



**COMMISSION ON SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS**

**REPORT**

**“INCREASING THE INFORMATION  
FLOW AMONG THE TURKPA MEMBER COUNTRIES”**

# **INCREASING THE INFORMATION FLOW AMONG THE TURKPA MEMBER COUNTRIES**

## **CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION**

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev in his speech in Bodrum (Turkey) on the 4<sup>th</sup>-Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking Countries on June 5, 2014 drew attention to the existing problems in information exchange between the Turkic countries. Mr. Nazarbayev stressed the importance of information space and competitive mass media development in the Turkic world at modern levels.

Head of Kazakhstan initiated the opening of a single TV channel, which would represent Turkic world to the world community. As Kazakh President noted, the single Turkic TV channel should be in the format and at the level of such TV channels as “BBC” and “Al-Jazeera”. He proposed to start discussing the development of joint information space “Turkic world” from 2015 and make it as the main topic on the agenda of the 5<sup>th</sup>-Summit of the CCTS in Astana.

Fourth Media Forum Of Turkic Speaking Countries And Communities was held in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus between November 15 – 17, 2014, and had the theme of “Media in the Context of the Current Issues in Turkic Speaking Countries and Communities”. Such efforts contribute to cooperation between Turkic speaking countries in the field of media.

Questions above are in the sight of the TURKPA. In particular, the recommendations of the 3<sup>rd</sup>-meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs, held on April 15, 2014 in Bishkek, drew attention to the issues of increasing information exchange between the Turkic-speaking countries.

Mutual information cooperation of Mass Media of TURKPA members should also become one of the priority tasks that ultimately will lead to increased

awareness of the Turkic peoples about each other. Further information exchange growth between the TURKPA member countries helps to deepen ties of cultural relations as well as trade and economic cooperation.

## **CHAPTER II. MAJOR PROBLEMATIC ASPECTS OF MUTUAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN TURKPA COUNTRIES**

In the age of information technology, mass media is one of the most important and influential social institutions in the world. Modern role of the media is such that provision of appropriate information and its proper regulation is a good prerequisite for successful cooperation between the countries, and their convergence on a mutually beneficial basis.

Nowadays, cooperation and collaboration in the field of mass media between TURKPA member states is not developing actively enough and the information flow between the states is at the low level.

Currently, Turkic countries should consider issues on expanding mutual information exchange in order to be in step with the modern world. There is lot to do for news agencies and journalists. At the same time, today we experience an acute demand in translators having command of other Turkic languages. A large number of translators are needed for to make qualified translation of information in all areas. In the view of the above facts, there is still no broad information exchange channels created between TURKPA members.

## **CHAPTER III. MASS MEDIA DEVELOPMENT IN TURKPA MEMBER COUNTRIES**

**Republic of Azerbaijan:** Azerbaijan has made a significant progress in creating conditions for mass media development. The main law regulating mass media activities in the country is the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Mass

Media” 1992. This law defined the state registration rules for mass media, banned censorship, particularly specified rights and obligations of journalists.

According to the official data of 2013, 1830 mass media were registered in Azerbaijan, including 1750 newspapers and 80 TV and radio broadcasting services. Ethnic and religious minorities have the right to free use of mass media. There are newspapers in languages of ethnic minorities issued or imported from abroad.

Correspondents of Turkey-based media and news agencies work in Azerbaijan. Multiple media corporations of Turkey including TRT television and Anatolian Agency have representatives as well.

**Republic of Kazakhstan:** Mass media in Kazakhstan are developing very actively. There is a sustainable trend for growth of the number of media, mainly non-state. Circulation of printed press is rising and the amount of own television programs has increased significantly. Media in the country falls under the regulation of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Mass Media” dated June 23, 1999.

According to the Communication and Information Committee of the Ministry of Investment and Development Republic of Kazakhstan, the overwhelming majority in the general structure – 85,5% - are newspapers (1365) and magazines (808), 11,5% - electronic media (91 television companies, 57 radio companies, 146 cable television operators and 8 - (satellite broadcasters), and 0.3% - news agencies (65). Out of 2213 currently operating state media, 521 (23,5%) are state and 1692 (76,5%) are non-state. At this point, there are 1,365 newspapers functioning in the country, and 328 (24%) of which are state, 1037 (76%) are non-state. In Kazakhstan, there are over 255 electronic media, 17 state electronic media, and 237 non-state.

Today in the territory of Kazakhstan, there are representative offices of the largest Turkish news agencies. In its turn, correspondents of Kazakhstans

information agencies work in Azerbaijan and Turkey, “Kazinform” international news agency has its representative in Baku, Tashkent, Bishkek and “Khabar” has a representative in Ankara.

**Kyrgyz Republic:** Development of the mass media in Kyrgyzstan has high performance indicators. According to their form and content, all these media are divided into two categories – state and non-state. Media in Kyrgyzstan fall under regulation of the law "On Mass Media" dated July 2, 1992.

According to the data of the State Communications Agency of Kyrgyzstan for 2014, more than 1500 media were registered in the country (of which 1366 - printed, 134 - electronic, 25 - TV channels and 26 - radio stations). It should be noted that about 70% of registered media in Kyrgyzstan have their online versions, and monthly or quarterly press post their materials in special text format for use on the Internet, that is, most of the media have their own websites.

There are two main newspapers categorized as state and operating on nationwide scale, “Kyrgyz Tuusu” in Kyrgyz language (circulation amounts to 5000 copies) and “Word of Kyrgyzstan” in Russian (circulation amounts to 6000 copies, also issues a supplement called “At the end of the week” with a circulation of 20,000 copies).

On a regional scale, there are 48 regional, 11 municipal and 11 district newspapers published by press bodies of local state authorities. Mostly regional governmental press is issued in bilingual versions, except for Osh district, that has three independent regional newspapers - in Kyrgyz, Russian and Uzbek languages. In some large districts with prevailing international population, as well as regional newspapers with state status are bilingual.

**Republic of Turkey:** In Turkey, freedom of press and implementation of this freedom is defined by the Press Law, dated June 9, 2004 and no 5187. There is a very high number of mass media corporations and these consist of foreign and national corporations having different perspectives about ongoing events. The

freedom of press is principle in Turkey, while implementation of this freedom, in regard of necessities of a democratic society, can be restricted to protect social morals, national defense, public order, state security and unity of country, rights of other people, to prevent revealing of state secrets or committing crimes, to assure the neutrality and authority of judicial power. In nationwide periodicals, there are 50 newspapers and also 30 television channels, 40 radio channels. The number of local television stations is about 250, local newspapers is about 2500, local radio stations is about 1000. Among nation wide television channels, percentage of state owned channels (TRT) is about 25%.

There are 24 news agencies working nation wide, and one of those is state owned. More than 30 communications faculties exist in universities. While many of nationwide media corporations have headquarters in Istanbul, there are other nationwide media based in other major cities. Turkey-based periodicals are also distributed to other countries where a high number of citizens of Republic of Turkey live.

Turkey-based “TRT Avaz” television oriented to whole Turkic world, broadcasts in Turkic dialects including languages of other Turkic speaking countries at different hours of a day. This channel tries to reach all Turkic speaking communities by live programs and programs that have more than one Turkic dialect at the same time by consecutive translation. In this television, newscasts and broadcasts in languages of Azerbaijan, Kazakstan and Kyrgyzstan are made. In addition to TRT Avaz, broadcasts oriented to citizens of Turkey living abroad, are made by the means of “TRT Turk” television channel.

## **CHAPTER IV. CONCLUSION**

TURKPA member countries should endeavor to achieve the goals on broadening information exchange. In this regard, it is necessary to take measures in

this direction. Major national **information agencies** should have personnel with appropriate knowledge of the languages mentioned above that would facilitate timely receipt of information and translation into appropriate languages.

Similar measures could be taken in relation to the **science and culture**. For example, provided qualified translators, the works on the latest achievements in science and technology and innovation development could be transferred directly from one Turkic language to another Turkic language. The same we can say about dubbing of television products and movies.

Absence of comprehensive and direct channels for information and cultural exchange between the Turkic-speaking states draws special attention. One reason for this circumstance is the lack of qualified translators from one Turkic languages to another Turkic languages. At the same time, translators should be diverse, i.e. have to have command of public and political lexicon, to be able to make translations in a particular area.

**Proposed action steps:**

1. Preparation of translators for operative translation of news;
2. Preparation of qualified journalists with the knowledge of Turkic languages;
3. Opening on the websites of leading news agencies of pages in the languages of the TURKPA member countries;
4. Establishment and development of cooperation between information agencies of the TURKPA countries;
5. On a regular basis organization of events on creation of information exchange with media and television products;
6. Programs on culture, history and languages of Turkic peoples;
7. Daily news programs on events in the Turkic-speaking world;

In summary, it is worth noting that the steps above mentioned will contribute to the diversification of internal information field in each TURKPA country and will distract from the information dependence on external news sources. Creation of direct channels for information exchange in general will enrich the culture and science, as well as lead to the diversification of internal information space on the territory of the TURKPA member countries.