

Prof. Dr. Asaf Varol
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Keynote Title: Nuclear Energy is a need for Turkey?

Abstract: Turkey has decided to establish nuclear power plant in Turkey since 1955. Although Turkey has gone out to tender several times, all of them have been revoked because of some reasons. Finally, the first basement construction of first nuclear power plant in Akkuyu has been founded in April 2018. There have been questions whether the nuclear energy is a need for Turkey or not. In this speech, the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power plant for Turkey will be discussed. Since Dr. Varol has studied and practiced at TRIGA MARK II which was a training plant at Nuclear Energy Institute of Istanbul Technical University between 1977 and 1979, he will provide insights of having nuclear energy considering several accidents occurred in Mayak (Kyshtym disaster in 1957), Chernobyl (in Ukraine in 1986), and Fukushima disaster (in Japan in 2011).

Bio. He completed his German Language Education between 1972 and 1973 in Germany. He finished his Machine Engineering Training Course in 1975 in Kassel/Germany with the support of IAESTE grant. He completed his BSc. study at Firat University/Turkey where he was the honored student (highest GPA among students) at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and he started his MSc. study at the Institute for Nuclear Energy of Istanbul Technical University (ITU) in 1977. He had started as an Engineer at ITU Research Reactor in 1978, and after finishing his master study he had begun to work as a Research Assistant at Firat University in 1979. Between 1981 and 1982 he completed his dissertation experiments at Karlsruhe University in Germany with DAAD scholarship and later earned his PhD from Karadeniz Technical University (KTU) in 1983. He joined academic studies in the field of Computer Systems at Indiana and Purdue Universities in the USA via World Bank scholarship. He was promoted to Associate Professor in Energy Education in 1991. He established first local University Television Broadcasting System at Firat University. This system has been broadcasting continually since 1991.

He was appointed for the position of Director of Revolving Funds Management of Technical Education College between 1991 and 1996. In 1992, he joined Salford and Bradford Universities in UK for academic studies on computer aided education and design. In 1995, he was invited to Oklahoma State University in the USA to have studies on Vocational and Technical Education, and Informatics. He was promoted to "Full Professor" in the field of Computer Systems Education in 1997. He used DAAD scholarship to work on a project in the field of Robotics at Bremen University/Germany in 1998. Between 1998 and 1999, he took the charge to combine the revolving funds management at Firat University. Specifically, he prepared the regulations and directives related with revolving funds management.

He served as the member of National Informatics Committees at Higher Education Council of Turkey (HECT) between 1999 and 2002. Between 2000 and 2004 he was the founder Dean of Communication College. Between 2003 and 2005, he taught different courses titled Analysis-Engineering Systems, Advance Mechatronics, Pro/Engineer (Solid Modeling), and Statics at West Virginia University in the USA. He was the founder vice president of Siirt University between 2007 and 2008. He held also the Dean of College of Education at Siirt University at the same time.

He was Firat University's coordinator for the "East Anatolia Development Project" that supported by Ministry of Development of Turkey between 1998 and 2001. Prof. Dr. Asaf Varol was the Director of the Revolving Funds Management of Firat University between 2008 and 2012.

He has been serving as the Chair of Software Engineering Department at Firat University since 2011. He taught Introduction to Digital Forensics and Information Assurance Course at Sam Houston State University in Fall 2013. He is the founder of the Department of Digital Forensics Engineering at Firat University that is the still unique and first in Turkey. He has established a dual degree program between Firat University and Sam Houston State University in 2012.

He is the founder of the Association of Software and Cyber Security in Turkey (<http://www.softcybersec.org>) which aims to create and develop national software for up-to-date technologies and to defense country against cyber-attacks.

He was founder of the International Symposium on Digital Forensics and Security (<http://www.isdfs.org>) in 2013. This symposium is organized by consortiums members of Sam Houston State University (SHSU-US), University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR-US), San Diego State University (US), Youngstown State University (US), Petru Maior University, Romania; Politechnic Institute of Cavado and Ave, Portugal, Firat University (TR), Gazi University (TR), Hacettepe University (TR), Balikesir University (TR), Baskent University (TR), HAVELSAN (TR), and Arab Open University (Lebanon). This symposium has been supported by IEEE since 2016.

He was elected as External Quality Examiners of Higher Education Council of Turkey in 2017 and he evaluated the education system of Abant İzzet Baysal University in 2017.

He graduated from the Master program in Public Administration at Sam Houston State University on May 13th, 2017. He is fluent in English and German languages. He is married to Nurhayat and have two sons with three grandchildren.

He has published more than 300 journal papers, books, proceedings, and he has been a columnist at BT/Haber and Gunisigi Newspapers since 1997 where he has a dedicated column.