

## **Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Mehmet Çelik's Opening Speeches**

Good morning to everyone! Greetings to all of you, to those who are in the conference hall as well as those who are viewing this conference in the comfort of their homes.

I speak on behalf of my Rector, Prof. Dr. Fevzi Rifat Ortaç, who is quite busy this week. Today he's attending graduation ceremonies, one after another, in a building not too far from here.

I'm a social scientist myself. I specialize in language education, linguistics and translation. Social sciences are complementary to hard sciences and physical sciences. Hard sciences cannot do without social sciences. Otherwise, they will be lost in time and space. Just like the way Waqfs complement the government, the state. This institution is a university, but it's a foundation university. I'd like all of the participants, especially foreign participants, non-Turkish participants to know that this is a foundation university. Foundations have a long history throughout Turkish Islamic societies. They do voluntary work without any government support and funding.

We had a guest some months ago here, who was the chair of the Konya District Foundations, who told me that there are 125,000 foundations across Turkey at the moment, as of 2023. This is a gargantuan, great number. What do they do? They provide services for areas where the government is slow to act. They are not rival to the government. They work in collaboration, but not necessarily as part of a project.

Now, as for those who established this foundation, Health and Education Foundation, thanks to their efforts and vision we can have a conference and we can come together here to exchange our views on various aspects of social sciences. We should be grateful to them; I am grateful.

This is a 13-year-old university on the surface. But if you look at the background here it was established in 1251 by someone who lived in Konya, in this city. He was the advisor to the Sultan Alâeddin Keykubad. His name was Celâleddin Karatay. That's why we took up his surname. As the name of this university, we carry on a tradition, a tradition we cherish, a tradition we'd like to look after very well because we want our children, new generations to enjoy civilized architectures, civilized institutions to continue to work for them. Everything that has been done so far has been done in peace times. If I may have time to recount one event from the history when the Mongol attacks were nearby, as close to Konya as 10 miles, Celaleddin Karatay, the

director of the Karatay Madrasah ordered his students not to get out of the school to defend. He said, "You have to leave for future generations. I'm not asking you to fight. I'm asking you to carry the scientific tradition, pass what you know in the name of science and scholarship to new generations".

However, we do not live in a very peaceful world. There are wars everywhere. Well, as scientists, especially social scientists, we should be in the recognition of a policy, of an understanding, of an approach that considers others' right to live in harmony, in peace, and in a very informed manner, which is the aim of this First International Congress of Social Sciences. Hopefully more of them will be soon following in the ensuing news.

Thank you very much for listening.

**Prof. Dr. Mehmet Çelik**

**Vice Rector**