# Smile To Your Future







President Prof. Dr. Birol AKGÜN

# The Maarif Schools Provide Kids with Theoretical Knowledge and Practical Skills

The Turkish Maarif Foundation continues its education activities through a global network of high-quality schools spread across 49 countries, in line with an educational approach that embraces all of humanity and does not distinguish between locations, cultures or identities. Our Foundation's approach attaches importance to in-class as well as extracurricular activities for students' development.

As part of those extracurricular activities, our students discover and develop their areas of interest and skills, find opportunities to put the theoretical knowledge, which they accumulate in class, into practice, express themselves and socialize. Moreover, they learn to promote their cultural values and traditions, whilst learning about and experiencing other cultures.

Those social activities, which are carefully planned and monitored by our Foundation's educators, enable students to explore different cultures, expand their imaginations and develop new ideas, which will shine a light on the future, through various projects.

In the current issue, we present two distinct social activities from our Foundation's educational institutions in Sudan and Cameroon. Our students in Sudan participated in an activity on Turkey and the Turkish language to learn about Turkey's music, traditions, folklore and culinary culture. The students, in turn, were encouraged to make a personal contribution through their Turkish-language poems, songs and stories. In Cameroon, our students hosted a science and technology festival, competing against each other's rich imaginations and theoretical skills.

The Turkish Maarif Foundation, which was established to raise righteous and virtuous generations, attaches importance to the development of its students in terms of theoretical knowledge and practical skills, their discovery of different cultures whilst learning about their local values, and ensuring that they will be fully equipped with skills, which the 21st century requires, when they start their lives. We deem quite important the contribution of our schools' social events to students' development.

# **CONTENTS**



Binali Yıldırım: "It is necessary to benefit from the Maarif Schools' opportunities"



Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu: "Maarif schools contribute to education in Afghanistan"





Prof. Birol Akgün, Turkish Maarif Foundation's president, addresses the International Media and Islamophobia Forum



"We need to teach the Victory of Çanakkale (Gallipoli) as part of the curriculum with next-generation content"





Turkish Universities Meet Students in Strasbourg



Good Examples The Turkey and Turkish Day in Khartoum

23

Year: 2022 FEBRUARY • Issue:18

Publisher on Behalf of Turkish Maarif Foundation Prof. Dr. Birol AKGÜN

> Executive Editor İpek COŞKUN

Editor in Chief Sait KARAHASAN Editorial Board Buket AKYÜREK Büşra SAĞLAM İbrahim BARAN

> Translation Nisan Çeviri

Photo Editor Zekeriya GÜNEŞ Graphic Design Buket AKYÜREK Type of Publication BULLETIN

Management Location Altunizade Mah. Ord. Prof. Dr. Fahrettin Kerim Gökay Cad. Erdem Sok. No: 5 Üsküdar/İstanbul

Contact
T: +90 216 323 35 35
F: +90 216 323 13 13
www.turkiyemaarif.org
iletisim@turkiyemaarif.org

maarif Valletin is a free publication of TURKISH MAARIF FONDATION.

JRKISH MAAKIF FONDATIOI

Printing Kyocera

Altunizade Mah. Prof. Fahrettin Kerim Gökay Cad. No:45, İSTANBUL, 34662 Üsküdar/İstanbul (0216) 339 00 20



### Binali Yıldırım: "It is necessary to benefit from the Maarif Schools' opportunities"

inali Yıldırım, acting chairman of the AK Party and president of the Council of Elders of the Organization of Turkic States, received the executive board of the Association of the Meskhetian Turks of Kyrgyzstan at the conference hall of the Turkish Embassy in Bishkek.

The meeting, which was hosted by the Turkish Ambassador to Bishkek, Ahmet Sadık Doğan, was attended by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's program coordinator in Bishkek, Osman Usta as well as Prof. Alparslan Ceylan, who serves as rector of the Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, Hüsnü Bircan, the Turkish Maarif Foundation's representative in Kyrgyzstan, Şevki Sarılar, president of the Turkey-Kyrgyzstan Businessmen, Culture, Solidarity and Friendship Association, administrators of Turkish education and healthcare institutions and the attachés serving at the Embassy.

In his address, Binali Yıldırım stressed that Turkey would always stand with the Meskhetian Turks: "Wherever you are, you must know that Turkey keeps an eye on you. It supports your causes and will continue to do so."

Yıldırım recommended the Meskhetian Turks to take advantage of the Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, an investment by Turkey in education in Kyrgyzstan, and Central Asia's first Maarif School.





# Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu: "Maarif schools contribute to education in Afghanistan"

oreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, who visited the Pakistani capital Islamabad to attend the 48th meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Ministers, made a statement to the press regarding his trip.

Remarking on the new chapter in Afghanistan's history since the change in government, Çavuşoğlu recalled that Turkey supported educational activities in Afghanistan in addition to providing financial assistance to the country: "We had previously allocated a certain budget to military assistance. We have since transferred part of that sum to the United Nations Development Programme and the rest to the Turkish Maarif Foundation and the Turkish Red Crescent." The minister stressed that Turkey continued to deliver humanitarian aid to the country's peoples.

Noting that he had discussed women's rights and the education of girls with Amir Khan Muttaqi, who serves as acting foreign minister of the Taliban-led interim government, and shared friendly advice with him, Çavuşoğlu said the following:

"It is not enough, however, to make recommendations. We are trying to contribute to education in Afghanistan through the Turkish Maarif Foundation's schools. We have a total of 46 schools and education centers. 14 of those schools taught girls. We have been able to open 12 of those schools to date. All of the schools will be open by the next academic year. The two girls' schools in Kabul, too, will be open. Muttaqi made us a promise during the Antalya Diplomacy Forum. There is a problem, but the cost of the whole country's collapse is much higher."







### Fahrettin Altun: "We established institutions like the Turkish Maarif Foundation to ensure that our citizens abroad do not feel alone"

urkey's director of communications, Prof. Fahrettin Altun, delivered a speech at an event promoting TRT Türk's content update. Recalling that Turkey took significant steps to strengthen the Turkish diaspora in the relevant parts of the world, Fahrettin Altun stressed that the country had made significant progress, especially in the last 20 years, under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's leadership.

Altun, who said that Turkey underwent a process of development and democratization, made the following remarks: "Through those processes, our country gained strength in foreign policy and the economy, consolidated its 'regional power' status. It continues to take solid steps toward becoming a global power. Of course, we took important steps under the President's leadership to further strengthen Turkey in all places, including where the Turkish diaspora resides. We increased the number of our diplomatic missions and formed new institutions like the Presidency of Turks Abroad, the Yunus Emre Institute, and the Turkish Maarif Foundation. All that was important in the sense that our citizens abroad did not feel alone, their problems were swiftly addressed, their connection with their homeland was strengthened, and their sense of belonging was consolidated. Our citizens, too, benefited from those steps, living in other countries with greater self-confidence and pride, and expressed their satisfaction many times on various occasions. Naturally, it makes us happy to see that."





### Çetin Ali Dönmez: "We are proud of the accomplishments of Maarif Schools"

¹he Maarif Schools, which operate in Pristina, Kosovo, gain a reputation with their investments in education, such as technology classes, music classes and their biology lab. Dr. Çetin Ali Dönmez, the deputy minister of Industry and Technology, visited the Maarif Schools during a visit to this country and had an opportunity to monitor the school's activities in person.

Taking a strong interest in students' work on robotics in computer

classes, Dönmez joined the members of the school's music club in songs. He also joined the kindergarten class in story hour and told them some stories. Finally, the deputy minister monitored students in the biology lab and spoke with them on entrepreneurship.

Thanking the Turkish Maarif Foundation's representatives in Kosovo for their hard work, Deputy Minister Dr. Çetin Ali Dönmez said that they were proud of the Maarif Schools' accomplishments.









### Maarif Schools of Sarajevo Welcome Ramadan

he Turkish Maarif Foundation Schools in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, welcomed the month of Ramadan with great enthusiasm. Students, school representatives, and parents attended a concert hosted by the Maarif Schools' administration and the School-Parent Association.

Yakup Gül, the Turkish Maarif Foundation's representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina,

said that the Maarif Schools provided education to students between kindergarten and the senior year of high school within the framework of the Cambridge program and made the following remarks: "Our school receives more and more attention every passing day. This year, we wanted to experience the joy of Ramadan with the members of our Parent Assembly as well as the children, their families and the parents."

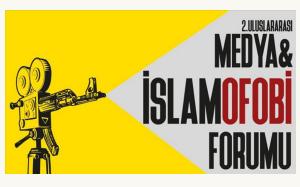
Selmir Turic, the head of the School-Parent Association, added that they wanted to cheer up the children with some Ramadan gifts: "We decided to hold the gift-giving ceremony, which has become an Eid tradition, at the beginning of Ramadan. We wanted to spend a great month of Ramadan and remember this month as such." Following the singing of Islamic hymns by the Hamza Choir, the children were given gift packages.









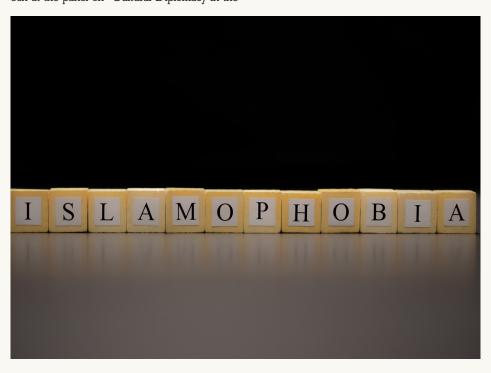




The International Media and Islamophobia Forum –which the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Presidency of Religious Affairs, the Directorate of Communications, the Ankara Science University and Erciyes University jointly hosted under the leadership of the Supreme Board of Radio and Television (RTÜK)– brought together experts from the relevant areas. RTÜK Chairman Ebubekir Şahin, Communications Director Prof. Fahrettin Altun, Religious Affairs President Prof. Ali Erbaş and Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy delivered the opening speeches. Prof. Birol Akgün, the Turkish Maarif Foundation's president, delivered a speech at the panel on "Cultural Diplomacy in the

Struggle Against Islamophobia," which was moderated by RTÜK Deputy Chairman Ibrahim Uslu, alongside Ambassador Dr. Ismail Hakkı Musa, Yunus Emre Institute President Prof. Şeref Ateş and Ass. Prof. Oğuzhan Bilgin, who serves as director of the Diplomacy Foundation.

Recalling that cultural diplomacy plays a crucial role in the fight against Islamophobia, Prof. Birol Akgün stressed that the foundations of civilization and culture in the international system had been built on polarization for the last three decades and that references to polarization influenced the theoretical framework of political analysis. Making a reference to Samuel Huntington's Clash of







Civilizations, Akgün posited that the world came to alienate everything related to Islam and Muslims with an eye on that theory. The Maarif Foundation president, who said that an unprecedented number of Muslims were currently living in non-Muslims countries, warned that "the foundation of some kind of Islamophobia is being established in non-Muslim societies from India to the United States."

Prof. Akgün underscored that xenophobic approaches caused an extraordinary amount of rigidity vis-à-vis the Islamic world and all community that resisted Western integration (including foreigners), intellectually and in terms of values: "Compared to the practices of Islamic civilization, Europe has failed. By contrast, when it comes to the treatment of diversity, our civilization has passed the test of history. The spread of universal values, such as human rights, to the world reminds everyone of the hypocrisy that the West demonstrated in the previous century. In the 1990s, Francis Fukuyama claimed that everyone was going to accept liberal democracy some day. We all supported it. In the 1990s, when many countries, including Ukraine, were excited about the transition from communism to liberal democracy, why did that process cause fear in the Islamic world and the Middle East?"

Noting that the search for apartments or jobs in Europe involved significant double standards, Akgün revealed the extent of the

West's Islamophobic tendencies by saying that "a Muslim is four times more likely not to be asked to interview for a job, compared to members of other religious communities." Prof. Akgün, who stressed the need to think about Islamophobia and xenophobia together, stated that Muslims faced mounting pressure in the West by being portrayed as a security issue and concluded his speech with the following solution: "Individually, each of us has a responsibility to represent Islam the right way. We must not put the blame entirely on the other side. If Muslims around the world live up to their responsibility of representing Islam, we will at least have liberated ourselves from this responsibility."





# "We need to teach the Victory of Canakkale (Gallipoli) as part of the curriculum with next-generation content"

he Turkish Maarif Foundation's headquarters hosted a panel discussion on the 107th anniversary of the naval victory of Gallipoli that the Turks achieved against the world's largest navy on March 18, 1915. Moderated by Prof. Ahmet Emre Bilgili, the acting chairman of the Foundation's board of trustees, the panel featured Prof. Erhan Afyoncu, the National Defense University's rector, and Prof. Mehmet Samsakçı, a faculty member at Istanbul University's School of Literature. Delivering the opening address, the Turkish Maarif Foundation's president, Prof. Birol Akgün, started by saying that "the essence of a nation is their great solidarity in difficult times and their stories of heroism." Recalling that Turkey's history was full of such heroic stories, which will be inherited by future generations, Akgün stressed that the Victory of Gallipoli represented a symbol of an empire's final resistance. Prof. Akgün added that the same spirit of heroism was the driving force behind Turkey's emergence as one of the world's most important centers 100 years after its foundations - to which we bear witness today: "The Victory of Gallipoli has established what it took to gain political independence for the sake of what is right and the truth." Noting that the teachers, whom the Turkish Maarif Foundation dispatches abroad, must carry that same spirit, Akgün made the following re-







marks: "First and foremost, to be native and national - and to be loyal to one's values and nation... Secondly, integrating oneself into science, literature, the arts, technology and the world... That is what we expect from our teachers."

The acting chairman of the Turkish Maarif Foundation's board of trustees, Prof. Ahmet Emre Bilgili, who moderated the debate, emphasized that it was necessary to approach Gallipoli as a curriculum in terms of the history of war, with an eye on its

> cultural and spiritual dimension, and, thirdly, from the standpoint of education in order to benefit from it.

Prof. Erhan Afyoncu, who had

the floor after Bilgili, described the Battle of Gallipoli with reference to Sami Pashazade Sezai: "The defense of Gallipoli was a battle of 'three miracles': It fixed the situation. It revived the "valor and grandness" of the past. It turned our homeland into an 'eternal motherland'." Stressing that the Turkish people's most important attribute was its ability to show resilience in difficult times, Afyoncu said that the Battle of Gallipoli marked the end of a losing strike dating





back to 1768 and claimed approximately 250,000 casualties in a narrow space where half a million people fought. Highlighting the significance of that battle by saying that the Turks "would have found it difficult to liberate Eastern Anatolia, even if the National Struggle had succeeded, in case the Battle of Gallipoli had not been won," Prof.

Afyoncu said that the following steps needed to be taken in order to promote the Victory of Gallipoli as it deserved: "In this age of social media, it is necessary to tell young people what happened in Gallipoli. One could still write books or novels and conduct research. Under the current circumstances, however, we must tell young people about Gallipoli on social media, concisely and in a way that does not bore them, if we want to communicate with them."

Prof. Mehmet Samsakçı, in turn, discussed the Victory of Gallipoli from the perspective of literary texts. Recalling that Mehmet Akif Ersoy, Turkey's national poet, provided a meaningful description of Gallipoli







in his poems, he added that Ruşen Eşref made the first military and political interview with Mustafa Kemal, then Commander of Suvla Bay, and what was written on Gallipoli amounted to a considerable body of literature. Prof. Samsakçı, who noted that the first article on Gallipoli appeared in Sabah newspaper on June 5, 1915 with the title "The Cleansed Stain," stressed that the article ended as follows: "The Victory of Gallipoli cleansed the stain that the Balkan War had left on the nation's forehead. We are especially rejoiced by that." Providing examples from the poem of Sultan Mehmed, the 35th Ottoman emperor, Yahya Kemal's prose, Yusuf Ziya's work on Gallipoli and Mehmet Akif's Safahat, Prof. Samsakçı concluded his speech with the following metaphor from Ahmet Hamdi Tanpinar's novel called Peace of Mind: "For one of our feet to touch some place farther, the other foot must be placed on solid ground." That solid ground, he said, was Turkey's history.

The panel, which presented a general framework of the naval victory of Gallipoli, ended with the Q&A session.







### **Turkish Universities Meet Students in Strasbourg**

he Turkish Maarif Foundation brought Turkish universities to France for Turkish students living abroad. The Foundation, which actively works with all levels of education from pre-school to higher education, organized an Education Fair for Turkish Universities on the campus of Turkey's general consulate in Strasbourg, France.

Hosted by the Maarif Agency, the fair featured 19 universities from Turkey as well as an Albanian university. The partipating schools briefed students in Europe about educational opportunities in Turkey, introducing themselves and providing information on registration and scholarships.

Prof. Ahmet Emre Bilgili, Acting Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Prof. Mehmet Özkan, a member of the Foundation's Executive Board, closely followed the fair, which received a lot of attention from students and parents in Strasbourg and nearby areas.













# Calendar Page

# April 23

### National Sovereignty and Children's Day

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey, which represents the Turkish people's will, was founded on April 23, 1920. The Turkish nation declared its sovereignty on that day. The representatives were selected and arrived in Ankara within a very short period of time. The Grand National Assembly of Turkey was formed in Ankara on April 23, 1920. The day of the Parliament's establishment was celebrated as the Day of National Sovereignty. This holiday was certified under a 1935 law, whereby April 23 was designated as the National Sovereignty Day. The National Sovereignty Day -which was celebrated in line with the Law on National Days and General Holidays of May 27, 1935was renamed as the National Sovereignty and Children's Day according to an amendment to the 1981 Law on National Days and General Holidays on April 20, 1983.



About the country: Niger, officially the Republic of Niger, is a landlocked country in West Africa. The country was named after the Niger River, one of Africa's main rivers. Niger is bordered by Algeria to the northwest, Libya to the northeast, Chad to the east, Nigeria to the south, Benin and Burkina Faso to the southwest, and Mali to



Independence 3 August 1960





**Capital** Niamey



**Currency CFA** 

**Area** 1.267.000 km2





#### **Religions:**

80% Islam, 20% Christianity and other faiths

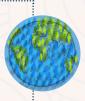


#### Official language:

BONIOUR

#### **Ethnic distribution:**

53% Hausa, 21% Zarma, 9% Fulani, 9% Tuareg, 5% Kanuri, 3% others



#### Climate:

Hot and dry



#### Cultural and historical heritage:

Ferme Youyou Nature Preserve, Historical Homes at the Old Quarter, Cité Caisse Mosque .....

# **Education system**



undergraduate degrees and docto-

Niger's education system involves ral degrees. Compulsory education two or three years of pre-school, six lasts six years. Whereas there are at technical and professional schools years of primary education, four ye- public and private schools in Niger, lasts two years - in certain fields, up ars of middle school and three years public education is free of charge for to three years. Upon completing 2-3 of high school. Subsequently, higher all levels. Students, who finish middle years of professional school, students education covers associate degrees, school, may attend technical and promay attended colleges or universities fessional schools if they successfully

pass the relevant exam. Their training depending on their respective areas.

# THE TURKISH MAARIF FOUNDATION IN NIGER







The Turkish Maarif Foundation took over eleven schools and two student housing centers in Niger, which were linked to the terrorist organization FETÖ, on December 14, 2016. It started its educational activities on January 2, 2017. The Turkish Maarif Foundation continues to operate a kindergarten, two elementary schools, four middle schools and four high schools in the country.



# **Turkish Maarif Foundations Signs Cooperation Agreement with Lusail University**

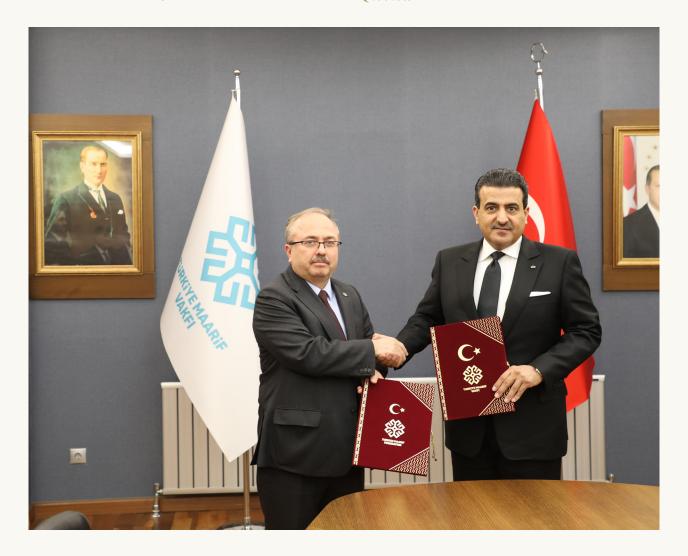
he Turkish Maarif Foundation, which was established to provide formal and non-formal educational services abroad between pre-school and university and became a global brand in education within a short period of time, continues its activities as Turkey's flag carrier in education.

In this context, the Foundation signed a cooperation agreement with Lusail University in Doha, Qatar, whereby 20 students will be awarded full academic scholarship. The Turkish ambassador to Doha, Dr. M. Mustafa Göksu, the chairman of Lusail University's Board of Trustees, Dr. Ali









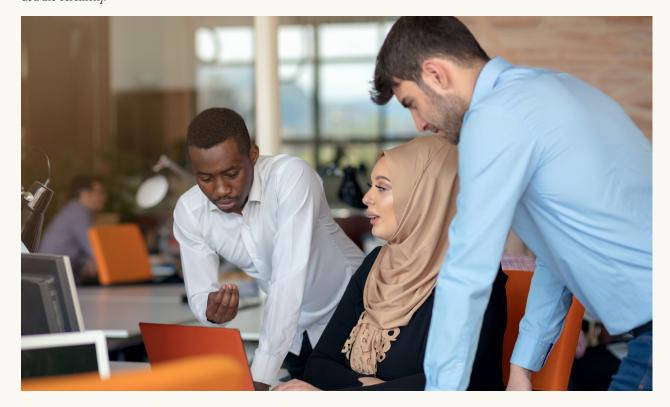


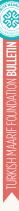


Bin Fetais Al Marri, TMF President Prof. Birol Akgün and Bülent Çiftci, a member of the Foundation's executive board, attended the ceremony.

Under the agreement, the recipients of Lusail University's scholarship will be able to pursue an undergraduate degree in Qatar. The program will start in the 2022-2023

academic year. The scholarship covers tuition, lodging, food, medical insurance, visa fees, one roundtrip ticket per year, and a monthly allowance of 1000 Qatari Rial.











### The Turkey and Turkish Day in Khartoum

📊 he Maarif Schools in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, hosted the Turkey and Turkish Day celebrations. At the event, which featured Turkish songs, poetry and jokes, the marching band, comprised of Maarif students, received lots of praise.

After an hour-long celebration in the hall, the event continued at the school's festival space. The guests demonstrated a strong interest in Turkish food. Impressed by the traditional art of ebru, the Sudanese raced each other to experience it.

Speacking at the Turkey and Turkish Day event, Turkey's Ambassador to Khartoum, Ass. Prof. Irfan Neziroğlu, made the following remarks: "There is an ancient friendship and fraternity, which goes back in history, between the states and the people of Turkey and







Sudan. We love Sudan and its beautiful people, because we are brothers and sisters. That fraternity comes with certain tasks and responsibilities. We are striving to live up to those responsibilities. We signed a strategic partnership agreement with Sudan in 2017. Sudan will be Africa's gateway for Turkey, as Turkey will be the gateway to Europe and Asia for Sudan."











Muhammed Emin Şimşek, the Turkish Maarif Foundation's country representative, in turn, said the following: "In addition to their academic efforts, we want to support our students through social activities. Our goal is to ensure, through extracurricular and in-class activities, that our children love their history, country and language, and get to know different cultures and civilizations."









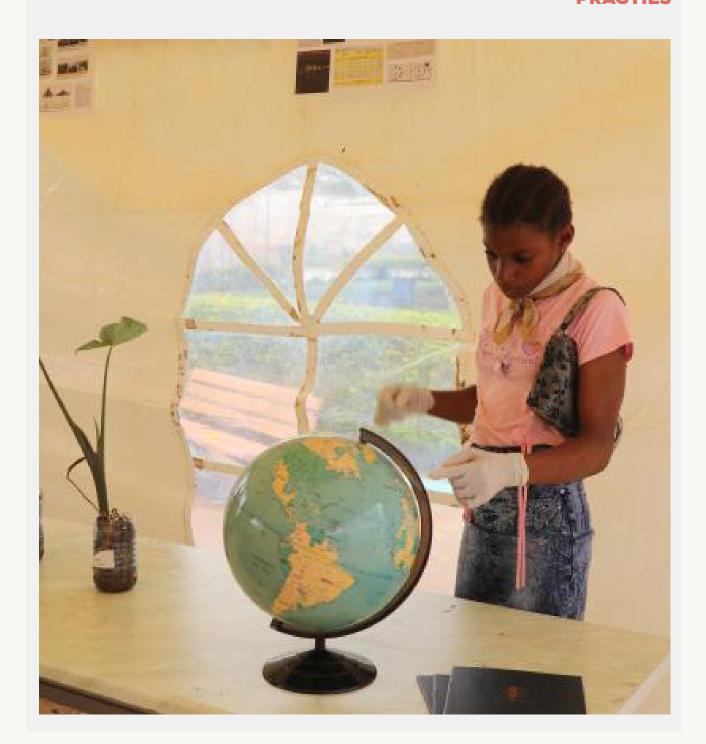
# In Yaoundé, Science and **Technology Lead to Progress**

he Maarif Schools, which have been engaging in educational activities in Cameroon, a country in Central Africa, since 2018, supports the extracurricular development of its students through social and cultural activities. At the Second Science and Culture Festival in Yaoundé, the Cameroonian capital, students from the Maarif High School Nkolfoulou have presented 72 different projects.

Attended by the Turkish Ambassador to Yaoundé, Volkan Işıkçı, various Cameroonian officials and many parents and guests, the festival, whose main theme was "Science and technology will lead to progress," facilitated the promotion of traditional attire and entailed local dance shows. At the end of the event, the top three among 150 projects, which the participants determined through a vote, were recognized with an award.



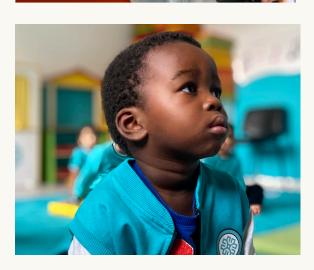




























# Cameroonian students now speak Turkish

urkish Studies Center, which was opened with the cooperation of the Turkish Maarif Foundation and Yaounde II University, carries out studies in various fields, especially in Turkish education.

On September 27, 2021, 350 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students have applied to the center, which carries out activities for those who want to learn Turkish as the first Turkish course in Cameroon. 55 students have started to speak Turkish by completing A2 level. Turkish Maarif Foundation's Instructor Fatma Hoşça commented on the level of Cameroon's first











Turkish course students: "We do not only teach Turkish, we also promote Turkish and Turkish culture."

Emphasizing that Cameroonian students show great interest in Turkish lessons, Hoşça said that students who actively follow the lessons are now able to express themselves very easily and speak Turkish among themselves. She also added - focusing on the fact that the Center for Turkish Studies carries out studies on many fields : "Teaching a language as a foreign language is neither grammar teaching of that language, transferring vocabulary nor teaching 4 basic language skills. Language also carries out our cultural codes. Language is both the carrier and the sustainer of culture. For this reason, many researchers accept cultural transfer as the 5th skill in language teaching. We also attach great importance to this 5th skill."

Sandra, one of the first students of the Tur-

kish course stated that she completed her master's degree in Political Science at Yaounde II University, that she loves Turkish very much and wants to continue her education life in Turkey.

Another student, Ahmet Marsusi, stated that he can express himself very comfortably in Turkish and that they speak Turkish among themselves, and that his dream is to visit the Mevlana Museum and the Blue Mosque.



# **VALUING EDUCATION**



# TURKISH MAARIF FOUNDATION

# GIVE STRENGTH WITH YOUR DONATIONS

Turkish Maarif Foundation accepts all personal and institutional donations.

Turkish Maarif Foundation is a public benefit foundation

# DONATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO 100% TAX DEDUCTION



### turkiyemaarif.org

According to article 5 of law 6721 donations to our Foundation will be deducted from the income and corporate tax based payments

#### **CONTACT FOR YOUR DONATIONS**

Turkish Maarif Foundation Ressource Development Department **Email:** iletisim@turkiyemaarif.org | **Tel:** +90 216 323 35 35