ŞEHİR

ESKİŞEHİR'DİR

ESKİŞEHİR
BÜYÜKŞEHİR
BELEDİYESİ
Rise of a European City in the Midst of the Steppe

17 Ağustos Depremi’nde Eskişehir
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The great earthquake showed us another fact: The fire brigade was inadequate in fire extinction and rescue works.

Even we had no time to find funds to modernize the fire brigade.
We initiated a mobilization in Eskişehir. Eskişehir people trusted in me and aided financially to the modernization of the fire brigade.

We provided Eskişehir with a modern and fully equipped fire brigade.
As soon as we overcame the earthquake created by the earthquake, we started to look for foreign loans. Meanwhile, economical crises had arisen in Turkey.

I was thinking that we had prepared the right projects and that right projects would find finance. But Turkey’s creditibility had declined to such a degree, that I began to worry. We had a lot of projects. And I would consider myself lucky, if we found credit for one or two of our projects.

But, contrary to my estimations, we did not strive much to find credit for our projects as a package.

We found the required support for our Urban Development Project Package. We started

- to construct the Light Rail Transportation System
- to rehabilitate the Porsuk River within the scope of Natural Disaster Risk Minimisation Project
- to renew the sewage, rainwater drainage systems and the water networks
- to prepare projects for a giant treatment plant for domestic wastes.
I have summarized the process beginning from our accession to the launch of full-scaled projects that changed the destiny of Eskişehir. The number of the projects, which we actualized both through foreign loans and own resources is over 100.

I know that our time is insufficient to give a detailed information about our projects. But I would like to summarize the projects we actualized.
With the Estram Project, we commenced modern tram system, instead of rubber wheeled vehicles in urban transportation. Estram, which was put into operation in 2004, serves as double track on a route of 16 kilometers which embraces universities and hospitals, being in the first place, and schools, public institutions, bus terminal and shopping centers.
Estram, which reduces dependency on oil, as it is electrically operated, which does not create traffic chaos, noise and environmental pollution, which is easily accessible by handicapped and older persons, was awarded the 2004 World Light Rail Systems Award, outdistancing a lot of European light rail system projects.

We have launched works to extend our tram system, which transports 130 thousand passengers daily, to three new regions to include 20 more neighbourhoods.
If there is a river in a city, it should become the most important value of that city. When we were elected, the bed of the Porsuk River was slimed, any kind of waste, including sewage, was being discharged into it. Even, some people had offered to cover the Porsuk River with concrete and to construct the rail system over this long concrete corridor.
We prepared a project which turned Porsuk River merely into the necklace of Eskişehir. Besides precautions to prevent disaster risk, we also actualized arrangements which revitalized Porsuk and its environment. We planned to use the river for urban transportation purposes, which was a first in Turkey. For this end, we implemented hydraulic structures and water level structures. We established a boat and gondola manufacturing plant in the municipal organization. Our Porsuk Project, which has become a touristic value, is taken as model by many cities in Turkey.
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PORSUK PROJECT

BÖYLEYDİ

PORSUK ÜZERİNDEKİ ESKI TAŞIT VE YAYA KÖPRÜLERİNİN TAMAMI YENİLENDİ.

BÖYLE OLDU
Rise of a European City in the Midst of the Steppe

PORSUK PROJECT

YENİLENEN KÖPRÜ SAYISI 24'Ü BULDU.

BÖYLE OLDU
We covered up infrastructure deficiencies throughout Eskişehir by way of own resources and foreign credits within the scope of Infrastructure Project. Between the years 1999-2008, we installed new sewage, rain water and utility water lines of over 1500 kilometers. We replaced the city water pipes, which were installed many years ago and contained asbestos, with healthy pipes.
The existing waste water treatment plant was remaining incapable of refining wastes of Eskişehir and the city sewage was causing danger for the Porsuk River and the Alpu Plain. Thus, we started to construct a fully equipped waste water treatment plant. This new waste water treatment plant, that we included in the Urban Development Projects Package and financed through foreign credit, is refining Eskişehir’s wastes in real terms and produces it’s electricity from the wastes refined.
Taking into account the drought warnings of scientists, we constructed a large pond and registered new utilizable water basins. This pond which is 40 m deep, was constructed by our engineers, technical personnel and workers in only 6 months. We established a water sports center and introduced water sports to Eskişehir people. Our center hosts also national and international water sports organizations.
We made essential investments to Kalabak water, which is the potable water of Eskişehir since it was brought to the city in 1936 by order of Atatürk. We renewed 42 kilometers of water pipeline, the catchments and equipped demijohn filling facility with modern filter systems and laboratories. We established new bottling plant and created a modern distribution fleet of 140 vehicles.
I think that we made a difference in green area works in Eskişehir. We changed the sense of park, that is stuck in neighbourhoods with a few trees and a playgroup. We introduced Eskişehir with area parks, that are as large as neighbourhoods and accommodate ponds, sports, entertainment and resting areas. Today, our parks function as locations which bring people from every segment and stratum together.
Green Area

The change of the green areas within the scope of Metropolitan Municipality Responsibility Area by years

1999 : 241,043 m2
2010 : 1,445,181 m2
2018 : 3,967,364 m2

Green area per person
1999 : 0.50 m2
2010 : 2.34 m2
2018 : 4.61 m2

The amount of green areas in Eskişehir city center
2018 : 10,027,714 m2

Green area per person
2018 : 11.65 m2
We actualized our first great park project on the old abandoned cemetery area. We transformed this region, which was merely a depression area, into a modern park.
We built Kentpark, which is really a big according to Turkey standards, on a 300 decare area, containing a big pond and three bridges. Kentpark brings people from different segments together owing to its features. In this park, we also have an artificial beach.
Our artificial beach attracts the attention of families and children, who cannot afford to go to holiday resorts. We teach our children to swim in the semi-olympic pool in the center of the beach. We also have an indoor swimming pool in Kentpark.
We created the Science Culture and Art Park on a 400 decares area in the west of Eskişehir. There are a lot of equipments in the park, from concert areas to the pirate ship, from water sports pond to play areas, that are individual projects in themselves.
Based on the fact that our children lack science and experimentation facilities in schools, we brought in a large science experimentation center to Eskişehir. We teach our children, coming in groups from all primary schools in Eskişehir, the basic scientific norms in experiment and play environment.
We opened the largest planetarium of Turkey in the structure of the Science Culture and Art Park, that is designed according to the needs of our children, who are our future. In this Hacı Ömer Sabancı Planetarium, visitors from each age group, Eskişehir children being in first place, are able to watch the formation of the universe, the galaxies, planets, meteors and solar flares sitting on reclining seats in the globe.
We opened the Fairy Tale World in Eskişehir, which is unique in Turkey, in March 2014. The Fairy Tale World, which draws attention of people from all ages contributes to the touristic dynamism of Eskişehir.
Another project, which draws the interest of people from all ages is the Underwater World Aquarium Project. This facility, constructed through contributions of Eti Food Group, is put into service in February 2014.
We have constructed a Zoo next to our Science Experimentation Center, spreading on an area of 70 thousand square meters,
On the occasion of the 2010 Japan Year in Turkey, we created the largest Japanese Garden of Turkey on an area of 22 decares, in cooperation with Japanese Turkish Cultural Exchange Association, with the aim to deepen the friendship connection between Japan and Turkey.
We launched a preservation and sustenance project in the historical Odunpazarı district, which is the first settlement area of Eskişehir. We have transformed this area into one of the touristic centers of Eskişehir. Boutique hotels, restaurants and museums render service in these renewed structures today.
Some of the structures, which we brought to life in Odunpazarı, were organized as Metropolitan Municipality City Museums Complex. We opened the first Contemporary Glass Arts Museum of Turkey here. The museum, which exhibits successful work of arts of Turkish and foreign glass artists, is one of the must-sees in Eskişehir.
We put into service the City Memory Museum within the our City Museums Complex. Rather than exhibiting artistic or historical objects, the City Memory Museum is designed in a new concept where all elements which played an important role in Eskişehir’s development and are specific to Eskişehir, are recorded digitally.
One of the most attention drawing areas in the City Memory Museum is the oral history archives, which include 97 narrations in 9 different themes: history, cultural heritage, ethnic culture, education, arts, sports, economy, genetic heritage and my Eskişehir. Visitors are able to choose a narration on touchscreens with headphone systems in galleries allocated for each theme. There are exhibition areas, a library, a children area and kiosks which involve digital versions of books related with the history of Eskişehir.
Wax Museum is a new attraction center as it hosts the wax sculptures of many national and local historical heroes, characters, political leaders, artists, writers, the celebrities and famous figures from all over the world.
Projects which aim to restore historical structures that are under the risk of destruction are continuing. Lastly, we restored the building known as the Yellow House, that is 250 years old.
We restored this building in Odunpazarı, which had been used as headquarters by İsmet İnönü during İnönü Wars and was demolished due to fire. We are planning to make it a museum.
We restored the old fruit and vegetable hall into a modern social life area, accommodating theatre hall, exhibition halls and a food court.
We transformed the structure, that stood like a stain in the city center, into a dazzling space, which adds value to the city.
We took over the evacuated silo building in the city center, from the Turkish Grain Board and transformed it into a modern hotel.
Our aim was to make Eskişehir the culture and art capital of Anatolia. We undertook significant works in this direction. Eskişehir, which drew attention as a result of investments made into art, was selected as the Culture Capital of the Turkish World in 2013.
We started to invest into art in the year 2001 by re-establishing city theatres after an interval of 40 years. Our theatre, which started to perform in a small hall in the Haller Youth Center in 2001, has 6 different stages and a children's theatre in various locations of the city. It hosts the international children's theatre festival held annually. The ticket prices are 5 TL for adults, 3 TL for students and 2 TL for children.
We founded the Metropolitan Municipality Symphony Orchestra with the aim to add strength to classical music in Anatolia. Our orchestra which performs two days every week, is also invited to local and international art organizations. Our orchestra performed two concerts in the United States.
We bring the most distinguished opera and ballet performances together with Eskişehir people, in cooperation with the State Opera and Ballet. Moreover, we host Turkey’s first and only opera and ballet days organized annually.
We have transformed the building which was previously designed as wedding ceremony hall into Art and Culture Palace. There are a theatre hall of 600 persons capacity, a concert hall and art galleries.
We turned Eskişehir into a city organized for pedestrians. Whereas in all of our cities, accelerating automobile mobilization is the primary municipal activity, we have pedestrianized the city center to a great extent. We have invited people into streets by renewing pavements, erecting street sculptures and various arrangements.
CITY OF PEDESTRIANS

Rise of a European City in the Midst of the Steppe
We decorated Eskişehir with unique sculptures. More than 100 sculptures which embellish streets, squares and parks add an aesthetical value to the city.
Another significant project branch, which we conduct quite and retiring, far from show off, are our social services. Within the scope of our Every Home a Workshop Project, we teach occupational skills to our people from all segments by which they can obtain an economical income.
We organize preparation courses for secondary education and university exams especially for the children of economically disadvantaged families. We also organize summer school programs in the same centers and ensure that children spend their summer holidays in the best possible way.
As Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality we adopted embracing each segment of the society as a principle. We actualized our Es Kids Home Project by way of EU grants. In Es Kids Home we give preschool education to our children, whose fathers are in jail.
We increased production of public type cheap bread by establishing a new facility. For the first time in Turkey, we have produced white bread with vitamin and mineral addition. We contribute to healthy nourishment of our citizens, children and pregnant women being in first place.
We brought our congress center of 1300 persons capacity into service, in order to add a new income opportunity to the city by reviving congress tourism in Eskişehir.
We are bringing in the thermal sources, that are being used for bathing purposes only in traditional hammams, as a tourism value to the city. The foundation of Eskişehir’s first thermal and hydrotherapy facility were laid in the past months. The 5 star facility will be put into service very soon.
Before I finish, let me summarize all the things done in Eskişehir up to the present.

When I was elected as Mayor for the first time in 1999, Eskişehir was a pessimistic city, angry at itself, which had given up it’s hopes and dropped it’s guard. Eskişehir, which had been an ambitious city for as long as I could remember, seemed to bow to the inevitable. Eskişehir citizens wanted their children to get away from this city, they were not able escape themselves.

Today, Eskişehir has become a city proud of itself, occupying second rank in the most livable cities list of Turkey and looking hopeful to the future. It has become a model for other cities in Turkey.

I believe that the essential great success is this transformation. I am proud of my projects and of Eskişehir citizens who supported me. I am grateful to them.
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VIEWS FROM THE CITY LIFE
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VIEWS FROM THE CITY LIFE
SILK GARDENS OF THE CITY
ŞEHİR
ESKİŞEHİR'DİR
ESKİŞEHİR BÜYÜKŞEHİR BELEDİYESİ