

AESOP

CO-REP Meeting and Heads of Schools meeting Istanbul, 16-18 April 2010

The City

Istanbul is a unique city in many ways: It is an ancient port-city where water acts as a dividing as well as a connecting element; connecting not only different parts of the city but also two continents: Europe and Asia. At the cross-road of civilizations, the city has always been a unique melting pot of a variety of cultures. For many centuries, Istanbul enjoyed the status of being the capital city of three world Empires each of which endowed it with many monuments.

Its poetic skyline dotted with domes and slender minarets, the Grand Bazaar, the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus surrounded with gently rolling hills are the most re-known features of Istanbul.



But contemporary Istanbul is much more than all these well known layers of history and natural features. It is a city of many faces, diverse in people and places. It is the heart and mind of a large industrial region where national and multinational production, and capital for that matter, is concentrated. It is the economic engine of modern Turkey. With its young and highly qualified labour the city is for sure an incubator of creativity. No wonder why Newsweek at its front cover has recently named the city as “Cool Istanbul” and addressed it as “Europe’s hippest city.” It is a thriving city of arts and culture which gained a new impetus with its status as the European Capital of Culture for 2010.

Getting to Istanbul

The major Istanbul Airport is Atatürk International Airport is located 23 km west of the city center. There are regular scheduled flights to all major European capitals and major cities in Turkey.

Airport Transport

There are regular shuttle buses, called HAVAŞ, from Istanbul's Atatürk AIRPORT to TAKSIM, the cultural and commercial centre of the city. The HAVAŞ shuttles run every

half an hour between 4 AM and 9 AM and every fifteen minutes between 09:00 A.M. – 01:00 P.M. It takes around 40 minutes and costs 10 TL (around € 5) (<http://www.havas.net/en/shuttle-parking/istanbul-ataturk-airport/>)

There is also a metro line from the airport that reaches to Aksaray. At Aksaray you have transfer to tram to Kabataş. From Kabataş there is a funicular, which takes you up to Taksim. <http://www.istanbul-ulasim.com.tr/harita/RayliSistemler.jpg> However, you may find HAVAŞ shuttles more convenient since they go directly to TAKSİM.

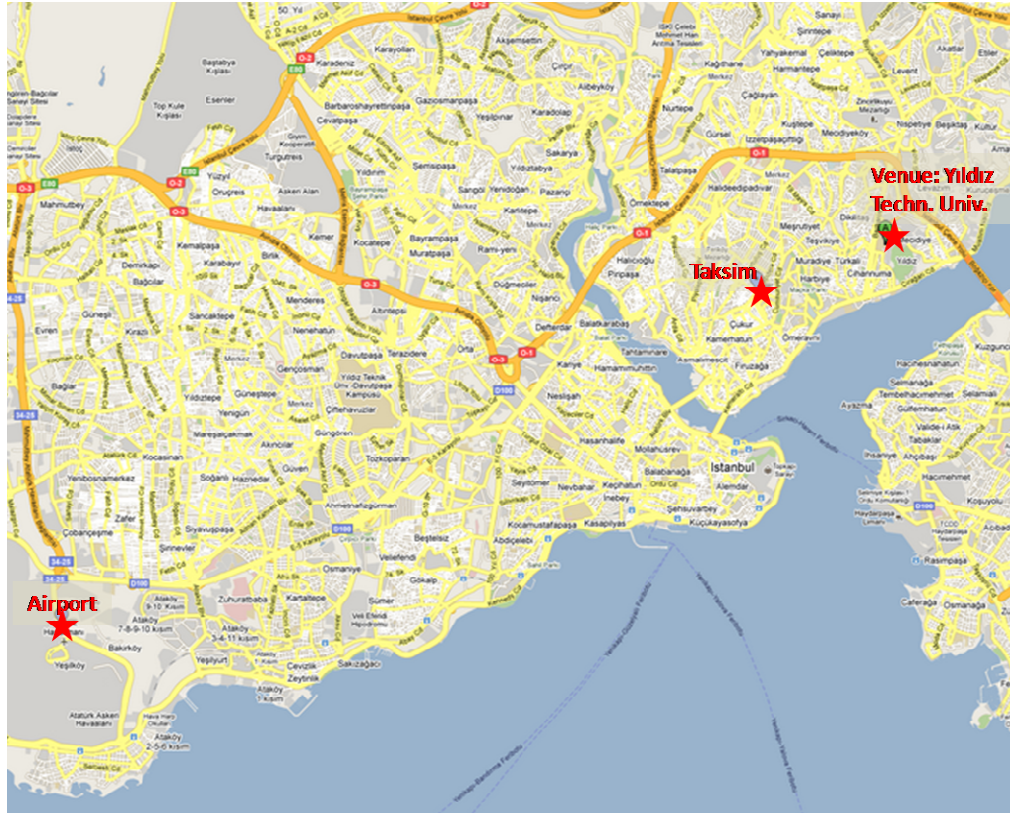
Compared to Europe, taxis are cheaper in Istanbul. There is no daytime/nighttime difference in the fees. It takes between 25 to 60 minutes to reach Taksim depending upon the traffic. (Note that cost increases according to the time spent in traffic). The cost of reaching Taksim by taxi will be around € 20-25.

The Venue: AESOP meetings on the campus of Yıldız Technical University



Meetings will be located on the BEŞİKTAŞ CAMPUS of Yıldız Technical University, in the Faculty of Architecture (Barbaros Bulvarı, 34349 Beşiktaş). The university is located on the former grounds of the Yıldız Palace built in the early 19th century as a complex of pavilions and gardens scattered over a large area of hills and valleys overlooking the magnificent views of the Bosphorus. Yıldız Palace is the second largest palace in Istanbul. Some of its sections have been

allocated to different public uses and one of them is assigned to Yıldız Technical University. Situated on the Yıldız Palace grounds, our main campus contains a number of historic buildings which used to belong to the palace complex. With its historic buildings, special trees, lush greenery and its garden with a romantic lily-pond, the campus is a unique place with its own identity and character.



[\(click here to view googlemap\)](#)

Hotels and accessibility to the Venue:

Suggested hotels are located in the Taksim Area in Beyoglu, which is the hub of city's cultural life. Taksim is around 5 km. away from the venue, Yıldız Technical University. Taking a taxi will cost less than 10 TL (around € 5). There are also several buses from Taksim Square that passes in front of Yıldız Technical University.

Cultural Activities:

Apart from the reknown monuments of the city such as the Topkapı Palace, Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar, there is a lot more to see and experience in Istanbul. The Bosphorus area with its rolling hills, shores lined up with seaside mansions and numerous villages, which still keep their individual identity and flavour is a cultural landscape that should not be missed. Beyoglu, the cultural and commercial heart of the city, hosts a 24-hour cultural life. The city usually hosts many cultural activities. Given that Istanbul is one of the Cultural Capitals of Europe, there will be a lot going on in 2010 in this already vibrant city. **Below are some useful links:**



- İstanbul 2010: <http://www.en.istanbul2010.org/index.htm>
- İstanbul 2010 Activity Calendar:
<http://www.en.istanbul2010.org/ETKINLIKTAKVIMI/ETKINLIKTARIH/index.htm>
- İstanbul 1910-2010: The City, Built Environment and Architectural Culture
Exhibition : http://www.en.istanbul2010.org/HABER/GP_588844
- İstanbul Modern - Contemporary Modern Art Museum:
www.istanbulmodern.org/en/f_index.html
- Santral İstanbul: http://www.santralistanbul.org/index_en.html
- İstanbul Time-Out: <http://www.timeoutistanbul.com/english/>
- İstanbul Net: <http://english.istanbul.com/>

Climate

April is one of the best times to visit İstanbul, with its mild climate where the average temperature is 12°C and the minimum and maximum values are 8°C and 16°C. There are around 11 rainy days during the month.

Exchange rate

According to the Indicative Exchange Rates Announced at 15:30 on 01/29/2010 by the Central Bank of Turkey: 1 EURO = 2.0717 TRY. However, the rates might slightly differ in private banks. <http://www.tcmb.gov.tr/kurlar/today.html>.