

PREFACE

The 13th Coal Congress of Turkey organized by the Zonguldak Branch of the Chamber of Mining Engineers of Turkey is held between May 29 and 31, 2002 in Zonguldak. The primary objective of the Coal Congress, which has been held biannually since 1978, is to promote and support the information exchange related to coal mining and technology. The Congress takes place at the New Conference Hall of Zonguldak Karaelmas University, where the Mining Machinery and Equipment Exhibition is also open to delegates during the Congress.

During the technical sessions, 33 papers which have been selected by the Scientific Committee will be presented and these are printed in the Proceedings of the Congress. In addition, 6 invited papers prepared by the experts are included in the Congress Programme.

Also, a panel on the "Legal Problems in Turkish Mining Industry" is organized, coinciding with the attempts to modify the current Mining Law.

The proceedings volume of the 13th Congress is dedicated to the memory of 263 coal miners who lost their lives in the methane and coal dust explosion at the Kozlu Colliery about 10 years ago on March 3, 1992.

We acknowledge the fact that the success of this Congress is due to the efforts of the Organizing Committee, Scientific Committee, chair of the technical sessions and authors of the papers. As a final note, we would like to thank to every person, institution and company who have contributed to the realization of the 13th Coal Congress of Turkey.

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