



Republic of Turkey

**John U. Gokcen,
Honorary Consul General**

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About Consul Gokcen

John Gokcen has represented the Republic of Turkey in the state of Washington as a honorary consul general since 2002. Mr. Gocken is also a member of the Washington State Consular Association. He sponsors many Seattle international events, including the Seattle International Film Festival, Seattle International Children's Festival, City of Seattle FESTAL, Children's Gathering for Peace, and the World Affairs Council's Passport to World Educators Tour Projects.



Mr. Gocken has initiated many disaster relief drives to help Turkish, Indian, Pakistani, and Indonesian communities affected by natural disasters. He also organized inter-community and inter-faith events to promote peace, friendship, and better understanding of the Pacific Northwest region. He was the first individual to initiate the annual Turkish Cultural Festival – *Turkfest* - that was first held in the Seattle Center.

Mr. Gocken has also organized the first Turkish trade delegation to visit Washington state in 2002 and is working on a Washington state trade and goodwill delegation to visit Turkey.

He is married and has one son.

About Turkey

Location: Southeastern Europe and Southwestern Asia (that portion of Turkey west of Bosphorus is geographically part of Europe), bordering the Black Sea, between Bulgaria and Georgia, and bordering the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, between Greece and Syria.

Size: 302,535 square miles (slightly smaller than Texas)

Population: 80,694,485 (July 2013 est.)

Major Industries: Textiles, food processing, autos, electronics, mining, (coal, chromite, copper, boron), steel, petroleum, construction, lumber, paper.

Uniting Europe and Asia, Turkey is the land of many cultures and birthplace of many great civilizations. Turkey is known for its friendly population, beautiful carpets, local of Noah's Ark, and the origin of tulips, cherries, apricots, almonds and figs.

Embassy of Turkey

<http://www.turkishembassy.org/>