



PARENT

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PERSPECTIVES

This edition of *Parent Perspectives* comes from our Turkey Affiliate. Affiliate Director, Akbar Aghdam, shares with us about the journey to become a full affiliate within FPSP and also some interesting facts about the culture and customs of Turkey. Please enjoy!



Turkey Future Problem Solving Program

Future Problem Solving Program was introduced to Turkey back in 2006/2007. At that time, most education institutes were not well informed about the program and the majority of these organizations did not understand what FPS at its core was. Despite this, the program kept running annually between some schools until the year 2016 when I was introduced to Iowa FPS Directors, Deb and Tom Woythal. That was the year when Turkey FPS started getting into a new shape, having met these two fantastic mentors. Our entire program was being mentored at that time and this required a lot of traveling and hence created a bit of challenge to the participating schools. There was, however, another major problem back then and that was the language problem. Participating teams were offered to compete in English where Turkish was hard to go through with the year-through activities.

During the years of 2016-2017, the FPS program continued as a mentored program in Turkey when I was offered to take the lead of the program in the country. That was when Turkey Future Problem Solving Program - also known as TurkeyFPS , FPSTurkey, TürkiyeFPS and FPSTürkiye and acronymic as TRFPS - was introduced to Turkey and schools in the region. The program improved with a growth of almost 250% in the year of 2018 when Turkish schools started hitting fantastic records at the International Conference. This success created a promotion for the program in the country. In 2019, the Turkish FPS program started to shift into a different format with a new interface, a new website and complete chance of competing in the local language to the Turkish participants. This year was also a happy ending year because at the IC 2019 FPSP announced the accreditation of FPSTurkey as an affiliate program. Since then, the Turkish program has been annually developing and growing bigger and bigger through the different and various opportunities offered by the program to the participants no matter of their ages or levels. There has been also a massive improvement from A to Z on digital formats that the program offers to the participants. This has brought a good reputation to the program as people interested in getting into the program face such digital forms available to help them from receiving the materials to presenting their reports and works back.

With the Turkey program officially being announced in the year 2019, FPS gained more interest in more and more institutions. Schools had a growing number of participants until the global pandemic was announced and put a huge halt to most educational activities. A HUGE GAP. SILENCE. The fortunate part of the Turkish program was its digitally designed system, which allows the continued offering of the program in a digital platform.

During these young years of the FPS program, there have been many people and individuals involved in the program. Some of these people have been evaluators, coaches, parents and most important of all alumni who give a helping hand any time the program needs them. FPS has been a tool for many of these students to earn scholarships in major and reputed universities of the country and even abroad. Many more teachers and even chess clubs have turned towards the FPS program when they witness what real skills the program earns for the participants no matter of their age levels. This is another reason more and more people come and join the program as either a competitor, coach, or evaluator and even as observers. The 21st century requires certain skills to be a global citizen who can be included and accepted in every aspect or level of life and this is why Future Problem Solving has gained more reputation and value among other programs locally and globally. We have started receiving interests from university academics to take part in the program as either an evaluator or a participant.

Turkey Future Problem solving Program has grown to be one of the most academically competitive programs in the country with the values it presents to its participants. This has been even reflected to the ministry of education's office when the minister invited the IC winners to his office for a special award ceremony his office organized for the CmPS Junior team in 2019.



Scenes from the Turkey Affiliate Bowl!

Find out more on the Turkish website at this [CLICK](#) with [GALLERIES](#) and more details.

Cultural Corner—Turkey

Welcome to Turkiye, a country of contrasts, where the green nature meets the blue waters of the four seas. Turkiye is a country of cultural diversity that you can experience from east to west, from north to south.

There are seven regions in the country:

* The Black Sea

* The Mediterranean

* The Marmara

* The Aegean

* East Anatolia

* South Anatolia

* Central Anatolia

Each of these regions has its own cuisine, customs, natural sites and even dialects. The three largest cities in the Turkish Republic are Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. Because Turkiye is a motherland to numerous civilizations, there are many historical sites in each of the seven regions.

The ancient city of Ephesus has been a hub for the Persian, Greek, Egyptian, and Roman empires. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, archaeologists have examined the hours of the Virgin Mary's House as well as the Temple of Artemis, of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.



Sumela Monastery that dates back to 356 AD in the picturesque Black Sea region.



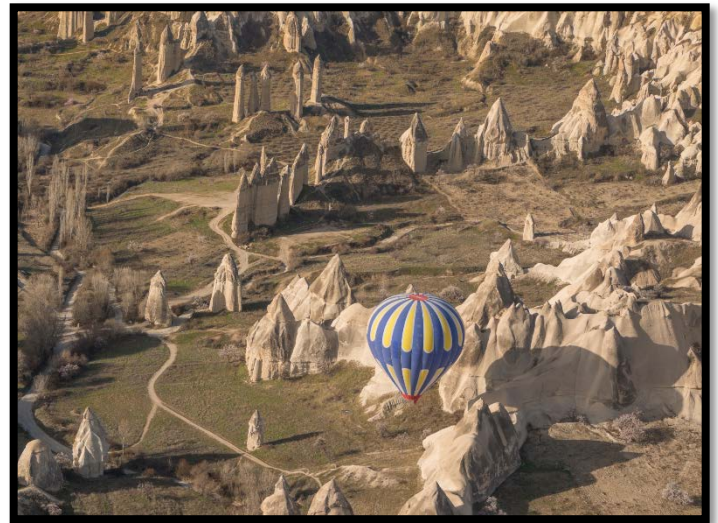
The ancient trade center of Aspendos has one of the world's best-preserved amphitheatres.



Istanbul (known as Constantinople before the Ottoman Empire) is one of the biggest cities in the world, and is on both the Asian and European continents. It is Turkiye's financial and cultural hub. It hosts a great number of historic sites visited by millions of tourists every year, including Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque.

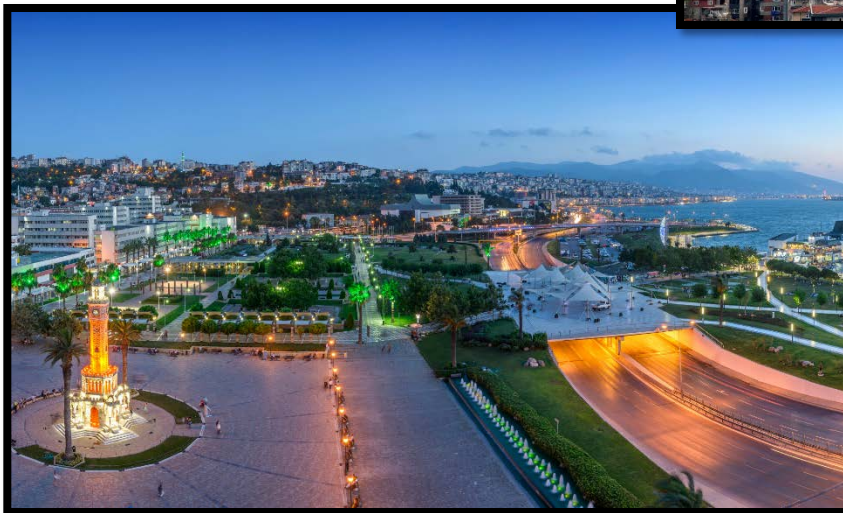


Cappadocia boasts exceptional natural wonders such as its distinctive “fairy chimneys” in Central Anatolia, as well as rock-cut architecture.



Göbekli Tepe is known for being home to humanity's oldest permanent settlements. With less than 5% of the site being excavated, most of its mysteries remain to be explored.

Ankara has been the capital of the Turkish Republic since 1923, when Mustafa Kemal Atatürk granted this title to the city. It is a political and industrial center of the country. Owing to its unique geographical position (on both Asian and European continents) and multicultural background, Türkiye often serves as a mediator between the east and the west.



On the west coast of Anatolia lies Izmir (“Smyrna” in antiquity), the pearl of the Aegean. Founded by the Greeks, ruled by the Romans, expanded by Alexander the Great and then taken over by the Ottomans, Izmir now is one of the most important cities in the Turkish Republic. Due to its coastal location, Izmir has a very big port that plays a vital role in the country’s trade. Izmir is considered one of the most livable cities in the world.