My name is Fazlı Çağrı Mermi. As a young member of Turkey’s energy team, I am working for Tüpraş (Turkish Petroleum Refineries Co.) for nearly 10 years. I have joined Tüpraş just after its privatization in 2006 and have seen the gradual change and improvement of refining process. As a junior chemical engineer graduated from Middle East Technical University, Tüpraş was the right place for me to start professional energy career. During my college years I have always been in a position closer to industry rather than academic career; that’s why my choice of petroleum refining industry satisfies me.

At the first few years of my career, I spent most of my time for learning the refining process, determining the bottlenecks, optimizing the unit operations and looking for best practices. I have involved in lots of projects in the refinery like start-up of new sulfur recovery unit, capacity increase of vacuum distillation unit, waste heat recovery from SRU incinerator, implementation of APC and many others. In some of these projects I had the opportunity to cooperate with worldwide companies like Shell Global Solutions, KBC, Jacobs and UOP. During my career, I worked as process engineer also. Process engineering developed my ability to combine refining process with finance and made me familiar with sophisticated calculation and simulation tools. Being an operations engineer in the refinery added me more skills than any other jobs can do. Yet, I cannot ignore the benefits of process based and general on-job trainings organizedby Tüpraş in my career. Operating a refinery plant, for instance crude distillation unit, gave me the ability to look energy sector from a larger perspective. I have seen that my responsibility should not be limited with product qualities and operation parameters but should include the economy of refining, environmental issues and continuous improvement in energy world. Leading a large team of engineers and operators, responding emergency situations and contributing the team members’ development helped me on the way of being an energy leader.

Since crude oil is still the primary source of fuels in Turkey and accounts for the greatest portion of refining costs, processing more types of opportunity crudes and analyzing their effects in different aspects was one of the most important discussions in Tüpraş. I worked in the team for exploring opportunity crudes and deeply involved in discussions not only about corrosion mechanisms, crude yields and crude transportation issues but also about security of pipelines, Iran restrictions, Northern Iraq and Syria politics etc. At the end, I can say that cheap may not be as it is seen when you talk about crude oil price. I hope and know that regional and worldwide crude oil policies, effect of politics on oil prices, future of opportunity crudes and different sources of oils will be discussed in the 2015 Annual Meeting of The Bosphorus Energy Club.

As another part of my job, I have to be in close contact with natural gas policies of Turkey, Russia and Iran. Since refineries produce their own electricity mostly by natural gas and use it as an economical and clean source of fuel, any change of natural gas price and bottlenecks in supply will deeply affect our operations. Considering the supply problems that occurred in past years; we, as Tüpraş, have to think twice before designing a new natural gas based processor making annual economic predictions. Since Turkey is located at the center of natural gas transfer route between Russia-Iran and Europe, I believe that natural gas issues will be covered in 2015 Annual Meeting and add value to my perspective.

With my 10 years of experience in refinery – energy area, I feel familiar with nearly all aspects of crude oil downstream technologies both theoretically and practically thanks the advantage of being a refinery operations engineer. On the other hand, global energy demand and alternative technologies are continuously growing and sustainability and environment friendly ones seem to be always popular. Being one of those young energy professionals attending the Bosphorus Energy Club Annual Meeting will help me expanding my network of energy world. In addition, I hope to find chance to grab new ideas of future energy marketand investment strategies for existing companies, especially refineries like Tüpraş. I have witnessed continuous and dramatic changes in downstream energy world, including technological developments, environmental specs, governmental legislations etc.
during my relatively short work experience. Hopefully my point of view to these changes, existing and future energy market discussions will expand and I will have a better understanding of global energy policies.

I have tried to express some but not all of my expectations from the 2015 Annual Meeting of The Bosphorus Energy Club above. This is the first time that Bosphorus Energy Club is opening its gates to young energy leader candidates like me and I believe we have many topics to share with senior energy leaders.

In the 2015 meeting and following ones, up to date developments on alternative energy sources and especially nuclear energy may be presented. This is important because gray areas are still common about Turkey’s nuclear energy investments and future of nuclear power should be clearly argued. Community can judge if nuclear is a clean and sustainable way of energy or it is the potential for disasters only by scientific, open and objective discussions. Young professionals who are interested in nuclear power or academicians studying on it will find these discussions valuable.

We are aware how clean energy sources are marketed as alternative against fossil fuels. Hundreds of new projects and ideas are published annually. However, we will be dependent on natural gas and crude oil for some more decades. At this point, importance of geopolitics and government strategies are playing role in security and sustainability of conventional energy sources, especially in Eurasia, the hotspot of world energy market. Case studies of potential political scenarios and their effects on Turkey’s and Eurasia’s energy roadmap may be discussed by energy leaders. These discussions can include role of world’s leading countries in oil and gas pricing, potential bottlenecks in supply, potential investment areas on conventional energy market, ongoing and future projects for oil and gas etc.

I believe each topic covered in the annual meeting is an opportunity for young energy leaders to widen their energy point of view, to encourage them for new ideas, to help them comment on global energy policies, to implement new approaches to their company/job and most importantly to help them find the right address for their questions.

Joining the energy club this year first, I hope to be a standing member for next year and years. I will be attending the meeting to represent my company, Tüpraş also. So, in the following meetings my team mates from Tüpraş and I can present our energy efficiency projects and we can address Tüpraş’s role in Turkey’s energy demand and supply.

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