

2013



ANNUAL REPORT

This report has been prepared for evaluating overall performance and development of TASSA in 2013.



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Message from the President



Dear Friends of TASSA,

2013 continued to be a build-up year for TASSA. We were busy trying to establish a strong infrastructure for our operations, while trying to meet the demands of various stakeholders, and getting prepared for the 2014 Conference. The hard work is fun and I really appreciate the volunteer help TASSA is receiving from the members of the Executive Board, the Board of Directors, and our various technical and standing committee members. We are very lucky to have individuals who are willing to donate serious time and energy for a good cause.

As you will observe in the following pages, TASSA was able to operate successfully both in the United States and in Turkey. Our contribution to the implementation of the science and technology agreement between Turkey and the United States is appreciated by all parties. Our publication of the newsletter, *The Bridge*, continued with no interruption and over 2,000 recipients regularly read the newsletter. We have started keeping track of the visits to our web site and it stands at an impressive over 4,000 visits in the last quarter of 2013. We were also able to implement the TASSA-Connect, a platform, which will aid job seekers in the US to find positions in the Turkish universities. We expect TASSA-Connect will evolve into a major communication platform among the members of TASSA.

These are all signs that TASSA is making good progress in creating value to its stakeholders. I believe we can do more. We need resources and we would really appreciate your involvement with TASSA. Please be part of the 2014 Conference, attend the sessions, let us know what you have in mind for TASSA and start a new project or help us on the projects we started. There is plenty to do. Also, please consider giving to TASSA. Unless we professionalize the organization we cannot institute TASSA on strong grounds. If you seriously think TASSA can do some good then please consider becoming a member, recruit members, and help us sign-up institutional sponsors. The 2014 conference will once again feature the bright minds of the Turkish Science Diaspora. The biggest reward for your contributions is to listen to them during the conference and feel proud to be a member of this society.

I wish you all a very successful year.

Respectfully,

1. Communication with TASSA Community

- Throughout 2013 TASSA bi-monthly newsletter, The Bridge was published and sent to all contacts in the TASSA database in January, March, May, July, September and November.



- TASSA-The Bridge bi-monthly newsletter's interface was redesigned in July.
- A new online Newsletter Sign-Up form was created for the Bridge followers.
- Dr. Şeyda Ertekin, Dr. Ayşe Kivılcım Coşkun, Dr. Utkan Demirci, Dr. Ertuğrul Çubukçu, Dr. Alp Şimşek were selected as the "Young Scientist of the Month" in 2013.
- A new corner in the Bridge issued conversations with distinguished scientists and scholars, including Dr. Feryal Özel, Dr. Hayat Önyüksel, and Dr. Nihal Altan-Bonnet.
- Announced the success stories, news and awards of Turkish scientists and scholars in the Bridge issues.
- Announced the "Upcoming Events and Conferences" on the TASSA website and in the Bridge issues.
- Announced "Job Openings" on the TASSA website and in the Bridge issues.
- TASSA Vice-President, Dr. Nilay Papila continued to write her column for "The Bridge" newsletter on grant opportunities, which are available in Turkey and the European Community.
- TASSA Institutional Members and TASSA Conference Sponsors were listed in the Bridge issues.
- Announced the "Research Destination Turkey Workshop Series" by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) on April 6-8-10, 2013 in Houston, Raleigh and Atlanta in the March issue.
- TASSA 2014 Conference was announced in the November 2013 issue of the Bridge and on the website of TASSA.
- TASSA added a new column called "Expert Opinion" in September 2013.

2. Membership Activities

- Major overhaul of the contact database was undertaken. More than 1500 individual member information was updated in the Constant Contact system. The database was also expanded by adding 175 Turkish Universities Rector's contact information and more than 100 Turkish and Turkish-American private company contact information. The new contact database is operating within the Constant Contact system.
- The database can also track annually the institutional and individual membership.

- Individual and institutional membership reminder invitation emails were sent in February, May 2013 and in October 2013.
- Provided messages and links in the Bridge newsletter to invite TASSA members for membership renewal and TASSA contacts for new membership application.
- The TASSA website membership login, membership application, and membership renewal processes were streamlined.
- Communication with institutional members and Turkish universities intensified during 2013.
- TASSA started to be more active with more than 800 followers in its social media channels including Facebook and LinkedIn.

3. Meetings TASSA Organized or Participated

1. TASSA Vice-Presidents Prof. Candan Tamerler and Dr. Nilay Papila participated in the USA-TR Joint Science and Technology Committee Meeting on April 3-4, 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.

Attendees: President of TUBITAK, Dr. Yücel Altunbaşak, US Ambassador to Turkey Francis Ricciardone, Turkish Minister Nihat Ergün, Assistant Secretary Dr. Kerri-Ann Jones, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) representatives, the Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation representatives, U.S. team composed of 25 representatives from eight federal agencies, three universities, three private companies, three NGOs, and 75 members on the Turkish delegation.

2. TASSA representatives met US Science Envoy, Dr. Susan Hockfield in Washington, DC on Fri, April 26, before making her first official visit to Turkey on May 13-17.

Attendees: Dr. Susan Hockfield (US Science Envoy and President Emerita of MIT), Dr. Brian T. Carter (Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Science and Technology Cooperation), Aprille C. Raabe (Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs), Dr. Haluk Ünal (TASSA President), Dr. Hasan Ayaz (TASSA Vice President) and Tuğba Güntay (TASSA Managing Director).

3. TASSA representatives met with YTB (TC. Başbakanlık Yurtdışı Türkler ve Akraba Topluluklar Başkanlığı – Turks and Relative Communities Abroad Office) representatives in New York on May 19, 2013.

Attendees: Gazali Çiçek (YTB Institutional Relations and Communication Director), Hüseyin Çardak (Coordinator), Muhlis Kaçar (Specialist), Ömer Yetkin (Assistant Specialist), Dr. Haluk Ünal (TASSA President), Dr. Hasan Ayaz (TASSA Vice President).

4. TASSA Vice President, Dr. Nilay Papila, had a meeting with Teknopark İstanbul representative, Ms. Banu OGAWA, and discussed ways of collaborating on Wed, June 26 in İstanbul.

Attendees: Dr. Nilay Papila (TASSA Vice President), Banu OGAWA (International Business Development Coordinator, Teknopark İstanbul)

5. Met with Aksaray University faculty members and representatives on August 7, 2013. Informed them about the US education system and universities and general information about academic publishing.

Attendees: Dr. Haluk Ünal (TASSA President), Dr. Ahmet Aydilek, Dr. Levent Guntay (Vice-President and Membership Comm. Chair) and Tuğba Guntay (TASSA Managing Director) and 17 faculty members from Aksaray University, Turkey.

6. TASSA Vice President, Dr. Nilay Papila, met the Science Academy representatives in İstanbul to explore the collaboration opportunities between the Academy and TASSA on Fri, October 4.

Attendees: Dr. Nilay Papila (TASSA Vice President), Prof. Dr. Ali Alpar (President of the Science Academy) and Prof. Dr. Ersin Yurtsever (Executive Board Member of the Science Academy).

7. Haluk Unal and Levent Guntay attended a meeting on “IT Solutions for Diaspora Scientists and Engineers” organized by David Proctor from the National Science Foundation. Several representatives from diaspora organizations, including the U.S. Science Attachés of Ireland and Italy, attended the meeting. Farzin Arsanjani introduced "[share.to](#)," which is a new social collaboration platform for diaspora members.

8. TASSA participated in a series of meetings held by TÜBİTAK regarding the action plan to strengthen science and technology opportunities between US-TR. Toward this end, TASSA Vice President, Dr. Candan Tamerler, attended to materials group and biomedical group meetings in Ankara.

9. TASSA also participated the Turkish National Academy of Science (TUBA) meeting in Ankara, December, 2013. Candan Tamerler represented TASSA in these meetings.

10. TASSA Vice President, Prof. Candan Tamerler, in her July and December visits to Turkey, had meetings in several universities in İstanbul and informed the upcoming TASSA conference, new activities TASSA is launching, e.g. TASSA Connect.

11. TASSA representatives met with Mr. Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu the leader of Turkey's main opposition party, the Republican People's Party (CHP) on December 1, 2013 and Faruk Logloglu the Vice President of CHP..

Attendees: TASSA President Haluk Unal, Vice President Levent Guntay Treasurer Refik Soyer, founding members Murat Tarımcılar and Yavuz Oruc.

12. A seminar by Kader Sevinc was organized on "Post-Gezi Turkey and Europe," on October 8, 2013 at Robert H. Smith School of Business Suite C-6 Ronald Reagan Building

13. TASSA participated the International Scientific Diasporas: Sharing Experiences Workshop on October 28th, 2013 at the Embassy of Italy. M. Sena Sahin represented TASSA.

4. Participation in Conferences and Events

- Science and Engineering Diaspora Event: NODES (Networks of Diasporas for Science and Technology), a partnership between the Department of State, AAAS, and the National Academies, held a Science Diaspora Event in Boston on February 14, 2013. TASSA was invited and represented by Dr. Gizem Dönmez, Assistant Professor at Tufts University, delivered a presentation on TASSA at the event.
- TASSA participated in the 33rd Annual Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) Conference and 2013 Turkish American National Leadership Convention on April 25-27, 2013 in Washington DC.

TASSA organized a panel titled "The Scientific Bridge Between Turkey & the US: Past, Present, Future". The panel featured Drs. Haluk Ünal (University of Maryland), Murat Tarımcılar (George Washington University), Şebnem Kalemli-Özcan (University of Maryland) and Hasan Ayaz (Drexel University).

- TASSA participated "Congress for Turkish Scientists Living Abroad" Meeting on July 4-5, 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting was hosted by TÜBİTAK and the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology.

TASSA attended to "2nd Congress for Turkish Scientists Living Abroad" meeting with the following representatives: Prof. Dr. Banu Onaral (Drexel University), Prof. Candan Tamerler (University of Washington), Prof. Dr. Aydoğan Özcan (UCLA), Prof. Dr. Selim Ünlü (Boston University), Prof. Dr. Kenan Gündoğdu (NCSU), Prof. Dr. Ahmet Yükleyen (University of Mississippi), Prof. Dr. Şeyda Ertekin (MIT), Dr. Nilay Papila (Ozyegin University), Dr. Hayat Önyüksel (UIC), Dr. Murat Günel (Yale) and Dr. Turgut Gür (Stanford).

- TASSA participated in the Global Innovation Partnership Forum 2013, on November 20-21, 2013 in Philadelphia. The event provided a platform for local and international partners to share experiences and ideas about the academic innovation ecosystem. Prof. Dr. Banu Onaral (Drexel University) and Dr. Hasan Ayaz (Drexel University) represented TASSA.

5. Other TASSA Activities

TASSA 2012 Annual Report

Issued “2012 Annual Report” which summarizes the activities the members of the TASSA Executive Committee and Board have undertaken together with our volunteers from technical groups and standing committees, and TASSA community.

Research Report: Patents from Turkey and European Union

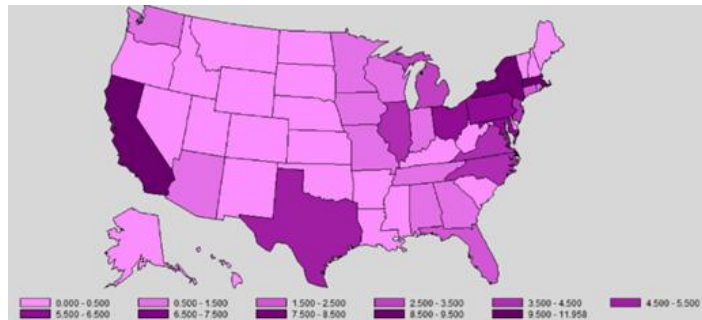
TASSA Vice-President, Dr. Hasan Ayaz prepared a “Research Report: Patents from Turkey and European Union”. This report’s aim was to find out how many US patents originated from Turkey and how this compared with other European countries.

TASSA Declaration on Gezi Park Events

TASSA Board of Directors and the Executive Board issued a joint statement on June 2, 2013, criticizing police actions at the start of the events.

Turkish Science Diaspora Map

TASSA generated the first Turkish Science Diaspora Map in the United States. The report provides the demographic characteristics of 2285 Turkish scholars and scientists from 785 US institutions. The map is provided below and the detailed report is available in the TASSA website and the September 2013 issue of the Bridge.



Turkish Science Diaspora Map of the United States

TASSA Web Committee Activities

TASSA announces a new platform for connecting TASSA members and institutes. The new web portal TASSA-Connect provides job search, interview scheduling, research news and many more exciting features to connect its members.

TASSA Connect also serves as a platform for research collaboration opportunities in the fields of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Health and Biomedical Sciences, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences and Art & Humanities for Turkish and American researchers.

TASSA 2014 Conference

TASSA 2014 Conference is scheduled to be organized at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD on March 22-23, 2014.

The program committee consists of the following members:

Aydogan Ozcan, UCLA (Chair)
 Ertugrul Cubukcu, University of Pennsylvania
 Ayse Imrohoroglu, USC
 Banu Onaral, Drexel University
 Ali Parlakturk, University of North Carolina
 Ertugrul Tacioglu, UCLA
 Candan Tamerler, The University of Kansas

The committee started its work in August 2013. A new initiative, Young Scholars Awards, was announced and nominations were solicited.

6. TASSA Organizational Chart, Members of the Board and Committees



Board of Directors: Eight Directors and the President, who is also the Chairman of the Board.

Executive Committee: President (CEO), Vice President, Treasurer (CFO and Chairman of the Finance Committee), Managing Director (COO), Editor, Standing Committee Chairs (4)

Board of Directors

Hüseyin Abut, San Diego State University

Turgay Ertekin, Pennsylvania State University

Murat Günel, Yale School of Medicine

Orhan Gürbüz, Tobolski Watkins Engineering Inc. & Gürbüz Consulting

Şebnem Kalemli-Özcan, University of Maryland

Aydoğan Özcan, UCLA

Fusun Özgüner, Ohio State University

Mehmet Toner, Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Haluk Ünal, University of Maryland (Chairman of the Board)

Board Committees**Audit Committee**

Şebnem Kalemli-Özcan, University of Maryland (Chair)

Işıl Erel, Ohio State University

Daver Kahvecioğlu, American Institutes for Research

Nominating Committee

Hüseyin Abut, San Diego State University (Chair)

Ayşe Imrohoroğlu, University of Southern California

Candan Tamerler, University of Washington

Mehmet Toner, Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Executive Committee

Haluk Ünal, President

Hasan Ayaz, Vice President

Levent Güntay, Vice President

Nilay Papila, Vice President

Candan Tamerler, Vice President

Tuğba Güntay, Managing Director (January 2013 - August 2013)

Sena Sahin, Managing Director (August 2013 - Present) and Editor (August 2013- Present)

Aylin Sagay, Editor (January 2013 – June 2013)

Refik Soyer, Treasurer

Standing Committees

Finance

Turan G. Bali, Georgetown University
Işıl Erel, Ohio State University
Ferhat Esen, The World Bank
Pınar Güvenir, Cagal and Associates, LLC
Levent Gntay, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Refik Soyer, George Washington University
Murat Tarımcılar, George Washington University

Membership

Hasan Ayaz, Drexel University
Smer Can, Diodes, Inc.
Levent Gntay, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Nilay Papila, Science Connect, Inc.
Candan Tamerler, University of Washington

Public Relations

Gizem Dnmez, Tufts University
Şeyda Ertekin, MIT
Nilay Papila, Science Connect, Inc.
Burhaneddin Sandıkçı, University of Chicago

Relationship with Turkey

Hasan Ayaz, Drexel University
Turgut Gr, Stanford University
Daver Kahveciođlu, American Institutes for Research
mit zgner, The Ohio State University
Nilay Papila, Science Connect, Inc.
Candan Tamerler, University of Washington
Blent Yavuz, Nanostellar, Inc.

Rules

Timur Edib, Timur Edib Law Office
Ferhat Esen, The World Bank
Tuđba Gntay, Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association
Daver Kahveciođlu, American Institutes for Research

Web

Murat Aksoy, Stanford University
Hasan Ayaz, Drexel University
Fatih Culha, Department of Defense
Yalçın Sert, Customs and Border Protection
Senay Solak, University of Massachusetts

Technical Groups

Engineering and Applied Sciences

Ertuğrul Çubukcu, University of Pennsylvania
Şeyda Ertekin, MIT Sloan School of Management
Metin Sitti, Carnegie Mellon University
Selim Ünlü, Boston University

Health and Biomedical Sciences

Hatice Altuğ, Boston University
Gizem Dönmez, Tufts University
Bahri Karaçay, University of Iowa
Nilgün Tümer, Rutgers University

Natural Sciences

Bülent Akgün, National Institute of Standards and Technology
Ertuğrul Taciroglu, UCLA
Serap Erdal, University of Illinois at Chicago
Batuhan Osmanoğlu, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Social Sciences and Art & Humanities

Ayşe Imrohoroğlu, University of Southern California
Hülya Eraslan, Johns Hopkins University
Çağlar Özden, The World Bank
Ahmet Yükleven, University of Mississippi

7. Directors, Executive Committee, Standing Committee Meetings

- Board of Directors Meetings: August 25, 2013
- Executive Committee Meetings: Jan 27, March 23, July 21, 2013 and September 15, 2013
- Standing Committee Meetings:
 - Web Committee: February 20, February 27, March 6, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 11, April 18 and May 9
- TASSA WISESS Meetings: A new ad hoc committee is formed to develop policy on organizing a conference on opportunities with Women in Sciences, Engineering, and Social Sciences (WISESS). Committee members are Dr. Candan Tamerler (University of Kansas), Dr. Feryal Ozel (University of Arizona), Dr. Sebnem Kalemli-Ozcan (University of Maryland), Dr. Hayat Önyüksel (University of Illinois at Chicago), Dr. Serap Aksoy (Yale University), Dr. Ayse Imrohoroglu (University of Southern California)
 - The committee held two meetings on April 6 and April 30.

8. TASSA 2013 Institutional Members

Championing Members



Sustaining Members



Promoting Members



Sponsor Members



APPENDIX 1 -TASSA 2013 ACTIVITIES



*The Bridge,
Bi-monthly Newsletter*



*Science and Engineering Diaspora Event
In Boston February 14, 2013*



*TASSA attended USA-TR Joint Science and
Technology Committee Meeting in Ankara
April 3-4, 2013*



*TASSA organized a panel at the ATAA's 33rd
Annual Assembly in Washington DC April 25-27,
2013*



*TASSA met US Science Envoy, Dr. Susan
Hockfield in Washington DC on April 26, 2013*



*US-TR Delegation, Biomedical Working Group,
Ankara April, 2013*

TASSA 2013 Activities, continued



*"Summit for Turkish Scientists Living Abroad"
meeting in Istanbul July 4-5, 2013*



*TASSA organized "Post-Gezi" Turkey and
Europe Seminar by Kader Sevinc on Tuesday
October 8 2013 at Robert H. Smith School of
Business Suite C-6 Ronald Reagan Building*



*TASSA representatives met with Mr. Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, the leader of Turkey's main opposition
party, the Republican People's Party (CHP) on December 1, 2013*

2013 Featured Young Scientists in TASSA Newsletter



Şeyda Şeyda Ertekin, Ph.D.



Ayşe Kivılcım Coşkun, Ph.D.



Utkan Demirci, Ph.D.



Ertuğrul Çubukçu, Ph.D.



Alp Simsek, Ph.D.

“Conversation with a Scientist and Scholar” Corner in TASSA the Bridge Newsletter



Feryal Özel, Ph.D.



Hayat Önyüksel, Ph.D.



Nihal Altan-Bonnet, Ph.D.



Tassa Website Visits (Oct 1, 2013-Dec 31. 2013)

Country		Visits	New Visits	Pages / Visit	Avg. Visit Duration
		4,240 % of Total: 100.00% (4,240)	3,234 % of Total: 100.03% (3,233)	3.08 Site Avg: 3.08 (0.00%)	00:02:26 Site Avg: 00:02:26 (0.00%)
1.	United States	2,227	1,654	3.66	00:03:04
2.	Turkey	1,385	1,057	2.68	00:01:58
3.	Germany	60	42	2.07	00:00:53
4.	Canada	57	44	1.95	00:01:40
5.	United Kingdom	56	46	2.18	00:01:05
6.	France	51	48	3.75	00:02:03
7.	India	30	29	1.47	00:00:53
8.	Australia	29	27	1.59	00:00:26
9.	Pakistan	27	15	2.15	00:03:09
10.	Netherlands	25	22	1.24	00:00:28



TURKISH AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION tassa CONFERENCE

March 22-23, 2014 ● Van Munching Hall, Robert H. Smith School of Business
University of Maryland at College Park, Maryland

TASSA conferences will bring together prominent scientists and scholars from leading American and Turkish institutions as well as decision makers and potential partners. The theme of the 2014 conference is **Global Opportunities**.

Register at: www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2014/Registration

Conference Theme

This year's conference theme will be centered on **"Global Opportunities"**, which will broadly cover the emerging technical and social challenges as well as related opportunities that are likely to transform our world in the coming decades. Our conference will also focus on another very important and timely theme, that is: **"Women in Science, Engineering, and Social Sciences"**.

One of the goals of the 2014 TASSA Conference is to recognize the success of Turkish-American women in basic and applied as well as social sciences and learn from their experiences. The WISESS Symposium will bring together Turkish women scientists who work in America and Turkey together with women leaders of academia.

WISESS

Young Scholar Awards

Graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and researchers (from academia and industry), and junior faculty who have excelled in their respective fields are invited to submit a nomination (including self-nominations) for the inaugural **TASSA Young Scholar Awards**.

Nomination Submission Deadline: **January 6, 2014, 5PM EST.**

For more information: www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2014/Young-Scholar-Award

Poster session will serve as a platform for principal investigators, students, postdoctoral fellows and researchers as well as institutions who would like to present their scholarly efforts.

Poster Presentation Session

For more information: www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2014/Poster

Talent & Innovation Showcase

Great opportunity for Turkish University representatives to meet and interview graduating Turkish students. Formal interviews are conducted in professional interview rooms. The new **TASSA CONNECT** platform will facilitate applicants to set up appointments with University and other research institutions from Turkey and the United States.

For Questions:
Email to: ed@tassausa.org

About TASSA

Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association (TASSA) is an independent, non-profit and non-political organization established in June 2004 in Washington, DC.

*TASSA aims to contribute to the social welfare and the industrial development in the U.S.A. and Turkey through the promotion of education and science.

*TASSA promotes friendship and fellowship among Turkish-American professionals engaged in engineering, natural, life and social sciences, and related fields.

*TASSA enhances the professional and social status of Turkish-American professionals engaged in engineering, natural, life and social sciences, and related fields.

*TASSA promotes and cultivates the next generation of Turkish-American scientists and scholars.

*TASSA has a large community and network of nearly 5,000 Turkish scientists and scholars. TASSA members come from

- Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities



MISSION

TASSA's mission is to promote educational, scientific and technological cooperation between the U.S.A. and Turkey and to facilitate the advancement of science in Turkey and the USA through scientific exchange, educational programs and increased networking.



TASSA newsletter: The Bridge

The Bridge is a bimonthly newsletter that informs TASSA members about

- TASSA Board and committee activities
- News and job opportunities from Turkey
- Accomplishments of Turkish scientists and scholars.

The Bridge has more than 1,500 active readers. (<http://www.tassausa.org/News-From-TASSA>)

TASSA Educational Activities

- **TASSA Academy:** A future project aimed at bringing junior faculty from Turkish universities and distinguished faculty from US together in instructive workshops
- **Workshops:** Regional research seminars in various fields bring together TASSA community members and provide great networking opportunities for the attendees.

VISION

TASSA's vision is to build a sustainable science bridge between the U.S.A. and Turkey. This bridge would facilitate the flow of people (scientists and scholars), knowledge, and technology and help link science and technology institutions in the two countries.



TASSA Annual Conferences

TASSA Conferences have the objective to establish a forum and create a dynamic platform for many young and experienced American, Turkish, and Turkish-American scientists and scholars to explore and develop new collaborative initiatives. Past conferences were held at:

- 2012 - Smith School of Business, University of Maryland
 - 2008 - Harvard Medical School
 - 2007 - Yale University
 - 2006 - Drexel University
 - 2005 - George Washington University
- (<http://www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2012>)

For more information about TASSA visit us at <http://www.tassausa.org/>