


Greeting



Ladies and gentlemen!

It is a special honour for the citizens of this city, for the people I work with and even for myself to be the host of this prestigious scientific event. This is the most convincing, palpable and generous answer I could give to my secondary school mate and friend, Professor Dr. Vasile Surd, from The "Babeş-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca, who had asked me almost an year ago to support him in this action, as he is the initiator and organizer of this international conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe you didn't come here to listen to me, who I am an economist and engineer, delivering you speeches on history or geography, but it is a duty of honour to tell you some things about the city I run and represent. Turda is one of Romania's old cities, whose existence has been confirmed starting even from Roman epoch, at that time being called Potaissa. It has evolved till our days and has become a town, which has commercial, administrative and military functions. At the beginning of this century, the industry of materials used in constructions (cement, ceramics brick) arises and developed, the chemical industry, glass industry, fields which define the actual economical personality of the city. Through the industrial products, especially those of ornamental glass manufacturing, it provides, our town is wellknown in 87 countries, starting with USA and ending with Jappan.

Turda also has a very important agricultural hinterland, specialized in vegetables, grain, and, partially, vinegar, which is supported by a center of agricultural researches.

The city presently has almost 62.000 inhabitants, of which 85% are Romanians, 10% Gypsies, and 5% Hungarians.

In the field of history, our town is wellknown to recent generations because of the luminous and right image of Ioan Ratiu, who has asserted: "The existence of a people cannot be argued. It can only be asserted."

In the field of education, the city has 5 secondary school, 10 secondary schools and 8 nurseries. We hope that, with the help of "Babeş-Bolyai" University, to set the foundations for the universitarial education, whose home we hope it will be the building which is built next to the townhall.

The cultural assets of the city are modest, but, in spite of this, Turda is one of the few cities, which is not the center of the county, but it has a theatre.

The city also has a well-equipped hospital, a polyclinic and balneo-climaterical resort. This city is the host of two important banking units, of the police, an aeronautic service and military quarters.

The tourism is highly developed as well as in the neighborhood there are the resorts Cheile Turzii, Cheile Turului, Trascău Mountains and the golden valley of Arieş, the Salty Mineral Springs and the Salt Mine, the last of these being recently introduced in the touristic circuit.

Turda, through the quality of its secondary education, has always been and still is a great provider of students for Cluj, and also of pretty girls and talented football players.

Ladies and gentlemen! This city, just the same as this country, undergoes a difficult social and economical period, which is profoundly linked with the effort of building up a competitive economy. There is neither the time, nor the place to give further details. This is our mission, those who we are today and those who will be tomorrow and..."We'll handle them all, be it peace or, God forbid, war"

The importance of the event and of the moment is extraordinary for us and it has profound organizatorical and emotional implications. I assure you that Turda vibrates today on the highest note of Romanian generosity, hospitality.

I am mostly glad to be here with you, for you, next to you!

Welcome in Turda dear foreign guests and beloved specialists of Romania! I wish you a complete success in fulfilling the tasks of this highly elevated scientific event called "The Rural Space and Regional Development."

Engineer Economist *Virgil Blasiu*
Mayor of Turda city
Romania