

# NEWS FROM SABANCI UNIVERSITY

JUNE 2024

## Sakıp Sabancı Commemorated With A Special Ceremony On The 20th Anniversary Of His Passing

The late Sakıp Sabancı, Honorary Chair of Sabancı University and philanthropic businessperson, was commemorated with a special ceremony on the 20th anniversary of his passing. The commemoration ceremony held at the Sabancı Center was attended by Istanbul Governor Davut Gül, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, representatives from academia, the worlds of business, art, and media, the Sabancı Family, and Koç Holding Honorary Chair Rahmi Koç, along with many of Sakıp Sabancı's friends, and other guests.

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## Distinguished Research Fellows Spring Meeting 2024

The "Spring Meeting 2024" event, at which Prof. Mehmet Toner and Dr. Aslı Demirgüç-Kunt, members of Sabancı University's "Distinguished Research Fellowship" program, gave a seminar, took place on 14 and 15 May 2024.



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## IICEC Conference: "Business World And Sustainable Energy" Organized In Istanbul

The IICEC conference entitled "Business World and Sustainable Energy" was held in Istanbul by Sabancı University Istanbul International Center for Energy and Climate (IICEC).



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Within the scope of the ceremony, in which a panel entitled "Sakıp Sabancı's Vision: Navigating the Future in Our Globalizing World: Trends, Risks, and Opportunities" was held, the artificial intelligence model developed by Sabancı University Board of Trustees Member E. Melisa Sabancı Tapan to reflect Sakıp Sabancı's mind, knowledge and way of thinking was also introduced. The digital model, developed by processing all visual, audio, and written content related to Sakıp Sabancı by productive artificial intelligence technologies, can simulate the mind of Sakıp Sabancı, who passed away in 2004, in the most realistic way, while carrying his ideas to the present day.

### **"Sabancı University is the greatest reflection of Sakıp Sabancı's belief in young people, education, science and technology."**

The opening speech of the ceremony was made by **Güler Sabancı, Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees of Sabancı University**. Güler Sabancı started by saying, "Sakıp Sabancı, in his own words, was a son of this country, and he loved his country very much," and continued as follows: "He loved each and every individual of his country, looked at every matter and every person without prejudice and constructively, and supported unity and solidarity. He had a personality that attached great importance to creating common sense, he was a lover of Turkey and worked tirelessly to advance Turkey on the path of contemporary civilizations. Our duty now is to keep his ideas and values alive and continue to pass them on to future generations."

Stating that they commemorate Sakıp Sabancı with social sciences, humanities, and scientific research, as in his will, Güler Sabancı continued: "Sabancı University had a very special and privileged place for Sakıp Sabancı. Our university was 5 years old when he left us. Now it is a 25-year-old young institution. We have more than 11 thousand undergraduate graduates. The number of our master's and doctoral graduates has exceeded 6 thousand. As an institution that has implemented the best examples of academic-industry collaborations in our country, we have carried out more than 2 thousand projects so far. Sabancı University is the greatest reflection of Sakıp Sabancı's belief in young people, education, science, and technology. It has always been a pioneer and innovative in academic and scientific research in Turkey with its structure and its approach to education. At the heart of our university's Tuzla campus are the words of the Great Leader Atatürk, 'My spiritual heritage is science and reason.' Inspired by these words, we always strive to be at the center of the most advanced technology and most innovative research."



## The theme of the 2025 Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards has been announced

Pointing out that the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards have achieved a first in their field, Güler Sabancı said: “The Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards are the only award program given internationally in the field of social sciences in Turkey. A separate fund was created for the program in the will of the late Sakıp Sabancı. The award program has so far supported dozens of young researchers and the best scientists in the world in many different fields, from economics to sociology, from Turkish and Islamic art to Turkish history. The Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards will continue to support young scientists next year, as every year. We determined the theme of the 2025 Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards based on the question “Realigning values in a transforming world order: What needs preserving, reevaluating, and redefining?”. I wish success to the young scientists who will apply for the award.”



## The AI Model of Sakıp Sabancı Gave a Message

In her speech at the ceremony, **Melisa Sabancı Tapan, Sakıp Sabancı's granddaughter, and Sabancı University Board of Trustees Member**, emphasized that Sakıp Sabancı inspired the generations that came after him. Melisa Sabancı Tapan explained that, inspired by the idea of carrying Sakıp Sabancı's vision to future generations, they developed an artificial intelligence model using Sabancı's extensive content archive, videos, texts, books, and voice recordings. After his speech, Tapan had a live conversation with the AI-generated model of her grandfather, on stage.



The AI-generated model of Sakıp Sabancı, who gave heartfelt answers to Melisa Sabancı Tapan's questions in the very emotional conversation, sent the following message, touching on issues such as his view of life, social contribution, and future expectations: "If I had the chance to be with you in 2024, I would say, 'Let's look at what the coming years will bring to us'. The first thing for me to do would be to dive into this crazy, fast-paced world of technology and think, 'How can we incorporate it into our business?'. Then, how can we take better care of our lands and water? This is important to me. Sustainability, in today's language, is actually the same thing as what we used to call 'neighborliness' and 'efforts to protect nature'. Yes, if I were among you in 2024, I would say, 'Continue at full speed, pursuing new opportunities. It is not for us to stop.' I would shout, 'We can do it'. As I always say, our greatest strength is our unity."

### **"We must follow Sakıp Sabancı's footsteps and turn risks into opportunities."**

The panel entitled "Sakıp Sabancı's Vision: Navigating the Future in Our Globalizing World: Trends, Risks and Opportunities", held at the 20th anniversary ceremony, also attracted great attention. The panel, moderated by Prof. Dr. Meltem Müftüler-Baç, Dean of the Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, was attended by Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards Special Jury Prize winners Lord Nicholas Stern, Professor of Economics and Management at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences; Susan Michie, Director of the Center for Behavior Change at University College London; and Philip Pettit, Princeton University L.S. Rockefeller Professor of Human Values.

Lord Nicholas Stern said 21st-century growth and development must be sustainable, resilient, and long-term. He continued, "The climate crisis also poses a great risk for the future. With a temperature increase of 3 degrees, Southern Europe would look like the Sahara Desert. We need to change the energy landscape of cities, and this brings many opportunities. All of this can be achieved thanks to good social sciences. I believe we can and must deal with the risks. Good policies, good social scientists, and scientific studies can help us in this regard. We must follow Sakıp Sabancı's footsteps and turn risks into opportunities."

Professor Susan Michie said the following: "We are not yet ready for the world of the future. We must achieve behavior change at many levels. We must act collectively. We must educate our population, our societies. While making things better, we can take advantage of elements such as artificial intelligence. This requires democratic supervision, transparency, and accountability. Efforts should be increased to prevent water, food, air pollution, pandemics and to develop medical technologies."

Professor Philip Pettit listed the risks that the world is likely to face in the coming years as scarcity of resources, mass population movements, and information anarchy. Stating that we will encounter climate refugees in the future, Pettit also drew attention to the aging population. Philip Pettit said, "The world population will be very old in 2070. Curiosity is one of the most important virtues. Young people need to think about everything instead of assuming or accepting things as they are. In addition, there is information anarchy on social media. From this perspective, I say, "The unexamined life is not worth living."

"Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards and 20th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony" ended with plaque presentations and the screening of the commemorative film following the panel.

You can find information about the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards at [award.sabanciuniv.edu](https://award.sabanciuniv.edu).

## **London Alumni Gathering**

***The London Alumni Gathering took place on Saturday, May 25, at the Royal Society of Arts in London.***

Our President Yusuf Leblebici, our Secretary General Ali Çalışkan, our Vice President Cem Güneri, our FASS Dean Meltem Müftüler-Baç, our FENS Dean Erkan Savaş, our SBS Dean Ayşegül Toker, and our Institutional Partnerships and Alumni Relations Director Cenk Efe Bayırlı attended the alumni gathering. 120 alumni attended the event, where our President Yusuf Leblebici made the opening speech.





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Making the opening speech, **Dr. Fatih Birol, International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director and IIEEC Honorary Chair**, discussed global energy markets under four main headings: "Coal is running out, natural gas prices are falling, interest in renewable energy, especially solar, is increasing, nuclear power plants are returning."

A panel was also held at the conference, moderated by **Shell Turkey Country President Ahmet Erdem**. The speakers at the panel were **Borusan Holding People, Communication and Sustainability Group President Nursel Ölmez Ateş, Business World and Sustainable Development Association (SKD Turkey) High Advisory Board President Ebru Dildar Edin, Baker Hughes Turkey Country Director Filiz Gökler, and Enerjisa Enerji Independent Board Member Mehtap Anik Zorbozan**.

At the conference, organized in Istanbul by Sabancı University Istanbul International Center for Energy and Climate (IIEEC), which focuses on the current issues of the world and Turkey's energy and climate agenda, the subject of "Business World and Sustainable Energy" was discussed in many aspects.

The keynote speech of the conference, where trends, challenges, and opportunities in the field of sustainability were discussed from the perspective of the business world, was made by Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and Honorary Chair of IIEEC. In his speech, Dr. Birol made four basic analyses of global energy markets. Dr. Birol underlined that the decline in prices in the natural gas market provides an advantage for Turkey and continued: "Natural gas prices, which rose to very high levels with the start of the Ukraine-Russia war, are now at more reasonable levels. There is a serious decrease in natural gas prices. This is very good news for Turkey. In 2025, 2026, and 2027, a serious amount of supply will be provided by some sources to natural gas markets. This supply corresponds to half of the amount of natural gas provided in the past 30 years."

Dr. Birol also pointed out that the demand for coal has decreased completely except for one or two countries and said, "The main reason for this is not the climate factor. The main reason is that it is more national as a domestic source. China and India are still building coal plants, but their growth is extremely slow compared to the past."

### **"Nuclear electricity production will soon reach its highest level"**

Dr. Birol noted that more than 85 percent of all power plants commissioned in the world in 2023 have renewable energy and that nuclear power plants are also being built again. Stating that most of the electricity in the future will come from renewable energy, Dr. Birol said: "Nuclear energy is making a comeback all over the world. Japan, where the last accident occurred, has started to grow its nuclear power generation capacity again. Korea and Sweden have the same policy. We can say that there is no country left that opposes nuclear power plants. New power plants are being built in France, Poland, Turkey, and the US. I think world nuclear electricity production will reach its highest level in 2025-2026."

Dr. Birol also emphasized energy efficiency and stated that he defined energy efficiency as the "first fuel" and that all countries can benefit from this field.



## “The European Union is in a difficult situation in terms of energy”

Dr. Fatih Birol evaluated the European energy markets and continued his words as follows: “The European Union is in a very difficult situation in terms of energy prices, energy security, and energy economy. They are experiencing the problem of being too dependent on a country, namely Russia, in terms of energy. European Union countries bought 65 percent of oil and 75 percent of gas from Russia, and this is a mistake. The second mistake is turning their back on nuclear energy, and the third is that they could not continue the breakthrough they started in the sun years ago at the same pace. Natural gas prices dropped to 5 dollars, but in the USA they are below 2 dollars. Electricity prices in Europe are almost 3-5 times those in China. If you are an industrialist in Europe and 60-65 percent of your production costs come from energy costs, you cannot compete with the USA or China at these prices. Additionally, Europe needs a new industrial master plan. That’s what I suggested.”



## “The panel brought the business world together”

In the panel moderated by Shell Turkey Country President Ahmet Erdem, Borusan Holding People, Communication and Sustainability Group President Nursel Ölmez Ateş, Business World and Sustainable Development Association (SKD Turkey) High Advisory Board President Ebru Dildar Edin, Baker Hughes Turkey Country Director Filiz Gökler, and Enerjisa Enerji Independent Board Member Mehtap Anık Zorbozan took part as speakers.

**Panel Moderator Shell Turkey Country President Ahmet Erdem** stated that there are important opportunities to think, plan and build a sustainable future with important multi-dimensional dynamics and underlined that energy will continue to be one of the most important elements of economic growth and social development.

Erdem emphasized that in addition to the vital and economic gains of energy, reducing carbon emissions and developing sustainable energy solutions are very critical for a sustainable future in the context of energy transformation. Stating that the business world should not ignore critical factors such as technology, innovation and financing for the future of sustainable energy, Ahmet Erdem emphasized that decisionmakers and all stakeholders, as well as the energy sector, should work together to develop sustainable energy solutions and highlighted the importance of collaborations within this framework.

## “Energy transformation is now a necessity”

In her speech at the panel, Borusan Holding People, Communication and Sustainability Group President Nursel Ölmez Ateş noted that energy transformation has become a necessity to achieve global climate targets and said: “Sustainable energy transition has become one of the main agenda items of the business world. In order to comply with international regulations, energy-intensive sectors have turned to renewable energy solutions. As members of the business world, we focus on renewable energy investments that will meet our energy needs and support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, while also projecting energy efficiency solutions. On the other hand, the development and accessibility of new energy technologies create a multiplier effect, but practices aimed at strengthening infrastructure and technical capacity are also among our priority topics. Access to green financing resources is also a critical issue for increasing sustainable energy investments. We follow all these developments closely and take responsibility for sustainable energy transformation.”



## “200 trillion US dollars are needed by 2050”

Another panelist, Ebru Dildar Edin, President of the High Advisory Board of the Business World and Sustainable Development Association, expressed the following views in her speech: “In addition to the need for a collective effort and a strong will to significantly reduce energy waste and transition energy resources from fossil sources to renewable energy sources, 200 trillion US dollars are needed by 2050 for the transition to a low-carbon economy in the world. This means reaching approximately 7 trillion US dollars of green financing annually. The good news is that global investments in the clean energy transition have reached US\$1.1 trillion in 2022, with an annual growth rate of 29%. This figure is currently equivalent to fossil fuel investment, but we believe that as we increase cooperation, these values will increase in favor of nature-friendly investments. Developments such as Turkey's installed solar energy capacity reaching a historical level and the contribution of renewable energy in electricity generation exceeding 51% reveal our country's potential in this field. We also see that our country needs to implement more projects in renewable energy for its green transformation goals.”

## “Our focus is on investing in sustainable energy technologies”

Filiz Gökler, Baker Hughes Turkey Country Director, started her speech by stating that Baker Hughes is a global energy technology company operating with approximately 55,000 employees in more than 120 countries, and continued as follows: “Within the scope of combating global climate change and securing sustainable energy transformation, while we implement sustainable practices that reduce our operational footprint, we also focus on investing in tomorrow's sustainable energy technologies such as new generation fuel hydrogen, carbon capture, use and storage, geothermal, and clean energy.

“It is vital to achieve the balance between energy supply, security, and sustainability and lead the energy transition by overcoming challenges such as limited financing, inflation,

global and regional political instability, geopolitical tensions, supply chain challenges, and deficiencies in policies and regulations.

“We believe that energy producers, technology and service providers, energy buyers, policymakers, and the entire society in general should work together in the energy transformation journey, in the light of integrated thinking and shared sustainability standards. Let's carry energy into the future together.”

## “Renewable energy capacity should triple”

Enerjisa Enerji Independent Board Member Mehtap Anık Zorbozan noted that the future of energy is shaped by the increasing trend towards renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and sustainable energy technologies and said: “However, these trends create new risks for countries in terms of affordability, electricity security and durability of clean energy supply chains. Managing risks and meeting the investment needs of the new period will be on the agenda of the coming period, because to achieve the 2030 carbon targets, renewable energy capacity must be tripled, the pace of energy efficiency improvements must be doubled, electrification must be increased and methane emissions from fossil fuel operations must be reduced. Global energy investment will rise to US\$ 3.2 trillion in 2030. This is approximately 15% above the levels forecast for 2023. For climate finance, both public and private sector resources need to follow an integrated strategy.”

Making a speech at the opening of the conference, Sabancı University IICEC Coordinator Dr. Mehmet Doğan Üçok pointed out that social and economic sustainability should be developed in the field of energy and said: “Sustainable energy offers versatile benefits under subheadings such as the concepts of protection of the environment, supporting environmental sustainability goals, economic benefits, more efficient use of energy technologies and resources in energy production. In this context, we see that sustainable energy, as the guarantee of the future, has become an economic and social necessity rather than a choice.”

## Special Award to Our Faculty Member Eren Günseli

Dr. Eren Günseli has made significant contributions to understanding the interactions between long-term memory and working memory through pioneering work in cognitive psychology and neuroscience.

His innovative approach in this field has been supported by international awards, grants, and achievements, showcasing his outstanding success in both research and mentorship activities. Dr. Eren Günseli has been awarded the ODTÜ Mustafa Parlar Research Incentive Award for his valuable contributions to the scientific community and his original findings in the research areas he leads.



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Members of Sabancı University's "Distinguished Research Fellowship" program, who work at leading universities in the academic environment and have undertaken various scientific projects and studies that have had repercussions worldwide, came together at the Distinguished Research Fellows Spring Meeting 2024 event.

On the first day of the events held on Sabancı University Tuzla Campus, Turkish biomedical engineer Prof. Mehmet Toner, who is a professor in the department of surgery at Harvard University Faculty of Medicine and the Harvard-MIT health sciences and technologies program, and on the second day, Dr. Aslı Demirgüç-Kunt, former Chief Economist of the Europe and Central Asia Region at the World Bank, and currently a non-resident fellow at the Center for Global Development, gave a seminar.

Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici, who made the opening speech of the event, stated that they were happy to host people who are world authorities in their fields and gave information about Prof. Mehmet Toner's academic career and studies.



### **Prof. Mehmet Toner: "Precision Microfluidics of Large Volumes of Complex Liquids"**

The seminar given by Mehmet Toner on Sabancı University Tuzla Campus was entitled "Precision Microfluidics of Complex Liquids in Large Volumes". In his speech, Mehmet Toner talked about engineering-based clinical applications, especially cancer diagnosis applications. He underlined that they are working on the clinical applications of very small amounts of liquids, and that great progress has been made, especially in diagnosis. Prof. Toner also said: "We are working on early diagnosis and prenatal diagnosis of cancer. We can find cancerous cells among 1 trillion blood cells. In other words, with the technologies we use, we look at 300 million cells in 1 second and detect the cancerous cells within them. We can even find one tumor cell among 200 billion cells. So, it's pretty advanced. We examine, research and conduct studies on their clinical applications."



### **Dr. Aslı Demirgüç-Kunt: "How are Global Banks Responding to Changes in Climate Policy?"**

On the second day of the Distinguished Research Fellows Spring Meeting 2024 event, Dr. Aslı Demirgüç-Kunt, presented by Ayşegül Toker, Dean of Sabancı Business School, gave a seminar entitled "How are Global Banks Responding to Changes in Climate Policy?".

In her speech, Dr. Aslı Demirgüç-Kunt mentioned that climate policy aims to reduce carbon emissions through methods such as encouraging renewable energies and imposing restrictions on activities that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. She pointed out the role played by banks in this regard and conveyed certain main topics. She highlighted potential concerns, touching on methodologies such as comparing the lending response of local and global



subsidiaries to a country's climate policy stringency and examining the behavior of a global bank's subsidiaries in different countries. Finally, she underlined that studies such as comparing credit growth to determine the responses of banks by focusing on global banks and investigating whether the response depends on preferences for green assets have been carried out.



## A Taste of Japanese Culture with Sakura Festival at Sabancı University

*Sabancı University hosted the "Sakura Festival" on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Japan. The Sakura Festival was held for the first time at Sabancı University, which has nearly two thousand sakura trees and has the largest sakura population in Turkey. While introducing Japanese culture in detail, the festival also strengthened the traditional Turkish-Japanese friendship.*



Sabancı University experienced one of its historic days with the "Sakura Festival", which was held outside Japan for the first time. Thousands of students and guests had the opportunity to get to know Japanese culture closely at the festival, where the color harmony created by the flowers of nearly two thousand sakura trees in the campus area presented unique images. The festival, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Turkish-Japanese relations, lasted all day and night. The festival held on the Sabancı University campus, which has the largest sakura tree population in Turkey, was attended by Güler Sabancı, Founding Chair of the Sabancı University Board of Trustees, Katsumata Takahiko, Ambassador of Japan to Turkey, Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici, President of Sabancı University, Ali Çalışkan, Secretary General of Sabancı University, Güler Sabancı's friends from the business and academic world, and many distinguished guests.

Among the guests attending the festival were Japanese Consul General Kasahara Kenichi, Mitsubishi General Manager Yasunori Sakamoto, Toyota CEO Ali Haydar Bozkurt, Bolez Tavuk Chair Athisiko Chikuhama, Itochu General Manager Takashi Kisimoto, Bridgestone Japan Representative Manager Tomio Fukuzimi, and Marubeni General Manager Shigeru Yamaguchi.

The festival, decorated with the flowers of sakura trees, which symbolize rebirth in Japanese culture, also created a resource that will support successful young people in need of financial support studying at Sabancı University to continue their success within the scope of the "Make a Promise for the Future" Scholarship Program

### **Güler Sabancı: "The Sakura Festival was a great opportunity to celebrate the 100th anniversary of relations between Turkey and Japan"**

Making a speech to Turkish and Japanese guests, employees and students at the Sakura Festival on the Sabancı University campus, Founding Chair of the Sabancı University Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı said that they are passionately committed to growing sakura trees. She continued, "The relations between Turkey and Japan have always been good. At Sabancı, we are privileged and honored to have extremely reliable partnerships with Japanese companies. Today, our partnerships are very successful because we share the same values with these companies and our collaborations are based on many years of trust. We no longer count the years, and today we are here celebrating the centennial of Japan-Turkey relations.



Sakuras are an important detail of Japanese culture. It all started with Komatsu, an incredible partner we have been working with for many years, who brought us sakura trees. Our students now experience and enjoy sakuras with pleasure every year. I would like to thank everyone who joined us for our Sakura Festival. I think this festival is a nice way to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Japan.”



grateful for the organization of such an event on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Japan. If you allow me, I say Türkiye is my second country.”

### **Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici: “We have 7 different types of sakura trees”**

Making a speech at the gala night of the Sakura Festival, Sabancı University President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici stated that there are 3,700 Sakura trees in Washington, the capital of the United States, compared to 1,962 trees on the Sabancı University campus. He said, “We are proud to host 7 different types of sakura trees on our campus. The sakura trees, which gave their name to this event, were donated to Sabancı University by Komatsu Group in 2007. These tiny trees bloomed and flourished for the first time in 2008-2009, and they have grown a little more each year to reach today. Today, you all saw the magnificence of these sakura trees of Sabancı University on our campus. We thank you very much for being with us on this beautiful day.”



Japan's Ambassador to Turkey, Katsumata Takahiko, also pointed out that sakura is a symbol of the deep Turkish-Japanese relationship and said: “Sakura and tulip are very symbolic national flowers. Growing thousands of sakuras in the beautiful climate of Istanbul is a very difficult task. But it's a great feeling to see them grow in this special campus area. In Japan, these trees bloom in the first or second week of April. Here, too, I relived the feeling I had in the parks in Japan. Sakura trees opened a new page for the beginning of the friendly story between the two countries. In terms of economic relations between Japan and Turkey, with the cooperation initiated by Sabancı Holding in 1980, mutual trust was established with various Japanese companies. This friendship made significant contributions to the investment and encouragement of Japanese companies in Turkey. I congratulate Mrs. Güler Sabancı for her achievements over many years in improving the relations between Japan and Turkey. I am



### **Japanese culture starred at the festival**

The Sakura Festival held at Sabancı University started with the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. This was followed by the screening of the movie *The Boy and The Heron*, with which Hayao Miyazaki, considered one of the greatest masters of animation, made his magnificent return to the cinema after a decade, and received the Best Animation Oscar at the 96th Academy Awards. The fragrance/scent experience, origami workshop, sushi workshop, shadō (Japanese calligraphy) workshop, and ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) workshop activities, and the kendo/Japanese sword art show fascinated the audience. Within the scope of the program, Yugetsu Akasaka Concert, DJ Kunio Teramoto, and DJ SALAM performances and Kufuki Concert provided the festival participants with enjoyable moments full of music.



## A breeze of Japanese and Turkish cultures on the gala night

The night program of the Sakura Festival organized by Sabancı University, which broke new ground on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Japan, was held at Sabancı Performing Arts Center. At the gala night attended by many guests, Sabancı Holding Chair Güler Sabancı and Sabancı University President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici took great care of their guests.

Famous Japanese band WA League was the first to take the stage at the Sakura Festival Gala Event. The group delivered a very special performance bearing the traces of traditional Japanese culture. After the group, the stage was taken by songwriter and composer Cem Adrian, one of the most important voices of the new generation.



## 9 Million Euro EU - Teaming for Excellence Support to SUNUM's Team.NANO Project

*SUNUM has been awarded the highest budgeted project support ever to be given to a single institution by the EU Commission in the history of our country. This is the first time a project from Türkiye has been funded in the WIDERA Teaming calls including Horizon 2020.*

The project titled 'Teaming For Capacity Development And Synergies In Micro-Nanofabrication And Flexible Electronics For Widespread Impact -Team.NANO', submitted under the coordination of SUNUM Director Prof. Fazilet Vardar, will be carried out within the scope of the HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01 (Teaming for Excellence) call with an EU budget of 9 million Euros and co-financing by the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye.

Team.NANO aims to improve the infrastructure and technical capabilities of SUNUM, one of the National Research Infrastructures within the scope of Law No. 6550, through cooperation with The University of Southampton (UK) and the Delft University of Technology (Netherlands). SUNUM aims to increase its international scientific and technological competitiveness in the field of new-generation flexible electronic systems and micro-nanofabrication processes by increasing its technical and human resources capabilities.

### 9 Million Euro EU – Teaming for Excellence Support to SUNUM's Team.NANO Project

With the Team.NANO Project, SUNUM will have a leading role in new generation flexible electronic systems and micro-nanofabrication processes.

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## Our University Hosted Jean-Marie Guehenno, Professor of Columbia University

*At a special event held on Tuzla campus, Sabancı University hosted Professor Jean-Marie Guehenno, Director of the Columbia University SIPA Kent Global Leadership Program, who managed the largest peacekeeping operation under the United Nations between 2000 and 2008, and who is also a member of the United Nations (UN) High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation.*



Giving a speech titled "Transformation of Conflict and the Future of Peacemaking", Guehenno shed light on the transformation in the field of international relations in the 21st century and the impact of new technologies developing in this transformation. Prof. Guehenno said, "The number, intensity, and length of conflicts worldwide is at its highest level since before the end of the Cold War. The study found that there were 55 active conflicts in 2022, with the average one lasting about eight to 11 years, a substantial increase from the 33 active conflicts lasting an average of seven years a decade earlier. It can be clearly seen that the situation in the world has deteriorated and conflicts have increased following the improvement that occurred with the end of the Cold War."

Pointing out that the distinction between war and peace is eroding, Guehenno said "There are many actors who now have a vested interest in keeping the world off balance. In many situations, rather than talking about frozen conflicts, we should talk about rotting conflicts. That is why prevention of conflict should be the absolute priority in today's world. However, states and international organizations cannot do it alone. For conflict prevention to be successful, business and civil society must be part of the response."





## “We are in a world with no agreed structure and no defining principle”

Highlighting that the dominant cliché of our time is that we are at the beginning of a new Cold War, Guehenno described how our present is different from our past. Stating that economically the world is multipolar but it remains more integrated than it ever was since the First World War, Guehenno continued as follows: “The Cold War was in large part an ideological confrontation. Each camp was convinced of the legitimacy of its ideology. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, western nations tried hard to impose a narrative of Western universalism that had the ambition to shape perceptions around the world. It was a narrative of democratization leading to peace and prosperity. The three were supposed to go hand in hand, and were an attractive model for the rest of the world. That narrative collapses when democracies appear to be bellicose, not so democratic, while a non-democratic country, China, delivers steady economic progress. The end of the triumphalist narrative of the West has not led to its replacement by an alternative narrative. We are not in a self-confident age, but rather in a fluid and multi-layered world with no agreed structure and no defining principle.”

## Social transformation driven by the data revolution

In his speech at Sabancı University, Jean-Marie Guehenno also emphasized that the data revolution experienced with the development of technology will reshape societies in an even more radical way than the printing press and the Industrial Revolution have. Asking the question “In the pre-industrial as well as in the industrial age, power was based on the control of physical assets. What happens when the battle shifts to virtual assets?”, Prof. Guehenno said that there are several categories of potential beneficiaries of the data revolution: individuals, scientific institutions, business, and states, and drew attention to risks that may arise due to strengthening of certain interest groups: “States and corporations can rightly claim that for the most part they will provide better security and better services to their citizens and customers. But how will individuals use their new source of power? The empowerment of individuals, like any

empowerment, can lead to very different results, the best and the worst. The best, when better-informed individuals are able to make better decisions, to better manage their time, to better check the exercise of power, to better connect with others to increase a positive influence. The worst, when the connectivity of the world makes it possible for hackers to bring down entire systems, when malevolent actors are empowered, spreading false news, invading the privacy of others, blackmailing and stealing.” Guehenno added that the data revolution is an extraordinary multiplier and accelerator, which makes any attempt at anticipating the future of peace and war more difficult.

## The 'golden triangle' formula in conflict resolution

Sabancı University International Board of Overseers Member Muhtar Kent, who participated in the event online, stated that the Columbia University SIPA Kent Global Leadership Program on International Conflict Resolution, which was established in his name, and of which Prof. Guehenno is the Director, acts with the “Golden Triangle” approach. He continued, “I truly believe in the ‘Golden Triangle’ concept, which reflects the coming together of states, business, and civil society to solve the social problems we have experienced in the last 20-30 years because we know that states, business or civil society cannot solve these problems alone.”

Muhtar Kent also shared the following information about the Kent Global Leadership Program established at Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA): “In 2018, when I retired, I wanted to do something meaningful about the ‘Golden Triangle’. When I shared this idea with the administration of Columbia University, Merit E. Janow, who was SIPA Dean at the time, said, “Let’s do something on conflict resolution and apply forcefully the golden triangle to that subject. We were very fortunate to have Professor Guehenno who has a great intellect and energy to apply the golden triangle to this subject. ‘Conflict Resolution’, of which Guehenno is the Director, forms the main backbone of the Kent Global Leadership Program. It brings together representatives from the state, business, and civil society every year in May, allowing them to share experiences in the field of conflict resolution.”



## Our FENS Dean Erkey Savaş's "PRIVIDEMA" Project receives Horizon support with full points

*The project entitled "Privacy-preserving identity management for digital wallet and secure data sharing and processing for cyber Threat intelligence data (PRIVIDEMA)", in which Sabancı University Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Dean Erkey Savaş is involved, has been deemed entitled to support.*



In the project, which received Horizon Europe support with a full score (15.0/15.0), Sabancı University will provide support in securing sensitive data with homomorphic encryption.

PRIVIDEMA represents an industry-driven initiative to improve and advance privacy and confidentiality-protecting technologies in application areas such as cyber threat intelligence, data protection and identity management. This multifaceted project will involve working across various research and innovation maturity levels to deliver more robust, user-friendly and scalable privacy and security technologies for the European ecosystem.

Studies and activities to be carried out within the scope of PRIVIDEMA include i) development of open source software tools, ii) organizing various collaboration network events and initiating capacity building activities, iii) establishing infrastructures that will democratize access to technology, and iv) developing new methods and tools that cyber security professionals can use. In addition, increasing capabilities in homomorphic encryption and developing, implementing and increasing the usability of hardware acceleration methods for these encryption systems are also included in the scope of the project. The project aims to create a prototype of the European identity card in which personal data is protected. Finally, it is also planned to develop a prototype system to process cyber threat data in Europe while preserving confidentiality, and to test and validate it under real-world conditions.

In line with the objectives of Horizon Europe, the PRIVIDEMA project will make significant contributions to the creation of secure digital infrastructures by playing an active role in cybersecurity, data and computer networks protection. The project stands out for supporting SMEs and open-source software development, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and the use of privacy and security as a design principle. Its solution-oriented approach will position PRIVIDEMA in a key role in the development of cyber-attack-resistant digitalization and the advancement of the data economy in Europe. The PRIVIDEMA consortium's connection with various European strategic initiatives is notable for its strategic targeting of solutions fit for real-world applications, innovations beyond the status quo, and market-ready solutions.

## Environment + Intangible Cultural Heritage Image Exhibition

*The Environment + Intangible Cultural Heritage Image Exhibition, organized in cooperation with Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Xian Technology University, will take place between 3 and 26 April 2024.*



A total of 138 photographs are exhibited in this exhibition, which can be visited at the FASS Art Gallery. Participants of the exhibition include Alex Wong, Zhang Hui, Ceren Aydoğdu, Peng Min, Hilal Işık, Liu Yuting, Neslihan Koyuncu, Ren Yuan, Özge Kepenek, and Wang Jin.

Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design Program (FASS/VAVCD) Member Yoong Wah Alex Wong's works can be seen under two different themes: The Holly Organs and Water Closet.

Neslihan Koyuncu's "The Archaic Units", H. Işık's "Curing", Ceren Aydoğdu's "Kotiledon", Özge Kepenek's "At The Door", Prof. Zhang Hui's "Shaanxi Social Flame", Peng Min's "Image Printing: Fire Festivities", Ren Yuan and Wang Jin's "Documentation of Shaanxi Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritors", and Liu Yuting's "Preserving Craftsmanship" can also be visited at the exhibition.



## Our University Has Become a Member of the Venice International University Consortium

*Our university has taken an important new step in its international efforts and become a member of the Venice International University (VIU) Consortium. With this membership, our University will strengthen its international university network and offer a new knowledge and experience sharing platform for students, researchers, and academics.*



Founded in 1995 to develop joint programs across disciplines, continents, languages, and cultures, VIU is an international organization that offers an innovative approach to higher education. VIU, which has an autonomous structure in its academic field in Italy, has 25 members from 15 different countries of the world, including Duke University (USA), Boston College (USA), Korea University (Korea), KU Leuven (Belgium), European University at St. Petersburg (Russia), University of Exeter (England), Ludwig Maximilians Universität (Germany), Tsinghua University (China), Tel Aviv University (Israel), Tor Vergata University of Rome (Italy), University of Bordeaux (France), Waseda University (Japan), and the University of Lausanne (Switzerland). Sabancı University has become the first and only higher education institution from Turkey to become a member of the Consortium.

Our President Yusuf Leblebici stated that the collaboration with VIU creates a new international, interdisciplinary, and intercultural opportunity in the fields of education and research. He continued, "The VIU Consortium aims to contribute to addressing the environmental, societal, and cultural issues faced by humanity today and their local effects. It has a structure that overlaps with our university's interdisciplinary education approach. In this sense, it creates a new initiative in terms of supporting the education and research carried out in the fields of humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences at our university with an innovative approach."

A statement made by VIU said, "Sabancı University's reputation for academic excellence and innovation in Turkey adds a valuable dimension to VIU's diverse community. Sabancı University's emphasis on fostering creativity,

entrepreneurship, and global citizenship aligns with VIU's mission of promoting interdisciplinary cooperation and tackling complex societal issues."

Along with Sabancı University, IUSS Pavia (Scuola Universitaria Superiore IUSS di Pavia) from Italy was also included in the VIU Consortium. In its statement, VIU said, "The entry of IUSS Pavia and Sabancı University into the VIU consortium not only enhances the diversity of perspectives within our community but also strengthens our collective capacity to address the multifaceted challenges of the 21st century."

### Focus Areas and Specialization Tracks

- The following topics are addressed by assorted VIU programs
- Sustainability | Environmental Management & Security; Green & Circular Economy
- Innovation | Transport & Logistics; Creativity, Innovation and Design
- Globalization & Global Challenges | Cities and Global Change; Identity, Heritage, Ethics & Human Rights; Comparative Cultures
- Science and Society | Science Communication; Ageing Societies; Ethics in Research and Medicine
- Humanities | Cultural Heritage Conservation & Management; Visualizing Cities; Global Humanities; History and Memory; Environmental Humanities; Republics and Republicanism; Film Studies.
- VIU also offers academic programs and summer schools for students, workspaces, seminars, and project training opportunities for academics and researchers

## The senior management of IHP-Microelectronics, one of Germany's important technology companies, visits our university

*The senior management of IHP Microelectronics, a subsidiary of the Leibniz Scientific Research Association, which carries out research and development of silicon-based systems, ultra-high frequency circuits and technologies, and new materials, visited our university on April 3, 2024. As part of the visit, Sabancı University and IHP-Microelectronics, one of Germany's most important science centers, signed a protocol for the second time.*



IHP's senior management, consisting of Prof. Dr. Gerhard Kahmen (Scientific and Technical Director) and Unit Directors, who visited our university to renew the cooperation that has been ongoing since 2007 and to evaluate joint projects, were hosted by our President Yusuf Leblebici, our deans and faculty members.

### Sabancı University IHP-Microelectronics collaboration has been renewed

The aims of this protocol between both institutions are to expand research capability with a complementary research approach, to enhance the cooperation between the university and the research institution to strengthen mutual positions in joint project implementations and to have stronger representation in international platforms, to attract the best students and researchers to do joint project work, to support IHP, and to provide high-level education opportunities in fields matching IHP's and Sabancı University's research subjects.

Considering the mutual student and scientist exchanges and joint work results during the Sabancı University and IHP collaboration process, the successful projects, scientific publications, and thesis studies developed so far prove that both institutions play a complementary role.

### Motives for the Sabancı University and IHP-Microelectronics collaboration

Sabancı University's high quality of education and research, as well as its pioneering role in the field of new technologies, are among the most important motives for expanding collaboration with IHP. In this context, faculty members and students at Sabancı University are considered extremely valuable by IHP and constitute the main reason for this cooperation.

Thanks to the high-quality and multi-disciplinary engineering education provided at Sabancı University, IHP aims to increase its access to young and well-equipped engineering candidates. It is a well-known fact that the number of qualified students studying in the field of engineering in Europe is decreasing day by day. IHP's goal is to close this gap, thanks to this cooperation established with Sabancı University, and thus to maintain its support to the European economy with the unique technologies it develops and its contributions to the development of new high value-added industrial products.

Sabancı University's scientific research laboratories, equipped with the latest technological facilities, are another reason why IHP prefers to cooperate with Sabancı University. Although IHP stands as a research institute, it may not always be possible for it to be as flexible as Sabancı University in developing and implementing new technologies and ideas, since it also carries out commercial production. For this reason, Sabancı University's laboratory facilities, integrated with its innovative/entrepreneurial approach, complement IHP's pioneering qualities in the field of technology.



## What has been done so far within the scope of Sabanci University IHP-Microelectronics collaboration since 2007:

- Nearly 100 students have done internships in 15 years.
- 64 joint publications (15 journals, 49 conference presentations) have been prepared.
- 13 of our graduates have been employed at IHP-Microelectronics.
- Various high-budget projects have been developed as subcontractors.
- European projects currently in the application phase are being developed.
- Joint workshops have been held on topics such as microelectronics technology, circuits, and systems for space applications.
- Projects supported by Turkish, German, and EU funds have been successfully completed.
- Based on the "More-than-Moore" concept, the Microelectronics - Joint Virtual Excellence Laboratory has been established.
- Applied research has been carried out by Sabanci University Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Electronics Engineering students at the IHP-Microelectronics and Sabanci University Joint Laboratory.



## About IHP-Microelectronics

IHP, which develops innovative solutions for application areas such as wireless and broadband communications, aviation and space, biotechnology and medicine, the automotive industry, security technologies, and industrial automation, has approximately 300 employees. It has a pilot production capacity in a 1500 m<sup>2</sup> "Class-3" clean environment for new-generation technology development studies and the implementation of integrated circuits with high-speed 0.13/0.25  $\mu\text{m}$  BiCMOS technologies. Although IHP is basically a research institute, it also serves as a private, non-profit company.

## Murat Germen's Solo Exhibition Held in London

Sabanci University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) Faculty Member Murat Germen's solo exhibition entitled "Mutating Cities" was held at J/M Gallery, London between 17 and 23 January 2024 through cooperation with The University of Southampton (UK) and the Delft University of Technology (Netherlands). SUNUM aims to increase its international scientific and technological competitiveness in the field of new-generation flexible electronic systems and micro-nanofabrication processes by increasing its technical and human resources capabilities.



Within the scope of the exhibition, which hosted a large crowd of art lovers on the opening day, artist speeches also took place on January 18, 2024.



The Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in London, Bekir Utku Atahan, and his wife also attended the exhibition.

## Sabancı University Achieves Great Success by Rising 30 Places in the "Young University Rankings"

*Times Higher Education (THE) has announced the results of the Young University Rankings 2024. According to this ranking, Sabancı University has achieved great success by rising from 89th place to 54th place compared to last year.*



Sabancı University has ranked 54th among 673 universities from all over the world included in the rankings, which aim to measure the performances of young universities.

Like the World University Rankings, the Young University Rankings methodology consists of 5 main dimensions, which are teaching, research environment, research quality, industry, and international outlook, and 18 sub-indicators that make up these main dimensions.

### 2024 USA Alumni Gathering

*The USA Alumni Gathering took place on Saturday, April 13, at the Penn Club in New York.*

Our Founding Board of Trustees Chair Güler Sabancı, our President Yusuf Leblebici, our FASS Dean Meltem Müftüler-Baç, our FENS Dean Erkay Savaş, and Arts and Social Sciences faculty members Emre Erol, Zeynep Gülru Göker and Mert Moral attended the alumni gathering. 88 alumni attended the meeting, which was held with the participation of more than 100 people.

Our President Yusuf Leblebici made a presentation at the gathering, where Güler Sabancı made the opening speech. At the event, our alumni also shared the projects they took part in and their achievements.





## Senem Aydın-Düzgit was invited to the 'Pierre Keller Visiting Professorship in European Studies' Chair at Harvard University

***Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) Faculty Member and Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) Research and Academic Relations Coordinator Senem Aydın-Düzgit was found deserving of the "Pierre Keller Visiting Professorship in European Studies" Chair.***

Senem Aydın-Düzgit, the current holder of the "Pierre Keller Visiting Professorship in European Studies" chair, to which Harvard Kennedy School invites an academic active in the field of European Studies every year, will teach the European foreign policy course at Harvard Kennedy School for a semester.

The Pierre Keller Visiting Professorship provides an academic with a deep track record and academic achievement in European Union policies and transatlantic relations with the opportunity to teach and conduct research at Harvard Kennedy School.

The Kennedy School provides Harvard's primary platform for engaging with policymakers in the USA and worldwide in the field of international politics.

With the invitation of Senem Aydın-Düzgit, the Pierre Keller Visiting Professorship in European Studies chair was given to an academic from a non-EU country for the first time.



## Sabancı University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute Academic Collaboration

***Sabancı University (SU) and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) have signed an agreement for academic collaboration starting in Fall 2024. This partnership will focus on joint research activities, publications, student projects, joint supervision of post-graduate students, joint applications for research funding, and seminars, as well as the exchange of researchers and students.***



Additionally, the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences at SU and the School of Engineering at WPI have launched the Global Project initiative. Under this program, WPI and SU undergraduate students work together in Istanbul, tackling unstructured, real-world problems. These projects are designed to deliver meaningful outcomes that benefit local sponsors and the broader community.



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*This biannual newsletter provides a compilation of selected news items and developments related to the Sabancı University community that occurred during the past six-months period, prepared by the Marketing and Institutional Communications Unit. All rights reserved.*