



BİLİM AKADEMİSİ

The Science Academy (Bilim Akademisi) was established in Istanbul on 25 November 2011, as an independent non-governmental entity with a mission to promote, to model and to protect scientific merit, excellence, independence, and integrity.

The Science Academy was founded by former members of the Turkish Academy of Sciences, following the decree by the government of Turkey in August 2011, which changed the status and structure of that Academy and allowed the *appointment* of the majority of new members by government bodies.

The Science Academy gathers the best minds of the scientific community of Turkey with a view to promote and protect excellence, method, tradition and practices, freedom, and honesty in science. In short, as with any respectable academy, it operates for the promotion and cultivation of the principles and the spirit of science.

The priority of the Science Academy is to promote expertise and professionalism. By securing the support of society, it advocates the long term benefits of scientific and academic research as well as the values that research brings to culture and civilization. It endeavors to maintain and to expand the already considerable potential in Turkey for scientific research and publication.

During its initial period of activity, the Science Academy organized the BAGEP Young Scientists Award Program, the Science Academy Conference Series, as well as various scientific conferences, summer school sessions and workshops in its Istanbul headquarters.

New members to the Science Academy are determined by its current members, following detailed reviews of their international scientific merit, excellence and

integrity. Members are carefully selected among those outstanding scientists who have earned global renown through research and publication in their respective fields. As of August 2014 the Science Academy has among its ranks 144 members and 23 honorary members, including two Nobel laureates and many leaders of science academies around the world.

In 2013 Science Academy applied to ALLEA for membership. A high level delegation from ALLEA consisting of President Günter Stock, Vice President Ed Noort and Board Member Peter Kennedy visited Science Academy at Istanbul in September 2013. Science Academy was voted as an associate member at the General Assembly of ALLEA in April 2014.

Young Scientist Awards

The priority of the Science Academy is to encourage young scientists to conduct sound scientific research and to award selected outstanding work. An award program has been initiated with a view to identify the best young academicians, to award and to support them in their new research efforts. The Science Academy executes this program not with public funds but with contributions collected from society at large.

The Awards are provided to scientists who are less than 40 years of age. Candidates can apply for the Awards as individuals. Additionally, members of the Science Academy, faculty members, deans and rectors can nominate young academicians as candidates.

The candidates were evaluated under three divisions Basic Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering Sciences; Social Sciences and Humanities; and Life Sciences. Application packages consisted of candidate résumés, and details of the work they are planning to achieve, and were evaluated by a committee made up of relevant members of the Science Academy.

In 2013 and 2014, the first two years of the program, the number of applications and their scientific quality has shown that the Young Scientist Award program has fueled our optimism concerning the future of science in Turkey.