

For immediate release

MARBLE Stimulated Economy

World natural stone industry met at 24th Marble-International Natural Stone and Technologies Fair on March 28-31, and the fair made an important contribution to the export and urban economy. Buyers and sellers having made million-dollar agreements were pleased with the show. Accommodation, transport and service sectors are boosted in Izmir.

MARBLE - International Natural Stone and Technologies Fair being Turkey's largest and one of the world's top three fair in its sector was organized in fuairizmir with the slogan of "Experience natural stone at the source" between March 28 to 31.

MARBLE grew in every area this year. The fair, being organized in the area of 139 thousand square meters in 2017, was realized in the field of 150 thousand square meters this year. The total stand area increased from 54 thousand square meters to 57 thousand square meters. As compared to the previous year, the number of foreign exhibitors increased from 213 to 246 and the number of domestic firms increased from 896 to 914. The total number of participants at the 24th MARBLE was 1.160. Visitors of Marble 24th were recorded as 53.524 national and 9.790 international. Participants and enthusiasts were both satisfied with the presentation of the new natural stone samples, and meeting with the sector representatives of the latest construction and marble equipment and consumables at the MARBLE Fair. Sector representatives declared that sales for export were made and agreements were signed. Sector has started to wait for 25th Marble.

Turk: "Turkey's natural stone fair is MARBLE"

Turkish Marble, Natural Stone and Machinery Manufacturers Association (TÜMMER) President Raif Turk, said that "I have attended to MARBLE for 22 years. I can say that it is the best fair ever. The adventure started 24 years ago and has come to the present day with great experience and accretion. This fair is well known and given importance by marble workers from all around the world. İzmir being the really only stone fair should be understood by other fairs in Turkey as they gradually ended their activities. MARBLE's 25th year will be much more magnificent, we will raise the culvert much more." Turk, stating that they predict at least 400 million dollars export for this year, emphasized that the natural stone sector has grown and developed even more thanks to MARBLE.



İZMİR BÜYÜKŞEHİR BELEDİYESİ

Kaya: "All the blocks we brought were sold out"

Mevlüt Kaya, Chairman of Aegean Mine Exporters Association, said that the fair was held on 24th of this year is a very serious density and said, "We participate in domestic and foreign fairs for years. The first and fourth days are the days of no expectation for exhibitors. On the first day of 24th MARBLE, there was a great density and it was magnificent. It surprised us and made us happy. On the following days, the density continued. The fair was much higher than our expectation. I brought eight blocks to the fair and all of them were sold. Almost all of the blocks are branded. Blocks buyers of the fair also made permanent block agreements. This is carrying MARBLE fair one step further. Not only exhibition but also trade is made in here. It's not just a place to sell processed natural stone but a place to sale blocks. I am convinced that in the fair the thousand and 450 of thousand 500 blocks were sold. I believe we will achieve to make fair much more successful in its 25th year.

The quality of natural stone reflected in the machinery sector

There was a great interest in the fair in machinery area where latest technologies belonging to the entire process from the extraction of natural stone to its delivery to end user. Natural Stone Machineries and Technologies Association President S. Zafer Udül emphasizing the quality of natural stone production in Turkey helps machinery industry also to develop, said that "Turkey is in a position to produce technology not to buy it. We have recently become a fearful dream of many imported brands with machines we produce. Italian machines are sold as 200,000 Euros which was 125,000 Euros five years ago. There is now a competitive environment. What we need is to be a brand in the field of machinery as well as in natural stone. This fair is a good sign showing that we are on the right path ". Machinery sector representatives said that they made millions of dollars of sales, and sales through the contacts established at the fair will continue throughout the year.

