The 3rd Think Tanks Forum of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was held in Baku



The Forum brought together the Think Tanks of the member countries of the OIC to discuss "Change and Transition".

"3rd OIC Think Tanks Forum" which was held on 2-3 March 2012 in Baku, Azerbaijan included Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Center for Strategic Studies (SAM), 21st Century Turkey Institute, Black Sea Research Center (KAM), Wise Men Center for Strategic Studies (BILGESAM), Middle East Research Center (ORSAM), TURKSAM, KAFKASSAM and TASAM from Turkey.

"3rd OIC Think Tanks Forum" was organized by Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM) and TASAM Islamic States Institute in Baku Gulistan Palace and Hilton Hotel. Think Tanks from 40 member countries, Delegations from observer states like Russia, Thailand and The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, diplomats from OIC countries, experts and media representatives attended to the forum.



1st OIC Think Tanks Forum was held under the title "Peace, Civilization and Cooperation" on January 2010 and 2nd OIC Think Tanks Forum was held under the title "Public Diplomacy" on March 2011 in Istanbul. Both meetings were organized with the participation of member countries, observer states, diplomats, experts and academicians.

Memmedyerov: "Armenia must withdraw from our occupied lands"

In his opening speech Secretary General of President of Republic of Azerbaijan Ramiz Mehdiyev mentioned that within the Islamic countries Azerbaijan was the first democratic republic, also first one to give women right to vote and encouraged the establishment of theatres and opera houses. Mehdiyev also said that "Azerbaijan's influence in the region increased with Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, Kars-Tbilisi-Baku railway and Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan natural gas pipeline. Therefore Azerbaijan has become a country that connects Western and Eastern transit routes.

In his speech, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov said that Armenia has been occupying Azerbaijan soil and according to United Nations resolution Armenia must withdraw.

Chairman Şensoy "Think Tanks should be pro-active"



In his speech TASAM Chairman Süleyman Şensoy referred to the term "two state one nation" that has been used to explain friendship and brotherhood between Turkey and Azerbaijan. Within this perspective Süleyman Şensoy explained it is a historically important step that both countries have been working for an initiative among Islamic countries.

Şensoy said Turkey was grateful for Azerbaijan's support during last 2-3 months with regards to tension between Turkey and France about so called Armenian genocide. He also said he is expecting the same support for Turkey from other Islamic countries.

Chairman Şensoy explained that: During the 1st and 2nd Forum which was organized by TASAM in Istanbul, it was decided to establish a platform that includes Islamic Countries' Think Tanks and to launch a website in 4 different languages. The website has been active for 2 years and since then its contend has been helping Think Tanks in Islamic countries. The "Wise Men Council" involving 12 members according to international standards which was formed after 2nd OIC Think Tanks Forum declaration, should be taking initiatives on basic problems and conflicts in the Islamic world; if necessary "Wise Men Council" should visit conflict zones and make professional studies on the issues of development and education.

The World has Undergone 100 years of Change and Transformation in the Past Decade

Chairman Şensoy mentioned Change and Transition in the Islamic World will be discussed in this forum. He also said: "In order to understand the current situation of Islamic World; we should analyze and try to understand the current developments in the world. In the past decade; the world witnessed many new developments. The world has undergone 100 years of change and transformation. In order to settle our discussions in this forum about the Islamic World; I would like to point out new parameters that were shaped in the past decade and will be shaped in the coming 10-20 years briefly. As we all know with the end of Cold War; the world transformed from bipolar system into multi-polar system with the rise of the five global powers from West and East.

New Term Parameters are being Clarified



