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**The International Conference on Eurasian Economies
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By Ömer UĞUR †

Abstract. Eurasian Economic Association organized seventh of its conference series as “The International Conference on Eurasian Economies 2016” themed on August 29-31, 2016 in Kaposvar-Hungary. The International Conference on Eurasian Economies aims at bringing together academicians and decision makers involved in research about Eurasian countries in a forum to discuss current and future economic and social issues of the region. Submitted papers as well as presentations and discussions at the conference was conducted in English, Turkish or Russian. In this way, it was more participation in conference and scholars have opportunity to share easily their academic studie. Thus they achieved to follow the studies of scholars from different countries. At the same time, this conference provided them to find out and meet and even to make cooperation with renowned academician. As a general evaluation, the International Conference on Eurasian Economies 2016 provided a remarkable platform for scholars to increase their knowledge and expand the viewing angle.

Keywords. Kaposvar, Eurasian Economies, Future Economic and Social Issues.

JEL. A10.

Conference Notes

The International Conference on Eurasian Economies 2016, organized by Beykent University in collaboration with Kaposvar University, Manas University, Hungarian Turkish Business Chamber Association, and the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) was held between 29-31 August in Kaposvar-Hungary. The aim of the International Conference on Eurasian Economies 2016 brings together scholars and decision makers involved in research about Eurasian countries in a forum to discuss current and future economic and social issues faced by the Eurasian economies during the transition process in the era of globalization. The three-day conference program was consisted of first two-day panels and sessions and the third day visit to Budapest and Vienna for participants.

The International Conference on Eurasian Economies 2016 started with Rector’s address, Presentation of awards and keynote speech. Keynote address was given by Durmus Yılmaz, former Turkish Central Bank Governor, about Global Economy and Turkey: 2016 and Beyond. In his speech, Yılmaz focused on the lack of a satisfactory growth as seen major problem for global economy and also

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highlighted problems faced by Turkish economy. According to former Governor, by international standard Turkey have a reasonable growth rate of 3 to 4 %, implying a new growth era where high growth cycle ended due to changing global financial conditions and its structural problems. The end of his speech, Durmus drew attention that future growth performance will depend on the level of investments and savings to finance it and added that Turkey own saving is low, foreign capital flows is crucial.

Afterwards, simultaneous parallel sessions of the day started and attendees participated to the sessions that attracted their attention. The morning session of the first day of the Conference was consisted of five parallel session which covered academic studies from all areas of social and humanity sciences, namely Regional Studies, Entrepreneurship, Development, Finance, Growth. The afternoon session of first day of Conference was intended as a continuation of the first session. While first day panel was organized in Turkish and English, second day panels continued with morning and afternoon sessions which also welcomed scholars presented the paper in Russian.

Panel discussion by discipline-oriented and inter disciplinary scholars highlighted the problems and solutions of the Eurasian countries, their resources and wealth in respect to their integration and contribution to the world economy. Therefore, topics on the position of the Eurasian economy in the financial markets, financial crisis, along with the environmental factors and sectors such as tourism, energy, natural resources and agriculture, as well as topics on problems and solutions through growth and development models, public policy, legal and bureaucratic infrastructure arrangements took place. Scholars were able to investigate different perspective in detail as they got the chance to see closely relationship with the subjects of their studies with other disciplines. In fact, the authors of the paper on the relationship between environmental degradation, income and energy consumption in developing countries, Cengiz Aytun, Neşe Algan of Cukurova University and Cemil Serhat Akın of Mustafa Kemal University presented this kind of study in the Conference. This work brought together various issues such as energy, environment and economy and tried to offer a different perspective to contribute to the solution of problems that arise. Likewise the paper on Relations between migration and economic growth: An Analysis Based on Developing Countries, which was selected and awarded as a best paper of Conference revealed analogous approach. The authors of the paper, Haktan Sevinç, Serkan Künü, Demet Eroğlu Sevinç of Iğdır University and Eda Bozkurt of Ataturk University made a significant statement on this issue at a time when Turkey is discussing to give citizenship to Syrian refugees. They researched and analysed through panel data methods. According to them, migration has a negative effect on economic growth and immigration of qualified human capital and brain drain has important consequences for the economic development of countries. In this context, It was a carrying quality to provide a significant contribution to the debate on this issue.

On the other hand, Nuran Belet of Gazi University, tried to bring a different approach to energy debate while presenting possibilities, challenges and related macro-economic policies to current situation. Although this issue is quite controversial and complex, Bellet claimed that Turkey is the most affordable and reliable energy transit route between Central Asia and Europe due to its geostrategic location. That's why Turkey would become a regional energy hub and an oil corridor in the East-West route. The presentation was quite fruitful because This issue shows how much Turkey is an important country for EU and how Turkey would strengthen its hand against the EU during the EU accession negotiations.

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In this conference, scholars enjoyed the opportunity of sharing their studies and meeting new scholars from Turkey and other countries to some extent. However, it should be brought in a number of criticisms to Conference, which is held every year, in order to be better organized for coming years. First of all, it have to be said that limited period of time for the report presentations in the conferences created obstacles for academicians for them to deliver their studies in detailed version. Of course this situation is caused by the large number of presentation in the sessions, thus if number was be reduced, it would be more effective and efficient. In addition to this, participant scholars were generally Turkish even though the conference was held in international means. In this context, it could be said that the organizers of the conference will make an effort in reaching scholars who are well known, and convince them to attend in order to perform the purpose of the conference better. As a general evaluation, the International Conference on Eurasian Economies 2016 provided a remarkable platform for scholars to increase their knowledge and expand the viewing angle. At the same time, it made contributions to science world, to communication network constituted among scholars and to studies which were made and to be made in various areas of social sciences.



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