

# Chemistry in Türkiye

<https://doi.org/10.51167/acm00054>



## Dear Reader,

I am happy to present you with the fourth volume of the AsiaChem magazine, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye. This special issue continues our highly successful tradition of dedicating every issue to chemistry in one of the member countries within the FACS expanse.

Türkiye's unique geographical location at the meeting point of three continents, Europe, Asia, and Africa, makes it a bridge between diverse cultures, leading to a fascinating and rich tapestry of history, traditions, identity, and cultural richness. The country's strategic position has influenced trade routes, migration patterns, and cultural exchanges over centuries. The blending of various civilizations, including the Hittites, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, and Ottomans, marks Türkiye's history. This diverse heritage is visible in the country's architecture, cuisine, language, and traditions. The historical Legacy of past empires and civilizations has left a profound impact on Türkiye's cultural landscape, with landmarks like the Hagia Sophia, Ephesus, and Cappadocia serving as testaments to its rich history. Türkiye's modern identity is shaped by its multicultural past, with influences from both East and West. This fusion of traditions, beliefs, and practices contributes to the country's vibrant and dynamic culture.

The establishment of the Republic of Türkiye by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on October 29, 1923, is a momentous event in Turkish history, signifying the nation's journey towards sovereignty and independence. Atatürk's introduction of democratic reforms, exchanging the Arabic alphabet for the Latin alphabet, adopting Western law codes, and introducing women's suffrage paved the way for a more inclusive and progressive society. Atatürk is revered as the founding father of modern Türkiye due to his leadership during the War of Independence and his subsequent reforms, which transformed the country into a secular republic, modernizing Turkish society and shaping the country's identity. Over the past century, the Turkish state has grown into a robust regional power whose existence is not questioned or threatened from the outside. Türkiye has become a firm part of the international political system through its membership in NATO and other alliances.

Atatürk made significant, enduring contributions to Turkish science and education. His reforms laid the foundation for modernizing and advancing education in Türkiye. He established a new education system to provide free and compulsory education for all children. Atatürk introduced reforms to modernize the curriculum, promote secularism, and increase literacy rates. He founded institutions such as the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and the Turkish Historical Society to promote research and scholarship in various fields. Atatürk emphasized the importance of science and technology in

building a modern, independent Türkiye. He supported opening new universities and technical schools to advance scientific research and innovation.

He promoted Western ideas and philosophies in education, encouraging a shift towards a more scientific and rational approach to learning. His contributions to Turkish science and education have impacted the country, shaping the intellectual landscape and fostering a culture of learning and innovation.

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye by a magazine that highlights scientific achievements, offers a unique opportunity for reflection, appreciation, and national pride, underscoring the nation's progress and potential, rich cultural heritage and diverse population while embracing the ideals of unity, progress, and modernization.

This issue showcases the chemical sciences in Türkiye, serving the global readership with a wide variety of articles on cutting-edge science and history, coverage of the Turkish Chemical Society, the 19th Asian Chemical Congress, and the 21st General Assembly of the FACS in Istanbul on July 9-14, 2023, and an interview with Prof. İvet Bahar, a role model for every young female scientist worldwide.

I thank FACS President Mustafa Culha and Secretary-General Onder Metin for their help and cooperation. I acknowledge all distinguished authors of this special issue for opening a wide window to Türkiye's chemical sciences and technologies, ranging from organic and inorganic materials, innovative polymers, nanoscience, novel analytical methods, creative computational science, physical chemistry, light harvesting, and environmental chemistry. This fourth issue of AsiaChem conveys to the world the broad and proliferate community of Turkish chemists, appropriately celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye.

Enjoy your reading!

**Ehud Keinan**

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