of the Hitler Movement*, published in 2012.

ROBERT M. WEIR, Writer, Author, Editor, Speaker, Michigan – Power Point Presentation. Robert M. Weir is a writer, author, speaker, book editor, and author's coach. His subjects are people, peace, social justice, environment, and international travel. A book, mentioned in his talk, about the education of Kolkata's children, *Reclaiming Lives*, is authored by Rosalie Giffoniello with his assistance. It is currently a manuscript in the final stages of development while the co-authors seek a publisher. His previous books include *Cobble Creek* (short stories and poetry), *Brain Tumor* (medical memoir), *Peace, Justice, Care of Earth* (biography of John McConnell, founder of the original Earth Day and creator of the Earth Flag), and numerous travel blogs and essays on his web site. He has written more than 150 published articles for magazines and the Internet. As an editor and coach, Weir assists both established and emerging authors; notable among these are *Spontaneous Evolution* by Bruce Lipton and Steve Bhaerman (Hay House 2009), *Power Up Your Brain* by Alberto Villoldo and David Perlmutter (Hay House 2011), *Sportuality: Finding Joy in the Games* by Jeanne Hess (Balboa 2012), and *Full Cup, Thirsty Spirit* by Karen Horneffer-Ginter (Hay House 2012). Because of the nature of his client's work, Weir considers himself to be "a contributor to the world's leaders in humanity's spiritual and metaphysical evolution." He maintains a physical address in Michigan, USA, and travels extensively. His mantra is "Have laptop, will travel." His web site is www.robertmweir.com.

HÜDAI YAVALAR, Founding President, and MIRAT YAVALAR, Founding Member and Treasurer, Atatürk Society of America, Washington DC. – Presented by Ceren Olga Sayan. The Atatürk Society of America is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization founded in 1995 in Washington, DC by Turkish Americans to promote the ideals of Atatürk. ASA organizes meetings and scholarly lectures, provides research fellowships, and has become a valuable resource for material regarding Atatürk's political philosophy. ASA publishes *The Voice of Atatürk*, a periodical. Members meet around May 19 and November 10 to remember Atatürk and his legacy. In the past 15 years, ASA programs have featured, among others: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff William Crowe, Turkey Caucus Co chairs in the US Congress – Virginia Foxx and Steve Cohen, Senator Robert Byrd, Princeton Professor Bernard Lewis, Professor Behram Kursunoglu, Professor Andrew Mango, Professor Turkan Saylan, CHP Parliamentarian Oktay Eksi, and Speaker Newt Gingrich. Atatürk's political embraced by ASA includes: sovereignty belongs exclusively to the people; secular education is key; **secularism is essential**; science and reason has priority; freedom and the pursuit of happiness are common aspirations of humanity; representative democracy prevents abuse of power and provides checks and balances through three separation powers - a legislature, executive, and judiciary; and Atatürk's noble principle, "Peace at home and peace in the world," is crucial to maintaining the common good of humankind. www.ataturksociety.org

ABOUT THE LIGHT MILLENNIUM (<http://www.lightmillennium.org>):

The Light Millennium was formed based on the first article of the United States Bill of Rights, Freedom of Speech, in conjunction with the United Nations' Universal Declaration Article #19, on Freedom of Expression based in Queens, New York. The Light Millennium invites citizens of the world to submit, in an appropriate artistic medium, ideas and experiences that will help foster better understanding between people of different cultures and beliefs. The organization frequently presents ideas on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations and UN-NGO Briefings and presenting ideas about the "Cultural Diversity" and "Global Peace Culture" as well as ideas from the all walks of life. The Light Millennium was introduced on the web in August 1999 by Bircan Ünver as a global multi-media platform inviting individuals to represent themselves and their communities. In January, 2000, the organization brought in volunteers and was formally incorporated as a not-for-profit organization on July 17, 2001. It obtained 501c3 status at that time and associated itself with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations on December 12, 2005. For the LM Archive, see <http://www.lightmillennium.org/archive.html>.

ABOUT STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Founded in 1870, Stevens Institute of Technology *The Innovation University*®, is a premier, private research university situated in Hoboken, N.J., overlooking the Manhattan skyline. Technological innovation has been the hallmark and legacy of Stevens' education and research programs for more than 140 years. Within the university's three schools and one college, more than 6,100 undergraduate and graduate students collaborate with more than 350 faculty members in an interdisciplinary, student-centric, entrepreneurial environment to advance the frontiers of science and leverage technology to confront global challenges. Stevens is home to three national research centers of excellence, as well as joint research programs focused on critical industries such as healthcare, energy, finance, defense, and STEM education. The university is the fastest-rising college in the U.S. *News & World Report* ranking of the best national universities, and it is consistently ranked among the nation's elite for return on investment for students, career services programs, and mid-career salaries of alumni. Stevens is in the midst of a ten-year strategic plan, *The Future: Ours to Create*, designed to further extend the Stevens legacy to create a forward-looking and far-reaching institution with global impact.

"Heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives! You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and Mehments to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well."

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Immediate Media Release - Date: April 5, 2013

An International Two-Day Conference on:

Pioneer of the Millennium Development Goals: Atatürk

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/mdgs-ataturk-two-day-mrelease.html>

On Stevens.Edu: <http://www.stevens.edu/news/content/conference-pioneer-millennium-development-goals-atat%C3%BCrk>

Contact: EVENT@lightmillennium.org - ATATURKCONFERENCE@stevens.edu

H.E. Ambassador Çevik, H.E. Ambassador Aitimova,
H.E. Ambassador H.E. Avirovikj, H.E. Ambassador Garcia,
UNESCO's NY Office Director Kridelka, and author Stephen Kinzer
will speak at the High Level Inaugural Panel

***INVITE FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013**

(Day One)

HIGH LEVEL INAUGURAL PANEL

*Dedicated To: Millennium Development Goal #8,
"Global Partnerships and International Peace."*

INVITE FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013 -

(Day Two)Provisional PROGRAM

*Dedicated To: "Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality,
and Universal Education."*

The Light Millennium and the College of Arts and Letters at the Stevens Institute of Technology will jointly present an international conference on the **Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations** and their relation to ideals advanced by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938), founder and the first president of Republic of Turkey. The conference is entitled "**Pioneer of the Millennium Development Goals: Atatürk**" (UN-MDGS & ATATÜRK), and, co-organized **The Light Millennium**, directed by Bircan Ünver., and the College of Arts and Letters at Stevens. The two-day UN-MDGS & ATATÜRK conference is scheduled on the campus of Stevens Insitute of Technology in Hoboken on **Friday, April 19**, and **Saturday, April 20, 2013**.

The United Nations' 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) include the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the attainment of universal primary education, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the reduction of child mortality, the improvement of maternal health, the combating of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, the attainment of environmental sustainability, and the development of a global partnership for the development of international peace. The conference's *High Level Inaugural Panel* on Friday evening is dedicated to *Millennium Development Goal #8, "Global Partnerships and International Peace."* The keynote speaker, Stephen Kinzer, author of "**Crescent & Star: Turkey Between in Two Worlds**," and professor of International Relations at Boston University, will present the following titled paper, "*Changing the World: From Ataturk's 'Six Arrows' to the Eight 'Millennium Development Goals'*" during the Inaugural Panel of the Conference on **Friday, April 19**.

Scheduled speakers for the **H.L. Inaugural Panel** on that evening include H.E. Mr. Halit Çevik, Ambassador (*Opening Remarks*), *Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations*; H.E. Ms. Byrganym Aitimova, *Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations*; H.E. Mr. Pajo Avirovikj, *Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations*; H.E. Mr.

Carlos E. Garcia Gonzales, *Ambassador, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations*; and Mr. Philippe Kridelka, *Director, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - UNESCO Office in New York, and permanent representative to the United Nations*. Welcoming Remarks at the *High Level Inaugural Panel* will be made by Dr. Nariman Farvardin, *President of Stevens Institute of Technology*, and Lisa A. Dolling, *Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and Associate professor of Philosophy*. Please see the details of the **Inaugural Panel by clicking on this**. *Selected Papers* will be presented in

FULL REPORT ON: PIONEER OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: ATATÜRK – Two-Day International Conference

Organized and Presented by:

The Light Millennium and College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey on April 19-20, 2013.

the second day of the conference (please see for the full schedule by clicking on the date **Saturday, April 20**), which will be dedicated to “*Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality, and Universal Education.*” Scholars and authors will include from various universities, organizations, and countries. Speakers scheduled for the **20th** include Sally Shatila Kader, *Co-Founder and President of the United States Federation for Middle East Peace*; Hüdai Yavalar, *founding president*, and Mirat Yavalar, *Founding Member and Treasurer, Atatürk Society of America*; Augustine G. Johnson, *Executive Director, LCA-Global Initiative of Liberia*; Dr. Hamid Akin Unver, *Kadir Has University*, Prof. Christopher Vassillopoulos, *Connecticut State University*, Prof. Dr. E. Nezi̇h Orhon and Gozde Efe, *Anatolian University, Eskisehir*; Judy Ayyildiz, *author, W.D.C.*, Dr. Sebahattin Devecioglu, *Firat University, Elazig*; Seden Anlar, *student, Maltepe University*.

Prof. Mehmet Ozay, *Carleton University, Canada*; Prof. Sevinç Özer, *Çanakkale University*; and Robert M. Weir, *author in Michigan*, will be joining to the conference via SKYPE.

Overall, the second day of the conference will present numerous distinguished historians and scholars from universities in the United States and abroad. The program will be moderated by David Cuthell, *Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia University*, and Dr. Gül Çelkan, *Middle Georgia State College, Atlanta*. Both moderators will also present their own *papers*.

The conference will conclude with a concert by the celebrated musicians Dr. Aysegul Durakoglu, *pianist*, and Yigit Karatas, *violinist*. Prior to Durakoglu's performance, she will, too, present a paper titled, “*Ataturk, Creating a Universal Language in Turkish Musical Culture.*” Please see the full day provisional program for **April 20** and title of the papers by **clicking on this**.

The conference aims to contribute to the discussion of the **Millennium Development Goals** on the academic and global level as well as examine one of the most accomplished world leaders of the 20th century and founder of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's (1881-1938) visions, principles, and their implementation from the 1920s until his departure in 1938.

The conference's co-chairs are Bircan Ünver and Prof. Edward Foster. The conference sponsors are **Ataturk Society of America** and **ONE UN New York**. The conference will be held in the Burchard Auditorium, at the corner of 6th and River Streets, on the Stevens campus in Hoboken. Registration, which is free, and required. For your RSVP, please simply send an email by April 17th with your full name along with your affiliation, and indicating that you will attend to **Event@lightmillennium.org** or **ataturkconference@stevens.edu**. Please also indicate if your RSVP is for both days or not. For further information, see <http://www.lightmillennium.org/events/all.html> - <http://www.lightmillennium.org> - <http://www.stevens.edu/news/content/conference-pioneer-millennium-development-goals-atat%C3%BCrk>.

For more information, inquires or sponsorship opportunities, please e-mail to: EVENT@lightmillennium.org or LMTV@lightmillennium.org.

Background information: Atatürk regarded universal education and equal rights for girls and women as pillars of the society he wished to building in the 1920s. He established the Turkish parliament and constitution to advance his ideals. He created institutes in villages for poor children and universities where women would be encouraged to study. He adopted the Roman alphabet for the Turkish language and introduced western values, culture, and lifestyles. Atatürk advanced the notion of “*Peace at home, peace in the world.*” According to the executive board of UNESCO in 1979, “*Atatürk set an outstanding example in promoting the spirit of mutual understanding between peoples, and lasting peace between the nations of the world.*” In the following paragraph, Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon, urges achieving Millennium Development Goals by 2015: “*Eradicating extreme poverty continues to be one of the main challenges of our time, and is a major concern of the international community. Ending this scourge will require the combined efforts of all, governments, civil society organizations and the private sector, in the context of a stronger and more effective global partnership for development. The Millennium Development Goals set timebound targets, by which progress in reducing income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and exclusion ‘while promoting gender equality, health, education and environmental sustainability’ can be measured. They also embody basic human rights’ the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter and security. The Goals are ambitious but feasible and, together with the comprehensive United Nations development agenda, set the course for the world’s efforts to alleviate extreme poverty by 2015.*”

For further information, please e-mail to: **EVENT@lightmillennium.org** /or visit

EVENTS page: <http://www.lightmillennium.org/events/all.html> - <http://www.stevens.edu>.



CALL FOR PAPERS



STEVENS
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY

DEADLINE: On Thursday, February 28, 2013 *Extended to March 13*

*The Light Millennium and The College of Arts and Letters at the Stevens Institute of Technology will host an
International Conference on:*

PIONEER OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A T A T Ü R K

On Friday, April 19 & Saturday, April 20, 2013 (Updated.)

Location: Burchard Building

**College of Arts and Letters at the Stevens Institute of Technology,
Between 6th & River Streets, Hoboken, New Jersey**

Keynote Speaker: STEPHEN KINZER

***Author of *Crescent & Star: Turkey Between in Two Worlds* and professor of
International Relations at Boston University***

The Conference will examine one of the most influential world leaders of the twentieth Century, the founder of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's (1881-1938), his visions, principles and implementations from the 1920s and his death in 1938.

Proposals are requested for papers and panels on any aspect of Atatürk's social, economic, and political ideals that correspond to United Nations' 2000 Millennium Development Declaration and Goals: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, insure environmental sustainability, and develop a global partnership for the development and international peace.

Scholars and authors are invited to submit papers on the visions, principles, and achievements of Atatürk and/or the impact of his visions in the underdeveloped and developing countries in his time that are relevant to today.

A selection of papers may be published in a volume of conference proceedings. Papers should not be exceed to 3000 words in length or abstracts 300 words that should provide a clear statement of the objective of the Conference, its relevance to the Millennium Development Goals, underdeveloped and developing countries and global partnerships and international peace. **Proposals should be submitted by February 28th to: Edward Foster, professor of American Studies, College of Arts and Letters at the Stevens Institute of Technology: efoster@stevens.edu, or to Bircan Ünver, Permanent Representative to the UN/DPI of The Light Millennium: event@lightmillennium.org and/or ataturkconference@stevens.edu**

CFP Categories Millennium Development Goals, International Relations & Global Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Development and Sustainability, Women Studies, Environmental Studies, Comparative Studies, Education, The Least Developed and Developing Countries, Cultural Studies and Historical Approaches, Interdisciplinary, Democracy, Modernization and Secularism, Social, Lifestyle and Cultural Change, Science, Arts , Culture and Sport.

Please Note: The Conference may be videotaped for a series of programs for The Light Millennium TV – LMTV Series. They will be available on The Light Millennium's web site. <http://www.lightmillennium.org> - <http://www.stevens.edu>.



PIONEER OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A T A T Ü R K

An International Conference (two-day)



STEVENS
INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY
THE INNOVATION UNIVERSITY

IMMEDIATE RELEASE – (Updated.)

<http://www.lightmillennium.org> - <http://www.stevens.edu>

E-mails: event@lightmillennium.org - ataturkconference@stevens.edu

DATE: Friday, April 19
TIME: 5:00 to 8:00PM
High Level Inaugural
Panel
Keynote Speech
Q & A

Keynote Speaker:
STEPHEN KINZER
Professor of international
relations at Boston University
and author of Crescent &
Star: Turkey Between Two
Worlds.

DATE: Saturday: April 20
TIME: 10:00a.m. – 5:00pm.
Opening Session
Paper Presentations &
Discussions
Lecture-Piano Concert

LOCATION: Burchard Building
College of Arts and Letters at the Stevens Institute of Technology,
6th & River Streets, Hoboken, New Jersey

The Light Millennium and the College of Arts and Letters at the Stevens Institute of Technology will jointly present a conference on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations and their relation to ideals advanced by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938), founder of the Turkish Republic.

The conference will be held on **Friday, April 19th and Saturday, April 20th** on the campus of the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey.

Keynote speaker **Stephen Kinzer**, *the first NY Times Chief Correspondent to Turkey (1996-2000), author of the book Crescent & Star: Turkey Between in Two Worlds (2001), and Professor in International Relations at Boston University*, explains in his book: "The origins of this transformation [may be found] by examining the life of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic and still, despite his death in 1938, the most influential figure in Turkey's history."

The conference will begin with a High Level Inaugural Meeting on **Friday, April 19th**, followed by the keynote presentation by **Stephen Kinzer**. The ***High Level Inaugural Meeting*** will be dedicated to **MDG#8: Global Partnership and International Peace**. Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives to the United Nations and UN dignitaries are invited to the HL Inaugural Meeting, including Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States United Nations, Turkish, Greek, Macedonian, Iranian, Egyptian, and German ambassadors.

The 2000 United Nations' Millennium Development Goals include the eradication extreme poverty and hunger, the attainment of universal primary education, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the reduction of child mortality, the improvement of maternal health, the combating of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,

the attainment of environmental sustainability, and the development of a global partnership for the development of international peace.

Atatürk regarded universal education and equal rights for girls and women as pillars of the society he wished to building in the 1920s. He established the Turkish parliament and constitution to advance his ideals. He created institutes in villages for poor children and universities where women would be encouraged to study. He adopted the Roman alphabet for the Turkish language and introduced western values, culture, and lifestyles. Atatürk advanced the notion of ***“Peace at home, peace in the world.”***

Also, for the closing session of the Conference on **Saturday, April 20**, a brief presentation and concert by the distinguished pianist **Dr. Aysegül Durakoglu** will demonstrate Atatürk’s influence on Turkish music.

According to the executive board of UNESCO in 1979, “Atatürk set an outstanding example in promoting the spirit of mutual understanding between peoples, and lasting peace between the nations of the world.”

In the following paragraph, Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon, urges for achieving of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015: "Eradicating extreme poverty continues to be one of the main challenges of our time, and is a major concern of the international community. Ending this scourge will require the combined efforts of all, governments, civil society organizations and the private sector, in the context of a stronger and more effective global partnership for development. The Millennium Development Goals set timebound targets, by which progress in reducing income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and exclusion ‘while promoting gender equality, health, education and environmental sustainability’ can be measured. They also embody basic human rights’ the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter and security. The Goals are ambitious but feasible and, together with the comprehensive United Nations development agenda, set the course for the world’s efforts to alleviate extreme poverty by 2015. "

The conference will contribute to the discussion of the Millennium Development Goals on the academic and global level as well as examine one of the most prolific world leaders of the 20th Century and founder of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's (1881-1938) visions, principles and implementations from the period of 1920s until his death in 1938.

Scholars and authors are invited to submit papers on the visions, principles, and achievements of Ataturk and/or the impact of his visions in the underdeveloped and developing countries in his time that are relevant to today.

Papers will focus on the MDGs in relation to those advanced by Ataturk.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR PAPERS: Millennium Development Goals, International Relations & Global Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Development and Sustainability, Women Studies, Environmental Studies, Comparative Studies, Education, The Least Developed and Developing Countries, Cultural Studies

and Historical Approaches, Interdisciplinary, Democracy, Modernization and Secularism, Social, Lifestyle and Cultural Change, Science, Arts and Culture.

For inquiries about the Conference or Proposals submit electronically by email to: efoster@stevens.edu or event@lightmillennium.org and/or ataturkconference@stevens.edu. - Proposals should be submitted electronically to the above given e-addresses by February 28th.

A selection of papers may be published in a volume of conference proceedings. Papers should not exceed 3000 words. Abstracts and proposals should be limited to 300 words or less, providing a clear statement of the objectives of the Conference, their relevance to the Millennium Development Goals, especially in relation to underdeveloped and developing countries and global partnerships and international peace.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS:

The Light Millennium (LM) is a non-religious, non-political, not-for-profit (501-c-3), non-governmental (NGO), independent global public benefit multi-media and culture organization, has become associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations effective on December 12, 2005. Formed in 2001, based in Queens, New York. The initial concept of the organization was introduced over the Internet in August 1999. The first article of the purposes of the organization is: "To provide an international platform for the free expression of ideas and experiences in order to foster a global connection among all people." Full purposes could be found in the following link: http://www.lightmillennium.org/lm_mission.html

Stevens Institute of Technology: <http://www.stevens.edu/>

For inquiries or more information, please contact:

Bircan Ünver, Co-Chair of the Conference, and
Permanent Rep. to the UN DPI/NGO of
The Light Millennium

<http://www.lightmillennium.org>

<http://www.isikbinyili.org> - www.unnoga.org

Tel: 1-917-554-5836 – 718-441-3816

Prof. Edward Foster, Co-Chair, and

Professor of American Studies, College of Arts and Letters at the
Stevens Institute of Technology

<http://www.stevens.edu/cal>

Tel: 1-201-216-5399

Media Release on Stevens' website (needs to be updated.):

<http://www.stevens.edu/news/content/cal-event-pioneer-millennium-development-goals-ataturk>

For Turkish:

<http://isikbinyili.org/index.php/15-sayi-24/62-binyilin-kalkinma-hedeflerin-oencuesue-ataturk>

Concept Related links:

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/list.html>

http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/thalman_book_p1.pdf

http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/thalman_book_p2.pdf

http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/speech_introduction.html

1921 Constitution <http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/~genckaya/1921C.html>

1924 The (First) New Constitution of Turkey

<http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/~genckaya/1924constitution.pdf>

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly [without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.2)]

55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

2000 Millennium Development Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml>

Millennium Development Goals for 2015: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

BEYOND 2015: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015.shtml>

34th Session of the General Assembly – Official Document – 19 December 1979

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/landmark/pdf/a34pv107e.pdf>

UNESCO - Turkey, Profile of Education:

<http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/worldwide/unesco-regions/asia-and-the-pacific/turkey/profile-of-education.html>

UNESCO Centenary of Ataturk's birth - The Executive Board

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0003/000370/037018e.pdf> (Page: 21) November 1979

The Unesco COURIER - November 1981

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0007/000747/074752eo.pdf>

“Teachers are the one and only people who save nations.”



CONFERENCE MEDIA RELEASE, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/media-conf-links-4-24-13.pdf>

April 4 - 24, 2013:

Lightmillennium.Org

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/mdgs-ataturk-two-day-mrelease.html>

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/invite-april19-mdgs-ataturk.pdf>

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/invite-april20-mdgs-ataturk.pdf>

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/events/all.html>

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/list.html>

Stevens.Edu

<http://www.stevens.edu/news/content/conference-pioneer-millennium-development-goals-atat%C3%BCrk>

<http://www.stevens.edu/news/content/cal-event-pioneer-millennium-development-goals-ataturk>

Isikbinyili.Org

<http://isikbinyili.org/index.php/17-sayi-23/haber/65-ataturk-ue-binyilin-kalkinma-hedeflerinin-oencuesue-adli-konferansta-yazar-stephen-kinzer-ile-tuerkiye-kazakistan-makedonya-el-salvador-un-bueyuekelcileri-ve-birlesmis-milletler-e-daimi-temsilcileri-ile-ayrica-unesco-tarafindan-uest-duezey-panel-de-anlat>

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/bircan.unver>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pioneer-of-the-Millennium-Development-Goals-Ataturk/192524144224137?ref=hl>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pioneer-of-the-Millennium-Development-Goals-Ataturk/192524144224137?ref=hl>

https://www.facebook.com/bircan.unver.35?ref=tn_tnmn

http://www.linkedin.com/home?trk=hb_tab_home_top

<https://twitter.com/lmillennium>

Youtube: STEPHEN KINZER IS TALKING ABOUT PRINCIPLES OF ATATÜRK AND MDGS

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNBXODnbZg4> (by Razi Canikligil)

RadioTurkum.Com (1 hour in Turkish – April 22, 2013)

BINYILIN KALKINMA HEDEFLERİNİN ONCUSU: ATATURK - Konferansı üzerine bir değerlendirme - Dr. Sebahattin Devecioğlu ile birlikte - Bircan Unver <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/31830355>



FULL REPORT ON: PIONEER OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: ATATÜRK – Two-Day International Conference

Organized and Presented by:

The Light Millennium and College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey on April 19-20, 2013.

<http://www.africanviews.org/events/viewevent/303-pioneer-of-the-millennium-g-development-goals-ataturk>

[In Turkish – April 22, 2013]

ABD'nin gündeminde Atatürk var New Jersey Stevens Teknoloji Enstitüsü'nde,
iki gün boyunca Atatürk konuşuldu

<http://www.egitimnerede.com/haberler/abd-nin-gundeminde-ataturk-var/8769/>

TURK MEDYASINDA YER ALAN DİĞER BASLIKLAR (Titles in the Turkish Media- April 16-24, 2013)

Atatürk Binyılın Öncüsü

"BM'ye en güzel Genel Sekreter Atatürk olurdu"

Atatürk, BM'ye en güzel Genel Sekreter olurdu - *hürriyet gündem*

ABD'li gazeteci: Atatürk BM'ye Genel Sekreter olurdu - *en son haber*

Abd'de Atatürk'le ilgili çarpıcı açıklamalar - *Amerika haberleri*

Atatürk'ün konu alındığı Amerika'daki konferansta çarpıcı tespitler yapıldı

'Atatürk BM'ye çok iyi bir genel sekreter olurdu' - *dünya genel- ntvmsnbc.com*

Atatürk BM'e iyi sekreter olurdu

ABD'li gazeteciden Atatürk'e büyük övgü

Stephen Kinzer: BM'ye en güzel Genel Sekreter Atatürk olurdu

ABD'de Atatürk İçin Çok İlginç Sözler

ABD'li gazeteci: Atatürk BM'ye genel sekreter olurdu

Iddianın sahibi, ABD'de düzenlenen panelin konuşmacıları arasında yer alan Amerikalı gazeteci ve öğretim görevlisi Stephen Kinzer.

LINKS/LINKLER (In Turkish Media - April 16-24, 2013)

<http://www.emedya.co/guncel/ataturk-icin-carpici-yorum/>

<http://www.elazighaber.com/dunya/7209-konferans-ataturk-binyilin-uncusu.html>

<http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/gundem/23104056.asp>

<http://hurarsiv.hurriyet.com.tr/goster/ShowNew.aspx?id=23104056>

<http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/?hn=412360&kn=8&ka=4&kb=8>

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PRE-CONFERENCE – from January 15 – March 20, 2013:

Initial Media Release, Call For Papers – (Bildiri Çağrısı) pre-conference related compiled links could be seen In the following link:

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/media-links.pdf>



MEDIA RELEASE, CALL FOR PAPERS & NEWS RELATED LINKS (in English & Turkish)

Majority of the below conference related links compiled based on a general Google search as of
March 20, 2013.

(Please note that if any of the below link is not found, that is not under our capacity.)

<http://www.lightmillennium.org/ataturk/2013/media-links.pdf>

Radyo Türküm - Live (in Turkish). <http://radyoturkum.com/>

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ATATÜRK" Uluslararası Konferansına ilişkin canlı yayında, konferans hakkında kapsamlı bilgi verdi ve canlı yayında soruları yanıtladı. (Tarih: 6 Mart Çarşamba günü, New York saatiyle: 2PM). www.ustream.tv/recorded/29781151

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Conference's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pioneer-of-the-Millennium-Development-GoalsAtaturk/192524144224137?ref=hl>

ATATURK SOCIETY UK <http://ataturksocietyuk.com/category/ataturk/>

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Please Note: Various and diverse Facebook groups postings and LinkedIn are not included in this document.

“I am leaving no sermon no dogma nor am I leaving as my legacy any commandment that is frozen in time or cast in stone.”

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“Win for us the battle of education and you will do yet more for your country than we have been able to do. It is to you (Turkish women) that I appeal.”
—Atatürk

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The Light Millennium and
College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology
Hoboken, New Jersey on April 19-20, 2013.

For further information, please email to:
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Thank YOU to ALL for your given support and being part of this conference...

<http://www.lightmillennium.org> - <http://www.stevens.edu>
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