

Dear IIW Members,

It was with tremendous pleasure that we received news from the IIW Secretariat in early December that you supported the decision for Turkey to be the new host country for the 63RD IIW Annual Assembly and International Conference in 2010. We are profoundly touched by your vote of confidence and wish to sincerely thank you for the trust which you have placed in us.

Our foundation, the GEDIK Education and Social Foundation, has proudly assumed full responsibility for the organization of this large event in such a very limited timeframe.

I am therefore now pleased to inform you that the IIW Annual Assembly and International Conference will be held in **Istanbul / Turkey, from July 11 – 17, 2010**, the originally scheduled dates. The venue selected for this prestigious event is the Swissôtel – The Bosphorus (www.swissotel.com).

As you may already know, Istanbul is one of the world's largest mega cities, with a total of about 13 million inhabitants when the populations of the two continents (Asia & Europe) are combined. Istanbul has a very long and diverse history dating from the Roman - Byzantine Empires to the Ottoman Empire. Istanbul is a city rich in both history and culture which is why it has been chosen as a **European Capital of Culture** for the year 2010. As a result of this coincidence, there will be a variety of exciting events and happenings taking place in Istanbul in 2010.

We are also organizing a wide range of very tempting social events for you and your accompanying persons which are certain to suit everyone's interests.

We will be extremely pleased and honoured to welcome all of you to Istanbul in mid-July. Please make sure to mark these dates in your agenda for 2010 and join the rest of the IIW family at the 63RD IIW Annual Assembly and International Conference.

We look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul in large numbers in 2010!

In the meantime, we all wish you a very happy festive season and a bright and prosperous 2010.

Best regards,

Hulya GEDIK (Mrs.)

GEDIK EDUCATION & SOCIAL FOUNDATION

www.gedikegitimvakfi.org.tr