

AmCham Events & Committees
Q1 NEWSLETTER

**AM
CHAM**
TÜRKİYE
Amerikan
Şirketler
Derneği



EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

We are profoundly saddened by the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.
We offer our sincere condolences and solidarity to all those affected.

Aid pledges to humanitarian efforts in Türkiye & Syria announced by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (including AmCham members) reached **\$ 112 million** and counting.

RESCUE

RELIEF

RECOVERY

Monetary Support

Direct Donations & Global Employee Matching Campaign
for Urgent Needs and Long-term Projects

In-kind Donations

Urgent Needs (Construction Vehicles, Sheltering, Food & Water, Hygiene Products, Energy, Digital Support, Medical Care) & Long-term Needs

Volunteering Efforts

Long-term Recovery Projects
(Psychological Support, Education, Employment, Children & Youth, Agriculture, etc.)

AmCham & US Chamber Calls for Members: Corporate Call for Earthquake Recovery

AmCham Türkiye, in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and U.S. Türkiye Business Council hosted private corporate coordination calls with aid and emergency response experts. The goal of these calls was to share information and updates about the evolving needs on the ground in Türkiye's earthquake-stricken region. Private sector initiatives are discussed to best support the aid response for communities affected by the earthquakes. Topics of discussion include partnerships in human and health needs, corporate mobilization of aid, small- and medium-enterprise (SME) resilience, aerospace, defense, energy and infrastructure.

February 10th Call hosted:

- Jeff Flake, U.S. Ambassador to Türkiye
- Murat Mercan, Turkish Ambassador to the United States
- Tankut Turnaoğlu, AmCham Türkiye Chair

The calls continued on a weekly basis and held on Feb 15, Feb 22, March 1, March 13, March 29 and hosted USAID and UN Connecting Business Initiative leaders, as well as CIPE and TED.

AmCham Earthquake Recovery Projects Circle

AmCham Earthquake Recovery Projects Circle was established on February 23 with the overall aim to;

- to exchange ideas on creating various joint projects for the affected region,
- to evaluate, develop and implement long-term projects in line with our members' priorities,
- to introduce reliable stakeholders both local and international.

37 representatives from 26 member companies attended to 7 meetings with:

- Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG)
- Needs Map (İhtiyaç Haritası)
- The Federation of Women Associations of Türkiye(Türkiye Kadın Dernekleri Federasyonu)
- Arun Venkatamaran, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service
- CAF America - grantmaking organization assisting corporations, foundations, and individuals-meeting with TEV, TED, SEV, and Suna'nın Kızları
- UN Connecting Business Initiative

AMCHAM PROPOSED & ONGOING PROJECTS

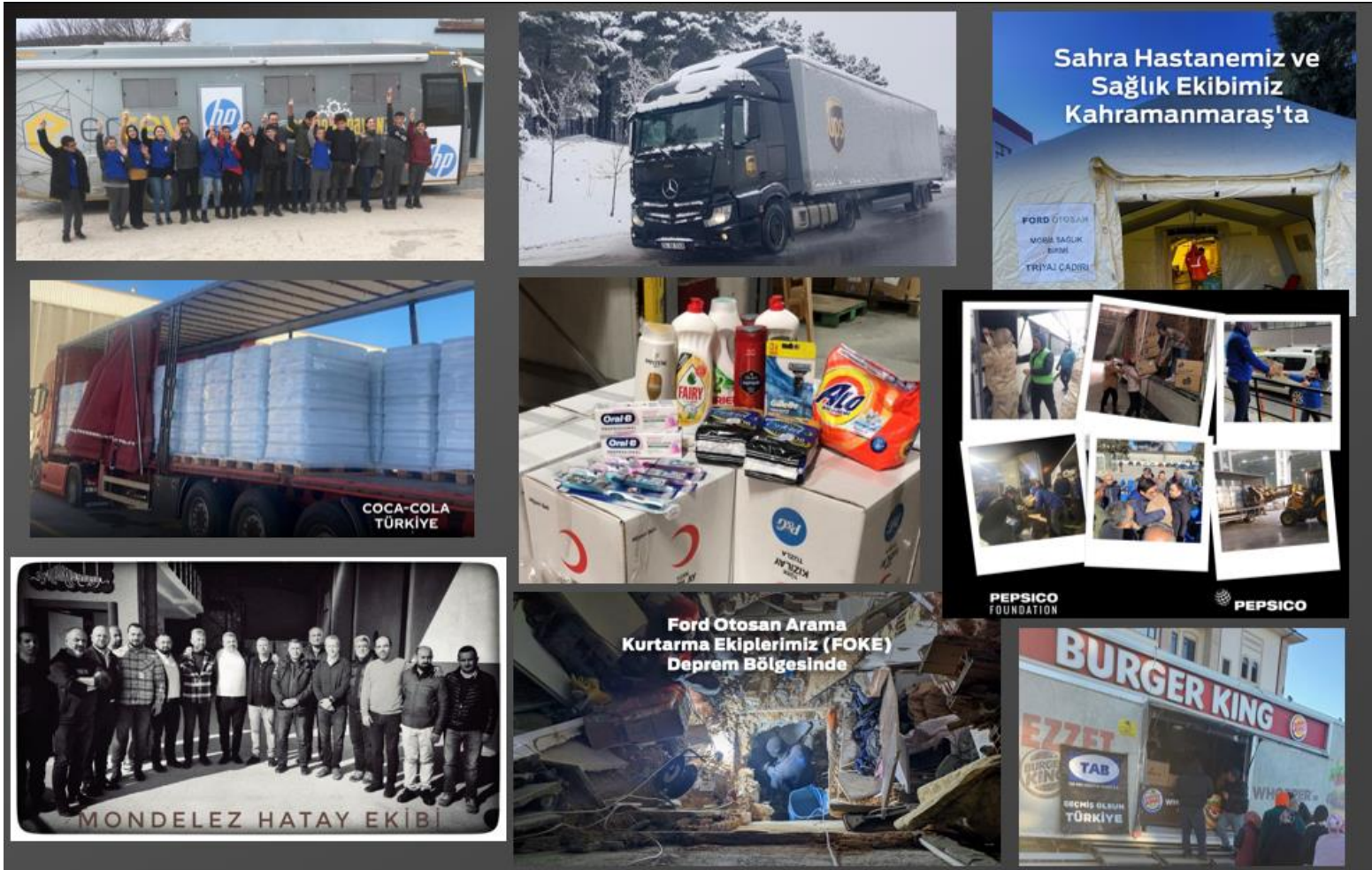
2023 1st Half Project Fields – Near Term Recovery Projects

- **EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT:** AmCham Academy, LinkedIn Solidarity at Work Group
- **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:** Mor Yerleşke (Purple Spaces)
- **AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HEALTH:** AmCham Food & Agriculture Committee Works

2023 2nd Half Project Fields – Longer Term Recovery Projects

- **SME RESILIENCE:** Export Academy, Sağlam KOBİ
- **SMART LIVING CENTERS:** AmCham Earthquake Reconstruction Focused Meeting in Urfa

AMCHAM MEMBERS RESCUE & RELIEF EFFORTS



BRIEFING WEBINARS & SEMINARS ON EARTHQUAKE

March 21 | Proactive Earthquake Risk Management with Miyamoto International

AmCham Türkiye organized "**Proactive Earthquake Risk Management**" webinar organized in cooperation with its member **Miyamoto International**, a global earthquake + engineering and project management company. The webinar hosted:

- **Yusuf Zahit GÜNDOĞDU**, President, Miyamoto International Türkiye and
- **Mustafa ERDİK**, Professor Emeritus of Earthquake Engineering at Bogazici University.

During the webinar, the following topics were discussed by the speakers:

- Proactive Earthquake Risk Management
- Resilient Structures
- Post-Earthquake Business Sustainability
- Neglecting Non-Structural Risks
- Controlling Human Panic and Secondary Disaster
- General evaluation of Feb. 6 earthquakes in Türkiye.
- Assess the earthquake risk - How to reduce the earthquake risk?
- Do not increase the risk (design and construct all buildings and infrastructures in adherence to the codes)
- Decrease the risk (improve the earthquake performance of the existing buildings and infrastructures)
- Transfer the risk (earthquake insurance, reinsurance, cat-bonds)

Please click to watch the webinar: [LINK](#)



Chamber Corner I Disaster Readiness Seminar Series

The Chamber Corner, composed of International Chambers of Commerce and Trade Promotion Agencies in Istanbul including AmCham Türkiye, jointly organized seminars on:

- **"Basic Disaster Readinessa"** on **March 7th** and on **March 10th**
- **"Trauma Psychology & Post-Earthquake Psychological First Aid"** on **March 15th**
- **"Disaster First Aid Training"** on **April 26th**



March 31 I AmCham Earthquake Recovery Circle Roundtable Meeting with Arun VENKATARAMAN, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets

AmCham Earthquake Recovery Circle Members attended to an exclusive roundtable meeting with Arun VENKATARAMAN, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets, at the U.S. Consulate Istanbul premises to discuss the current situation in the disaster area and members' support for possible recovery projects.



April 6 I AmCham Recovery Circle Meeting Hosting CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) President

AmCham Türkiye hosted CAF President Ted Hart at its premises and organized 2 separate meetings with AmCham Earthquake Recovery Circle Members and Local NGOs. During these meeting, the participants were informed on CAF's experience in partnering with US Companies and with local NGOs.

* CAF America is a global world-class grantmaking organization assisting corporations, foundations, and individuals. They streamline the grantmaking process to eliminate risk and administrative burden.



MEMBER EVENTS

January 24 I AmCham & Swedish Chamber of Commerce Joint Seminar

AmCham Türkiye and Swedish Chamber of Commerce (SCC) organized a seminar on "2022 Total Remuneration Survey Results and 2023 Salary Increase Plans Seminar" in partnership with Mercer. The seminar focused on steps taken to improve the conditions of workers in the labor market, wage policies and fringe benefits.



March 22 I AmCham Türkiye General Assembly Meeting

AmCham Türkiye New Board of Directors is elected at the General Assembly meeting attended by **U.S. Ambassador Jeff FLAKE** and **Presidency Investment Office President Burak Dağlıoğlu**.

Tankut Turnaoglu of Procter & Gamble is elected as the Chair of AmCham Board! For the full list of Board Members, Audit Members and Advisory Board please click: [NEW BOARD LIST](#)

** At the meeting, those who lost their lives in the earthquake were commemorated with a moment of silence.*



WOMEN LEADERSHIP

January 19 I AmCham D&I Committee Women Leadership Event

AmCham Türkiye D&I Committee's Women Leadership Summit, led by Ayşegül Dicle Aydın and hosted by PepsiCo Türkiye covered a diverse set of topics including:

- **EDUCATING MEN** by Tayfun BAYAZIT
- **WOMEN LEADERSHIP IN ACADEMY** by Nükhet Örnek Büken, Hacettepe University
- **WOMEN IN SPORTS** by Ebru Koksal, CFA
- **WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY** by Zehra Öney
- **UN WOMEN SUPPORT TO WOMEN LEADERSHIP** by Pınar Akçayöz De Neve
- **GENDER DIVERSITY IN CORPORATE BOARDS** by Melsa Ararat
- **WOMEN LEADERSHIP IN THE US PUBLIC SECTOR** by Fleur Cowan, U.S. Consulate



March 31 I AmCham Women Leadership Session @Estee Lauder

AmCham Türkiye Women Leadership Session, honored by **U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets Arun Venkataraman**, was held at **Estee Lauder** office in Istanbul.

Assistant Secretary Venkataraman participated in to a fireside chat with **İnci Haseki of UNICEF** Turkish National Committee and **Hande Islak of EBRD** to discuss how the International Community responded to the earthquake and the impact of women in the response.

AmCham members **Coca-Cola, Iron Mountain, Kraft Heinz, Organon** and **Esin Attorney** signed **EMPOWER HER** declaration at the event. www.trade.gov/empower-her



AmCham Türkiye Women Leadership Session hosted by Estée Lauder continued with 2 special sessions on:

* **A Historical Approach:** Role of U.S. education in Turkish women's participation into workforce

- Haluk Yalcin, AmCham Türkiye Board Advisory Member
- Özlem Cinemre, SEV Foundation, Board Member
- Dr.Nurcan YURDAKUL, AmCham History Project Leader

* **Women in the Workplace:** Sectoral Approach

- Sevilay Yangın, Regional HR Director Turkey, West Asia, Levant, Medtronic
- Elif Merve Sarı Bulut, MSc, Country Manager of Turkey & Caspian Region, Johnson Controls
- İpek Ersavaş, General Manager, Estee Lauder
- Duygu Sezercan, General Manager, Papa John's
- Pelin Mavili, Director, Public Policy, Turkey & MENA, Netflix
- Irem Cavusoglu, Corporate Communication Lead, DowAksa



January 24 I AmCham Chair Live Interview at BloombergHT

Check out **AmCham Türkiye Chair Tankut Turnaoglu's** Live Interview with **Bloomberg HT's** Güzem Yılmaz on U.S.-Türkiye economic relations and its historical background, Turkish partner SMEs, regional cooperation with Central Asia & more... Click to watch: [LINK](#)



February 27 I AmCham Members Meeting with Penn University Delegation

AmCham members met with a group of Penn University students and academicians visiting Türkiye. Representatives from different sectors has been invited according to the interested sectors of the students. The participants from AmCham provided information on Türkish economy and insights about their sectors.



January 10 I PRM Coffee Session hosted by US Consul General

The U.S. Consul General Julie Eadeh invited related partners for a small group coffee discussion on ways to better connect Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) job training and job placement programs with U.S. companies in Türkiye. AmCham Executive Director Aslı Özelli attended to the coffee session with other partners including ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UnitedWork.



COMMITTEES & ADVOCACY

PUBLIC & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Online Meetings on Election Process

The committee decided to hold online meeting series to inform members on the election process. The first meeting of these series was held on March 27, 2023, with the participation of **Alper Coşkun, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**, European Program, Senior Researcher, ex-Ambassador and **Aslı Aydıntaşbaş, The Brookings Institution**, Turkey Program, Researcher, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR).

The next meeting will be held on May 3, 2023 and will focus on the election process and its aftermath in terms of constitutional law. The speakers will be as follows:

- Prof. Dr. Sibel İnceoğlu, Marmara University, Head of Constitutional Law Department
- Prof. Dr. Osman Korkut Kanadoğlu, Okan University, Head of Constitutional Law Department

Door-knock Advisory Board Meetings were held on January 5th and January 30th.

AmCham Public Policy Sub-Group Meeting was held on January 24th.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

January 19 I **Women Leadership Event** by AmCham D&I Committee -Women Leadership Sub-group at PepsiCo

February 16 I AmCham **Disability Sub-group** Meeting

March 24 I AmCham **Disability Sub-group** Meeting

DIGITAL ECONOMY COMMITTEE

March 21 I AmCham **Digital Economy** Committee Meeting

- The AmCham Post-Earthquake Recovery Projects Presentation was shared with participants.
- Add modules to AmCham Academy Project, which is planned to be developed for students in the Earthquake Zone for upskilling, dissemination of basic IT skills, improving the use of social media for sales and marketing.
- Include start-ups and women tech entrepreneurs, especially from the earthquake zone, in the SelectUSA Tech and Select Global Women in Tech Programs.
- Funds can be created for start-ups and women entrepreneurs who want to participate in the program but do not have the opportunity.

FOOD, AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

March 17 I AmCham **Food and Agriculture** Committee Meeting

- After the earthquake, the production equipment, houses, animals and seed storages were damaged.
- Cold storage facilities, food markets, grocery stores, pastry shops, supply chains, restaurants were damaged.
- There is a shortage of workers due to out-migration. There are difficulties for crops seedling and harvesting.
- Basic needs for farmers: shelter, tent, fodder, fuel, seeds and financial assistance.
- It is necessary to revive animal husbandry in the region.
- Education programs, scholarship, women education programs can be created.
- Knowledge sharing for farmers on environmental issues (waste, better water usage)
- Establish a working subgroup to determine the strategy and project priorities for the earthquake zone.

HEALTHCARE & LIFE SCIENCES COMMITTEE

January 20 & 21 | Presidency Strategy and Budget Department - **12th Development Plan** - "Transformation Commission in Health Industries" Meeting

Future of Healthcare Services in Turkey Project

March 13 | AmCham & EY - **Internal Kickoff Meeting**

March 16 | AmCham Türkiye **Official Kick-off Meeting** at EY

March 23 | Healthcare Project Meeting



INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Regional Hub Sub-group

Jan 31 | Regional Production Center Group Meeting

Mar 09 | AmCham Regional Hub Meeting w / İMEAK Chamber of Shipping

Tax & Incentives Sub-group

Feb 01 | AmCham Tax Sub-Group Meeting

Mar 20 | AmCham Tax Sub-Group Meeting

Mar 23 | AmCham Tax Sub-Group Meeting

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

January 27 & 28 | Presidency Strategy and Budget Department - **12th Development Plan** - "Growth Dynamics and Green Transformation " Meeting

April 11 | AmCham **Sustainability Committee Leadership** Meeting

The new leadership of the Sustainability Committee had a meeting on April 11, 2023, with the participation of Committee Leader Durmuş Topcu (Dow), Seda Yalçın (Weber Shandwick) and Volkan Kara (Bain Company).