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11TH Technical Seminar Opening Speech

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Distinguished Representatives of Cement Industry

Dear Guests,

As Turkish Cement Manufacturers' Association, I would like to extend a warm welcome and my gratitude to you.

You are all welcome to the 11th Technical Seminar organized for every two years with the aim of sharing the recent developments in cement industry and bringing all industry together.

Since 1987 with its corporate structure and scope Technical Seminars have extended beyond forming a platform where developments on technology, service and system are followed.

In this context the seminars have become beyond a traditional gathering where the themes of the Seminar stand at the top of our industry's agenda. I believe that presentations will be focusing on energy efficiency, waste heat recovery, wastes, alternative fuels and environment etc. thus will facilitate new and significant solutions.

Turkish Cement Industry now stands at first rank in production in Europe and fifth in the world.

Today, our happiness is two fold. In addition to organizing the 11th Technical Seminar, we are celebrating centenary anniversary of Turkish cement industry's establishment. Cement industry being a great moving force in the development and growth of the state for 100 years, keeps strengthening and making contributions to future of the country with the mission of "constructing power of life". Success story created on behalf of the industry and national economy during the past 100 years shows that we have made great progress toward achieving the goal of competitive Turkey in world-ranking.

The underlying reason of this success is the sense of responsibility of being the first industrial branch and one of notable locomotive powers of our country. Furthermore, production methods to be developed through making the most of technological opportunities only if we keep cultural and historical values and our vision giving priority to responsibilities for environment and future generations carried the industry to current situation.

Distinguished guests,

Production capacity of cement industry, which was just 20 thousand tons in 1911, reached over 66million tons today. This success leads Turkish Cement Industry to rank among the top on global scale. Cement industry that provides employment opportunities for 15 000 people with 48 integrated and 19 grinding plants, increased cement production by 1,11% in the first half of 2011 with respect to the same period of the previous year,2010.

Within this period, about 19% of total production is exported and domestic sales went up by 12% when compared to last year.

Although our industry was affected negatively by the turmoil in the Middle East, about 4,5 billion \$ turnover and 1 billion \$ export revenue were realized in 2010. Today making exportation to about 90 countries the Turkish cement industry is becoming more powerful in global market day by day.

Since 54 years, Turkish Cement Manufacturers' Association has taken the responsibility of being representative of Turkish Cement Industry. As member of CEMBUREAU since 1972, the Association has achieved fundamental success through collaboration in the fields related to universities, non-governmental organizations and other affiliated establishments in addition to R&D services, training, international cooperation, certification and compilation of industrial data.

Dear Participants,

What makes 11th Technical Seminar different from previous years is the international participation of top executives from many cement industries in addition to Turkish cement industry, a pleasant reflection of building strong relationships on global scale.

Like all industries cement sector has issues required to be overcome and certainly they will continue to be. However, with the power of the solidarity and cooperation of 100 years, there is no doubt that we have the belief and resolution to get over all issues we confront.

As it used to be, we will continue to work with constructive and alternative methods in the issues such as eliminating obstacles of waste fuel use, preventing unqualified and non-standard ready mixed concrete manufacture, having public support that we require for the fulfillment of environmental responsibilities and tackling with climate change within the framework of Kyoto Protocol

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the whole team for their success in making this event and warm welcome to esteemed representatives of our industry, all national and international guests who are here today. Also I would like to thank you all our sponsors for your valuable contributions to this seminar.