

## OPENING SPEECH

PROF. DR. MEHMET BAŞALAN

VICE RECTOR

Honorable Governor of Kirikkale City

Respectful Chancellor of Kirikkale University

Honorable President of REEV MED Professor Andre Laurent Parodi,

Distinguished Acting president Nihad Fezic of Veterinary Faculty of Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina

Dear Executive Committee members, General Assembly members, Deans of Veterinary Faculty of Mediterranean Countries and Members of Association of Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education, Deans of Turkish Veterinary Faculties,

Respected Invited speakers of the Mediterranean Veterinary Congress,

Dear Attendees of general assembly and congress,

Dear Colleagues and students,

Valuable guests and Journalists,

It is my privilege and pleasure on behalf of Kirikkale University and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine to welcome you here in General Assembly meeting of R-E-E-V M-E-D and Mediterranean Veterinary Congress. We are delighted to have you with us to participate and share 7<sup>th</sup> general assembly of REEV Med and Mediterranean Veterinary Congress. Many of you have travelled long distances to be here.

I am surely hoping that the meetings today and tomorrow will be successful and enlighten the audience, establish strong collaborations and research and educational partnership.

After this opening speeches, there will be excellent presentations about veterinary Education and implementation measures of regulations. Prepare yourself to be challenged, excited and inspired. I encourage all of you to attend and make comments and ask questions to the speakers.

In the afternoon the delegates of R-E-E-V M-E-D organize 7th general assembly meeting. I am assuming that the agenda of the meeting will cover all area of veterinary education and their establishments. I expect that they can consult about an ad-hoc committee to work on basic accreditation of veterinary schools.

Previous 6 meetings was held in different cities of countries which are located on the basin of Mediterranean sea. College of Veterinary Medicine of Kirikkale University has been one of the active member of Executive

committee since the establishment of the organization. And Professor Naim Deniz has been serving as an executive committee member since the establishments. In front of this distinguished guests I thank him for his great effort and make this event successful.

Kirikkale University having almost forty thousand student and around two thousand academics and administrative workforce with excellent educational and research facilities is one of the powerful and successful higher education institution in Turkey. Being close to Ankara like a suburb which is the capitol makes us more attractive by the prospective students.

Veterinary Faculty of Kirikkale University is 26 years old and accepts 100 new students each academic year and graduated more 600 veterinarians since it started. Teaching, laboratory, production farm and animal hospital facilities are one of the largest, the most technologically developed and designed facilities in Turkey. Faculty members have great successes in the past and currently. They were ranked number one in Turkey couple of times in scientific publication in web of science S-C-I ranking. Additionally, last year in 2017, In ShanghaiRanking or in ARWU (academic ranking of World universities as you may know three reputable ranking organization in higher education. Besides ShanghaiRanking It spelled THE= Times Higher Education and it is pelled as QS Quacquarelli Symonds are present in the World) Kirikkale University Veterinary Faculty placed in first 300 veterinary institutions in the World with 5 other veterinary schools in Turkey. I thank you for these successes to all faculty members and workers since the beginning.

Dear guests I do not want to extend my speech any longer. I am hoping that you will enjoy your time spend in congress and social events and especially listening famous amateur singers in the audience.

I know how much time and energy this task has demanded I thank to the each member of organizing committee especially my colleagues and best friends dean Miss Professor Çınar and vice dean Professor Varışlı. Without their great effort this event will not be possible. Additionally I appreciate time and effort of scientists who served in scientific committee. As many of you know, I serve as chief Editor of Turkish Journal of Veterinary and Animal Sciences which is an SCI indexed journal. And I know the difficulty of scientific reviews and revision suggestion. I deeply appreciate all of your efforts both individually and as a cohesive team unit.

Furthermore I would like to acknowledge few more people and we had financial supports besides our university administration, there is a long list, and each one of them deserves exceptional word of applause, I can not read all of them but special thanks goes to those companies and non governmental organizations and professional associations financially support this event.

Lastly I thank to Kirikkale University Rector Professor Ersan Aslan for his support and close followings of every details of this event. For example last Sunday at 2:42 a.m. in the morning he was asking me about the event preparations through whatsapp message. His encouragement always admirable by Veterinary faculty.

Finally I want to say once more before I pass the microphone I thank you all for attending this event and spending time with us it is wonderful to see so many of you here.

With my sincere and kind regards and respect. Thank you.