

Key Contacts

President: Banu Onaral, PhD
Email: president@tassausa.org

Past President: Suleyman Gokoglu, PhD
Email: pastpresident@tassausa.org

President Elect: Aysenil Berger-Arcasoy, PhD
Email: presidentelect@tassausa.org

Executive Director: Murat Tukul M.Sc
Email: executivedirector@tassausa.org

For more information and inquiries please contact TASSA at

URL: <http://www.tassausa.org>

Email: info@tassausa.org

Address: 1526 18th Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
U.S.A

Phone/Fax: + 1-800-620-4120

TURKISH AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION



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The Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association (TASSA) is an independent, non-profit and non-political organization promoting educational and scientific cooperation between the USA and Turkey. Established in June 2004 in Washington, D.C., it aims to facilitate the advancement of science in Turkey and the USA through scientific exchange and educational programs and increased networking.

VISION

TASSA's vision is to build a sustainable **science bridge** between the U.S. 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 will accomplish its vision by:

- Exchanges of scientists
- Facilitating joint research projects and joint publications with scientists based in Turkey
- Facilitating sabbaticals
- Establishing a "Science Corps" for voluntary short-term assignments
- Forming networks of scientists based in the U.S. and Turkey in various disciplines



AMB. FARUK LOGOGLU



DR. KENAN SAHIN



PROF. ERDAL INONU



PROF. GEORGE ATKINSON

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- Twinning of U.S. and Turkish scientific and academic institutions
- Facilitating the sharing of best practice among science institutions.

The building of a **science bridge** requires strong "legs" on both sides of the Atlantic. Thus, as a matter of priority, TASSA is strengthening its own internal organization, expanding its membership, and developing directories of people and institutions, in both Turkey and the US.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

During its short existence TASSA has held its first annual conference, developed a Web site, started its first program, and completed its organization.

First Annual Meeting

TASSA held its first annual meeting at the George Washington University in Washington, DC on February, 19-20, 2005, attended by over 300 participants, including presidents of seven Turkish universities and representatives of Turkish and U.S. science policy establishments. The plenary address was delivered by a distinguished Turkish physicist and former deputy prime minister of Turkey, Prof. Erdal Inonu, on the subject of history of science in the Turkish Republic.

TASSA Web Site (www.tassausa.org)

TASSA placed top priority on the development of its Web site because of the opportunities a Web-based presence offers to network-based organizations like TASSA. The Web site helps facilitate communication among members through various electronic forums. It also serves as a communication and decision-making forum for the TASSA Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

The Visiting Scholars Program

This first program launched by TASSA aims to promote communication and cooperation between TASSA members in the US and their counterparts in Turkey. It helps match TASSA members planning to visit Turkey and are willing to share their research activities and experience with their colleagues in Turkey with Turkish universities or other institutions expressing interest in the research area of the visiting TASSA member. A database of potential host institutions in Turkey has been developed, as well as online application forms for those interested to serve as visiting scholars, or to host them in Turkey. TASSA members wishing to serve as visiting scholars can join the program through the TASSA Web site and Turkish institutions wishing to host such scholars can express their interest through an e-mail addressed to: visitingscholars@tassausa.org.

ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

TASSA is governed by a Board of Directors, whose members are elected for two-year terms by the dues-paying members. The Board's Executive Committee serves as the principal administrative and managerial oversight body within TASSA, led by the TASSA President and President-Elect. TASSA's operations are managed by the Executive Director. In addition, several standing and ad hoc committees facilitate the operations of the organization. Three of these have played significant roles in the establishment and "take off" of TASSA: the Elections and Bylaws Committee, the Web Development Committee, and the Annual Conference Committee.

TASSA's members are scientists and scholars in the fields of:

- Social sciences, arts and humanities
- Health & biomedical sciences
- Engineering & applied sciences
- Natural sciences.

Members of each of the four technical groups listed above elect their own representatives to serve on the Board. Membership is open to all scientists and scholars interested in the mission of TASSA, including students as "student members."