

**REMARKS OF ULRICH ZACHAU, COUNTRY DIRECTOR GAZIANTEP  
CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY-WORLD BANK INFORMATION  
CENTER OPENING**

**July 23, 2009**

Dear Minister Şimşek, President Hisarcıklıoğlu, President Koçer,  
Dear Guests, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is great to be in this wonderful city of Gaziantep once again and it is an honor for me today to be back, this time both as your guest, and also as the co-host in order to welcome you to the official opening of the Gaziantep Chamber of Industry-World Bank joint “*Information Center*”.

When we last came to Gaziantep about 9 months ago, we together envisaged the collaboration the fruits of which we see today. We are gathered here today for the official launch of the “*Information Center*”.

Of course, the world has changed a bit over the last 9 months and the impact of the global economic crisis is visible everywhere around the world, including in Turkey. Don't worry that I will begin a long talk about the economic crisis, what it means and what to do about it.

I would just like to highlight as we are with the Chamber of Industry, that you, the private sector remains the ultimate engine of economic growth and development, and of jobs- so as World Bank we warmly welcome policies to improve the investment climate, increase the flexibility to create private sector jobs, promote vocational training, such policies are more important today than ever.

This new *Information Center* aims to make World Bank Group and related relevant development information available to the public of Gaziantep in an effort to share the ongoing work in development at large with the widest possible audience.

The World Bank has a policy of open access to information on projects and programs of our partner countries that the Bank supports. We believe: this allows a healthy public policy debate on development issues; it enhances transparency and accountability in development; and it improves the quality of the projects and programs we support—as we can better collaborate with Governments, Public Sector, Academia, Civil Society, the Media, and the public at large. In Turkey we

opened our first Information Center in 2006 within TEPAV in Ankara at the TOBB-ETÜ University Campus. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to President Hisarcıklıođlu of TOBB for being the pioneer and for hosting the first center within TEPAV. Today, three years later, we are proud to be opening our 2<sup>nd</sup> Center here in Gaziantep.

This *Information Center* aims to serve as the central contact for businessmen, students, researchers and individuals seeking information on World Bank operations, projects and related documents. It offers Bank project documents specific to Turkey and a library of recent Bank publications. It also offers Internet access to popular economy and development related journals and periodicals and to World Bank online resources. All major development partners are welcome to join and make their information and development available through the Center.

I would like to express my thanks to the President of the Chamber Nejat Bey and the Secretary General Kürşat Bey for their initiative and leadership for providing this wonderful space, staff and resources as well for the running of such a useful resource center.

Thank you for being with us for the opening today.