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**The "Heaviest" Contribution to Turkish Exports
"20,719 professionals from 46 countries and 48 cities"**

The World's Only Marble Block Fair Came to a Close

Showcasing a total of 2200 marble blocks extracted from quarries across various Turkish cities, 'Bursa 5th International Marble Block Fair', the world's only Marble Block Fair, came to a close. 20, 719 people from 46 countries visited the fair which took place at Tüyap Bursa International Fair and Congress Center between 23 - 26 October. The fair showcased assets worth a total of 20 million dollars, with marble blocks whose price per ton ranged from 250 dollars to 4 thousand dollars, thus making the "heaviest" contribution to Turkish exports and meeting expectations.

A leader of the world marble industry due to its geological structure, Turkey organized yet another important trade fair. Organized by TÜYAP Bursa Fairs Inc. and Bursa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BTSO), in collaboration with Association of Mining and Marble Producers, Industrialists and Businessmen (MADSIAD) between 23 - 26 October 2019 at Tüyap Bursa International Fair and Congress Center, '**Bursa 5th International Marble Block Fair**' brought together under a single roof all stakeholders of the natural stone industry. 20,719 people from 46 countries visited the fair in four days, and a large portion of the 2,200 blocks of marble exhibited was sold.

An International Platform for Marketing Natural Stones to the World

TÜYAP Bursa Fairs Inc. CEO İlhan Ersözlü underlined the fact that the fair, launched 5 years ago, has become an international hub for the industry: "Mining is an important source of revenue for our country. It is one of the leading sectors contributing to our export performance. Turkey is very rich in terms of underground resources. Our platform gathered almost 20 million dollars worth of blocks extracted from quarries in almost all Turkish regions, thus offering rich product diversity and enabling the marketing of these stones to the entire world. The commercial activities during the fair made significant contributions to the national and regional economy. With the participation of 205 firms and firm representatives, the fair was organized across 60 thousand m2 of space featuring 8 separate halls and outdoors areas. It drew attendance from interested parties for 4 days. The fair welcomed procurement teams from 46 countries and professional visitors from 48 Turkish cities, and the resulting business volume bolstered the industry's exports and competitiveness."

Expressing his gratitude to exhibitors consisting of Turkey's prominent block manufacturing firms, Ersözlü said "We are starting the preparations for next year's fair which will bring together sector professionals for the 6th time between **21 - 24 October 2020**. I would also like to thank BTSO and MADSIAD for their continuous support to the fair which we have been organizing for five years."

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The Fair Expands Year After Year

President of Bursa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, İbrahim Burkay indicated that the 5th edition of Bursa International Marble Block Fair showed the city's potential in marble and natural stones to the entire world. President Burkay emphasized that Bursa enjoys strong competitive edge in world markets with its diverse color range and high quality, and added, "Launched five years ago, the Marble Block Fair is the only one of its kind in the world, and grows year after year with the support of TÜYAP and MADSIAD. This year, 205 companies from 48 cities exhibited more than 2 thousand blocks of marble with a total weight of 60 thousand tons. Most of the blocks exhibited during the fair were sold to foreign buyers from 46 countries, mainly China and India. I would like to extend my gratitude to all the exhibitors for boosting the sector's export performance."

We Filled up 60 Thousand Square Meters

MADSIAD Chairman Erol Efendiođlu stated, "The number of exhibitors at the fair was satisfactory, the number of blocks exhibited was satisfactory: We filled up 60 thousand square meters. 1600 trucks of marble blocks were brought to the fair. These were the strengths of our fair. However, we also felt the effects of global economic contraction. We expect more visitors to our fair next year."

Bursa 5th International Marble Block Fair welcomed procurement teams from especially **China and India**, as well as the **USA, Germany, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Algeria, Indonesia, Morocco, Palestine, France, Georgia, the Netherlands, Iraq, the UK, Iran, Spain, Israel, Italy, Japan, Canada, Montenegro, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Malaysia, Norway, Libya, Lebanon, Egypt, Pakistan, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Oman, Ukraine, Jordan, Yemen and Greece.**

Best regards,
TÜYAP BURSA FUARCILIK A.Ş.