



World Federation of The Deaf



www.wfdcongress2015.org

Strengthening Human Diversity

Turkish National Federation of the Deaf (TNFD) is organizing "XVII. World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf" under the World Federation of the Deaf in ISTANBUL between July 28th – August 2nd, 2015 in International Congress and Event Center.

As a host of XVII. World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, we are am deeply honored to invite you to attend this World Congress at a city unique for its history, atmosphere and beauty.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our conference organizer (info@wfdcongress2015.org) Istanbul is waiting for you in 2015.



To our national, regional and international friends, the worldwide Deaf Community,

At the last General Assembly of the World Federation of the Deaf, country members voted that the Turkish Federation National of the Deaf have the privilege to host the XVII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf in Istanbul, Turkey. The official dates for the World Congress are 28th July to 2nd August, 2015.

In my first term as President of the WFD, it is a great honour for me and the WFD Board to welcome all WFD members and friends to join the World Congress in Turkey. I have visited Turkey myself and know that it is an exceptional place. Turkey in July 2015 will be exciting because of the Congress, but it is also a wonderful country to visit, so there are two excellent reasons to join us at the World Congress. This is the first time WFD has had an international congress organised at the gateway of Europe and Asia and we are very proud to have Turkey welcoming the global deaf community to their region.

While I am writing this, our teams are working hard to get Istanbul ready to host thousands of people from all over the world. The congress is not only oriented to attract deaf people, but also to welcome everyone especially parents and families of deaf people, interpreters, different professionals who work with deaf people and government officials.

As you will remember, 133 country members at our WFD General Assembly in South Africa adopted the new vision for the WFD for 2011 – 2015: "Deaf people have full human rights in an equal world where they and their sign languages are recognised and included as part of human diversity."

The WFD Board is honoured to approve the theme for the World Congress: "Strengthening Human Diversity". This is a twofold call. First, to recognise deaf people as a part of human diversity. And second, to recognise and strengthen diversity in every deaf community globally, including children, youth, senior citizens, women, LGTB people, deaf people with disabilities, deafblind people and CODAs, whether in developed or developing countries, and to continue working together in the areas of sign language, deaf studies, education, employment, accessibility, technology, health and bioethics.

Of course this is a call to continue our important work to achieve equality for deaf people based on the international treaty, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to start making your travel plans for 2015 so that we can all come together to create an unforgettable experience – and naturally also so that you can visit Turkey, one of the most beautiful countries in the world!

See you there!

Kind regards

*Colin Allen
President
World Federation of the Deaf
31 January 2013*



Hello,
I am Ercüment
TANRIVERDİ, the
President of the Turkish
National Federation of
the Deaf (TNFD) and
the Chairman of the
Organization Committee
for the 17th World
Congress of the World
Federation of the Deaf.

As you know, Istanbul/Turkey is waiting for the 17th World Congress for the Deaf because Turkey was entitled to host this year's Congress, in the previous one organized in South Africa, in 2011. From my point of view, the 17th World Congress is of crucial importance for the deaf..

Although sign language was officially recognized in Turkey, there are still a lot of significant problems in the field of education. Despite the recognition of this language, the activities to put it into practice are advancing very slowly. In addition, the strides made about the social lives of the deaf people in Turkey are very slow, too. Though we, as the Turkish National Federation of the Deaf (TNFD), have warned the government several times about these matters and received such answers as "You're right, we will resolve this issue.", there is no concrete solution in our hands. We indicate that there good examples about deaf people in the world, as well bad ones, however we want to be a developing and reforming country in this regard. We aim that when the deaf people from all around the world come to our country, the Turkish Government and Turkish nation could see the good examples and how they have surmounted the difficulties in education, how they developed their social lives and thus they distinguish the differences of the deaf culture and change their old fallacies at the same time. We hope to achieve this.

Having an outstanding 8.000-year history, İstanbul is a city which has hosted diverse cultures. I hope that all the deaf people coming from all around the world will be delighted to see this beautiful city.

We continue our activities with the head and the members of Executive Board for the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and we receive very important support from them. Recently, we have attended a meeting at the Ministry of Family and Social Policies of the Turkish Republic. Indicating that the area of activity of the Ministry are in paralel with the subjects that World Congress handles, we asked for assistance and support for this Congress. Our dear Minister Fatma ŞAHİN agreed and we came to a common ground on all subjects. For this reason, we are very contented that WFD is provided a firm support in this regard.

We are aware that similar problems exist in many countries in the world, as in Turkey. We hope that this World Congress that will be organized in Turkey, as the host country of this year, will contribute positively to the lives of all deaf people in the world. We become aware of the problems of these people through our dialogues with various countries and associations besides the information that the WFD provides us. We want that Turkey hosts this transformation process.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was approved by our country as a signatory state and passed from the parliament, but we rarely see related implementations in this regard. The implementations are generally aimed for people with physical disabilities or people who are visually impaired. So, what about "the Deaf"?

Are the lives and education of the deaf people considered as a problem? Then, alright; the World Congress is the place where we can find solutions to these problems. We have reached a consensus with the government about this issue. I here let you know that we have initiated the activities for the Congress and we have opened our web-site. You can find information on our web-site about the history of İstanbul, other information about the city, contact details about the Congress and how you can enrol in the Congress. I hereby want to say welcome to you all and wish that all the deaf people and all the countries around world participate in this Congress.

Because Turkey is in the middle of the world, in other words, if we metaphorically liken the world to human body, Turkey is the center point of this body. The air transport provides easy access to Turkey; it is also easy to access both in terms of inner city and inland transportations.

We would like to see that all the deaf people around the world visit Turkey. We want that all the world countries support us with their participation, as WFD does. With your contributions, the lives of the dead people in Turkey will experience a positive transformation. I hope that the rate of participation in the Congress will be high.

The Congress is significant because various matters ranging from the education to the lives of the deaf, from the situation of deaf women to the promotion of sign language will be brought to the forefront in the Congress programme.

I invite all deaf people around the world to this grand organization. Thank you for your attention.

Ercüment TANRIVERDİ

President of the Turkish National Federation of the Deaf (TNFD)

Chairman of the Organization Committee for the 17th World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf



World Congress Program and Schedule may be subject to changes

Hours	28 July 2015
09:30 / 17:30	Fair And Exhibition
12:00/ 13:30	Lunch
13:30/ 16:30	Opening Ceremony
16:30/ 18:00	Welcome Cocktail
20:00/ 01:00	International Deaf Pub

Meeting Hall 1	
Hours	29 July 2015
09:30 / 17:30	Human Rights
13:00 / 14:30	Lunch
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion

09:30 / 17:30	Fair And Exhibition
20:00/ 01:00	International Deaf Pub

Meeting Hall 1	
Hours	30 July 2015
09:30 / 17:30	Deaf Education
13:00 / 14:30	Lunch
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion

09:30 / 17:30	Fair And Exhibition
20:00/ 01:00	International Deaf Pub

Meeting Hall 1	
Hours	31 July 2015
09:30 / 17:30	Sign Language And Deaf Studies
13:00 / 14:30	Lunch
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion

09:30 / 17:30	Fair And Exhibition
20:00/ 01:00	International Deaf Pub

Meeting Hall 1	
Hours	01 August 2015
09:30 / 12:30	Deafblind
13:00 / 14:00	Lunch
14:00 / 17:30	Deaf Senior Citizens
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion

19:00 / 01:00	Farewell Party
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HOURS 02 AUGUST 2015	
CLOSING CEREMONY	

Meeting Hall 2	
Hours	29 July 2015
09:30 / 17:30	Health
13:00 / 14:30	Lunch
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion

Meeting Hall 3	
Hours	29 July 2015
09:30 / 17:30	Children and Women
13:00 / 14:30	Lunch
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion

Meeting Hall 2	
Hours	30 July 2015
09:30 / 17:30	Developing Countries
13:00 / 14:30	Lunch
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion

Meeting Hall 3	
Hours	30 July 2015
09:30 / 17:30	Accessibility and Technology
13:00 / 14:30	Lunch
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion

Meeting Hall 2	
Hours	31 July 2015
09:30 / 17:30	Bioethics
13:00 / 14:30	Lunch
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion

Meeting Hall 3	
Hours	31 July 2015
09:30 / 17:30	Youth
13:00 / 14:30	Lunch
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion

Meeting Hall 2	
Hours	01 August 2015
09:30 / 17:30	CODAs
13:00 / 14:00	Lunch
14:00 / 17:30	LGTB
16:30 / 17:30	Panel Discussion