

TCA's Native American Outreach

Building Bridges with the Native American Community...



Native American Delegation with Turkish Minister of Economy Zafer Caglayan, Istanbul, Turkey.

The Turkish Coalition of America's scholarships to American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian students have paved the way for projects bridging Turkey and Native American communities through educational, cultural and economic exchanges.

TCA organized a 3-week Native American Lecture Tour in November 2009, bringing American Indian educators to 12 universities in 4 cities in Turkey. Turkey's first Native American Conference was held during this trip at Hacettepe University in Ankara.

In November 2010, 20 representatives from 17 Native American tribes boarded Turkish Airlines' inaugural flight from Washington, DC to Istanbul to embark on a weeklong Native American Business Cooperation Trip to Turkey sponsored by TCA.

In March 2011, Turkey became the first foreign government to send a formal delegation to the 25th Annual Reservation Economic Summit (RES), the nation's leading American Indian economic development conference.

In October 2011, TCA facilitated an 'Infrastructure Development Cooperation Workshop' sponsored by the Istanbul Technical University (ITU) to enable Tribal representatives to meet with the distinguished ITU faculty about infrastructure projects. The workshop coincided with a unique exhibit of photographs depicting members of more than 31 Native American tribes gifted by the U.S. Smithsonian Institution to Sultan Abdulhamid II of the Ottoman Empire.

On November 17, 2011, TCA partnered with the Turkish Embassy to commemorate the American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month with a reception supported by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) and the DC Native PR Roundtable.

In February 2012 a Turkish government delegation, once again led by Deputy Undersecretary Cemalettin Damlaci of the Ministry of Economy attended RES 2012 for the second time, where Turkish Ambassador to the U.S. Namik Tan became the first foreign ambassador to attend the premier Native American economic summit.