**THE BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF TORBALI DISTRICT**

**1- Topography, Climate and Population**

Torbalı, which is 46 km away from the city centre of İzmir, 35 km from Adnan Menderes Airport, 60 km from İzmir harbour, is a district in the Aegean region with a population of 172.359.

According to Turkish Statistical Institute’s datas of 2017, the annual average population growth of the district is %4.50 while it’s %1.32 throughout Turkey.

Torbalı is adjacent to Bayındır and Tire districts in the east, Menderes district in the west, Buca and Kemalpaşa districts in the North and Selçuk district in the South, and also it’s close to Çeşme, Kuşadası, Bodrum, Marmaris and Ephesus, which are important tourist destinations.

Having an area of 603 km2 and an altitude of 40 m, the district has mediterranean climate.

**2- Historical Background**

In the ancient period, the most important place in Torbalı area was Metropolis. Metropolis, which became an eparchy center during the Byzantine period, gained importance in defense by the coming of Turks to Anatolia in the 11th century.

In the Ottoman period, İzmir-Torbalı railway route, the first step of the railway of İzmir-Aydın, was put into service in 1860. Thus, modern-day Turkey’s the first train services started between İzmir-Torbalı and Torbalı, once a little sub-district, became the centre of attraction. Torbalı became a town in 1926.

The district got importance especially after Sultan Abdulhamid-II bought farms in the region, notably in Tepeköy after 1879. Sultan Abdulhamid -II had mosques, schools, pools, fountains and water supply networks done in the villages he had (Tepeköy,Özbey,Yeniköy,Ahmetli,Çaybaşı,

Şehitler,Eğerci,Pamukyaz,Subaşı,Naime,Tulum,Bülbülderesi) by using his own funds. Today, the bazaar that is set up on Thursdays in Tepeköy was first created in the period of Sultan Abdulhamid-II in 1896.

In the republic period, the economical changes in Torbalı rougly undergone change in paralel with Turkey and World economy, but a great economic leap came about in the industry after 1990s and the district became an important industry place throughout the country and İzmir. This improvement attracted attention of global companies as well and a great deal of foreign companies established factories in Torbalı.

**3- Agriculture and Stock Raising**

For some reasons like having agricultural fertile soils, climate, geopolitical position and industrialization, Torbalı district has a high potential in agricultural and animal production in terms of agricultural product range and output. However, the cultivated areas started to narrow with the development of the industry and there has been an increasing demand for industrial products compared to traditionally produced products.

The main products grown in the district, where three crops per year can be obtained, are tomatoe, leek, cauli, olive, grape, fig, peach and corn.

Of the 302,106 dm2 cultivated areas of the district, 231,531 dm2 are irrigable areas.

**4- Industry**

According to the statistics towards the end of 2017, the tax payments in the district were 35.104.333.174,92 TL. With this tax payment amount, Torbalı is on the fifth rank among the provinces and districts in Turkey.

In the whole district, there are 4301 active workplaces employed workers depending upon Social Security Institution and since December 2017, a total of 53.055 employees, 17.322 female, 36.333 male, have been working in these workplaces.

In Torbalı, there are 1072 industrial enterprises in 45 different sectors. There are a great deal of companies carrying on business in our district and renowned worldwide. It is provided employment for 10.000 employees per year by way of the 43 enterprices in Torbalo Organized Industrial Site and the 88 enterprices in Pancar Organized Industrial Site.

**5- Education**

There are a total of 107 schools as private and public schools in the 60 neighborhoods of Torbalı. In total, there are 33.481 students and 1.682 teachers in these schools.

**6- Tourism**

**6.1 Metropolis Ruins**

Metropolis Ancient City is located on a hill in Yeniköy village, in the borders of İzmir’s Torbalı. Plenty of mother goddess terra-cotta sculptures were found in the archaeological excavations. The pieces of ceramics found during the archaelogical excavations marks the periods of early bronze age and middle bronze age. In the 2nd century B.C., monumental consructions such as theatres, bouleuterions and stoas were built.

**6.2 Mount Nif Excavation**

Nif (Olympos) mountain is situated in western of İzmir gulf and around the common borders of Kemalpaşa, Torbalı and Buca districts. In 2006, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and İstanbul University, under the chairmanship of Prof.Dr. Elif Tül TULUNAY, first excavations began in Karamattepe, Ballıcaoluk, Dağkızılca and Başpınar areas that had been declared as primary archaelogical site.

**6.3 KEY Car Museum**

Another cultural sphere in Torbalı is KEY Car Museum. The museum,whose originators are the executive president of E. Özgörkey Group, Murat Özgörkey and its deputy chief executive officer Selim Özgörkey, is located on a 7.000 km2 area. In the museum, It is exhibited various collections composed of different parts provied from all four sides of the world in addition to Turkey since 2001. Within KEY Museum, there are 130 automobiles, from the first automile manufactured in 1886 to the others that provides an insight to our day about car history, 40 motor bicycles, 2550 cars each having different model and scarves and mascots constituting the automobile culture.

**6.4 Arkas Vineyards (wine cellar)**

The Lucien Arkas Vineyards has been established on a 1.168 decare land in İzmir’s Torbalı as the largest uni-parcel organic vineyard. After the soil and climate analysises, the saplings provided from europe have been shipped to the Arkas Vineyards by means of speacial air conditioned vehicles.

High quality wine grape species such as Tempranillo, Chenin Blanc, Viognier, Marselan, Ugni Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Misket, suitable to the soil and climate conditions of Aegean, some of which have never been planted before in Turkey, were decided to plant in the Lucien Arkas Vineyards.

**6.5 Ephesus**

Ephesus world heritage site, 38 km away from Torbalı and added in the world heritage list, comprises of four components as Çukuriçi mound, Ayasuluk hill (Selçuk castle, St. John basilica,İsa Bey bathhouse, İsan Bey mosque, Artemision), Ephesus and the house of the virgin mary. Ephesus, one of the most important centers of the ancient period, had continuously been a settlement nearly 9000 years and a very impotant seaport, cultural and commercial center from the pre-historical periods to during helenistic, Roman, East Roman, Principalities and Ottoman periods.

**6.6 The House of The Virgin Mary**

The house of the virgin mary which is 44 km away from Torbalı is located on mount Bülbül. It’s known that St. John brought Virgin Mary to Ephesus 4 or 6 years after the death of Jesus. In 1891, after the researches on the dream of German priestess A. Katherina Emerich, Lazarist priests figured out that that house was the house the Virgin Mary had spent her last days. That event was a totally-new explore in the Christian world and illuminated the communities of religion. Afterwards, this construction which is cross – shaped and dome shaped was restored. At this house, also considered of a sanctuary by Muslims, it is held religious ceremonies every year, on the 15th of August after the visiting of Pope VI. Paul in 1967 and these ceremonies attract considerable attention.

**7- Torbalı as an attractive place**

Torbalı,

Among the most developing districts in Turkey

Having advanced industrial facilities

Having a convenient climate and agricultural lands

Having important transportation networks

Close to the tourism centers in the region

with its ever-growing economical activities,

is in the position of an attractive center.