15 June 2015

Dear Rectors and Heads of Educational Institutions

On behalf of the New Zealand Government, I write to provide you with information about an exciting new scholarship opportunity for a Turkish PhD student to study in New Zealand, and seek your assistance with disseminating this information to your students.

The Didem Yaman Memorial Scholarship has been created in honour of Ms Didem Yaman, a young Turkish PhD student who was tragically killed in the 2011 Christchurch earthquake while studying at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. Ms Yaman had been visiting Christchurch when the earthquake struck.

The scholarship will cover full costs (tuition fees, travel costs, establishment costs and living allowance, medical and travel insurance and pastoral and academic support) for one student for PhD study in the field of international relations or another area in which New Zealand specialises e.g. disaster management, earth-quake engineering, agriculture and education.

This initiative was agreed in April between New Zealand Prime Minister John Key and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmed Davutoğlu as a way of deepening the educational links between New Zealand and Turkey, while also honoring the young Turkish victim of a disaster that devastated one of New Zealand’s largest cities in 2011.

A scholarship application form is attached to this letter, and I would be most grateful if you could disseminate and publicise it among your students in the manner you best see fit. If you have further questions then please direct these in English to Deputy Head of Mission Mr Ed McIsaac (ed.mcisaac@mfat.govt.nz or +90 312 446 3358) at the New Zealand Embassy, who will be pleased to assist. Applications are due by 24 July 2015.
Ms Yaman was a bright, talented student, much loved and dearly missed by her family in Turkey and her friends in both countries. It is an honour to have established this scholarship in her memory, and a fitting tribute to the Gallipoli/Çanakkale legacy that New Zealand and Turkey share. There seems no better tribute than to foster closer ties between our youth through educational opportunities such as this.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Curr
Ambassador