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FIATA PRESIDENT BABAR BADAT ATTENDED TO FIATA DIPLOMA IN FREIGHT FORWARDING GRADUATION CEREMONY IN ISTANBUL

Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers (UTIKAD) continues contributing to the development of Turkish logistics industry. 20 participants who completed the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding organized by UTIKAD with the support of Istanbul Technical University Continuing Education Center received their diplomas at the graduation ceremony held at InterContinental Hotel Taksim on Thursday, June 28.

UTIKAD President Emre Eldener, UTIKAD Board Members, instructors, industry representatives and graduates attended the graduation ceremony. FIATA President Babar Badat, President of the Board of Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Şekib Avdagiç, Chief Cargo Officer of Turkish Airlines Turhan Özen and FIATA General Manager Hans Günther Kersten honored the ceremony with their participation as well.

UTIKAD President Emre Eldener, who made the opening speech of the graduation ceremony, said, "First of all, I would like to express our gratitude to FIATA President Babar Badat, President of the Board of Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Şekib Avdagiç and Chief Cargo Officer of Turkish Airlines Turhan Özen for joining us on this important day. 20 colleagues who graduated from the program attended the training by sacrificing every Saturday for almost a year from their private time. Attendance was mandatory and they had to have a certain level of grade average. Under the leadership of Murat Baskak, we now have very nice and satisfying results. I see the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding program as a master level program and as a point of closing down our shortcomings in the business world and a bounce board to really get to the top of our career professionally. I congratulate our students who participated in the best logistics program that money can buy in Turkey, as I always say."

Turgut Erkeskin, Vice President of UTIKAD and FIATA Senior Vice President of FIATA started his speech by emphasizing the importance of vocational training in professional business life and said, "We emphasized the importance of academic education for many years as UTIKAD and kept vocational education in our agenda. As you know, FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding program is not the first vocational training program of our

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association. For many years, in parallel with the development objectives of the logistics culture in Turkey we provide services to the logistics industry with our vocational training seminars. At the same time, we support education with our publications which are used as textbooks in universities. We will never forget the day we validated for the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding program. We got our validation for training at the FIATA World Congress, which we hosted in Istanbul in 2014. We have succeeded in bringing this program to our country in the wake of our values and years of training. We can say that we have developed a large logistics program which is of best quality that can be received in Turkey at the moment" Erkeskin also said.

Şekib Avdagiç, President of The Board of Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, one of the world's largest chambers of commerce, addressed the guests at the diploma ceremony. Avdagic said that the changing world has been putting more and more tasks into logistics every day. "The expectations from the logistics are much different from the past. These expectations will increase even further in the coming periods. The logistics will be the most important thing that will bring us forward, increase our competition and bring us one step ahead of our competitors. I congratulate you both and wish you continued training in order to make a difference between you and your world-class opponents"

FIATA President Babar Badat, who changed his travel route for the third semester graduation ceremony organized by UTIKAD, made a speech at the opening ceremony. FIATA President Badat said, "As you know FIATA is a very large structure with hundreds of members. A global structure that touches every point of logistics. As FIATA, we can see how developed UTIKAD and Turkish logistics industry is. We can say that every year it has developed further and left behind the stakeholders of the industry all over the World."

"We obviously have a lot of things to learn from different countries, nations and organizations. However, as Mr. Erkeskin told the FIATA World Congress in Istanbul and the validation process, we are progressing by developing. And we follow and appreciate the progress of UTIKAD, especially about education. I congratulate you for completing this training successfully and wish you a bigger success" Badat said.

Diplomas were represented to graduates after the opening speeches and graduation ceremony ended with a cocktail party.

About UTIKAD;

UTIKAD (Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers), established in 1986, represents road, air, sea, rail, combined transport and logistics service providers companies in Turkey and at international arena as the most important and active association in Turkish Logistics Industry.

UTIKAD is the national representative of Turkey in FIATA (International Federation of Freight Forwarders Association) which is the largest non-governmental organization in the field of transportation and logistics in the world. Separately, UTIKAD is an observer member of European Association For Forwarding, Transport, Logistics and Customs Services (CLECAT), and founder member of ECO Logistics Providers Associations Federation (ECOLPAF).

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