

TECH TÜRKİYE ADVOCATES LAUNCH IN ISTANBUL MAY 2025

On 21st May I was in Istanbul for the formal launch of Tech Türkiye Advocates with HİB (Hizmet İhracatçıları Birliği), the Service Exporters' Association at the Turkish Exporters' Assembly Building. Tech Türkiye Advocates held a soft launch event the previous year and was ready for its proper in person launch before Türkiye's national participation during London Tech Week.

Prior to the launch event, a press briefing was held with leaders from HİB, Academia Park and Global Tech Advocates with over a dozen journalists, who asked many good questions of us!

Tech Türkiye Advocates has four co-leads: Ata Arguder, Dr. Yıldız Tuğba Kara, Baran Kiliçer and Mustafa Nafi.

Dr. Yıldız moderated the entire event which included keynote addresses from:

- **Ata Arguder**, CEO, Academia Park London
- **İlhan Bağoren**, CEO Telenity and HİB Board Member
- **F. Derya Koç**, Head of Department, Türkiye Ministry of Trade
- **Russ Shaw CBE**, Founder, Global Tech Advocates

Ilhan moderated a panel session on 'Amplifying Türkiye's Technology Ecosystem Locally and Globally' with Russ and Eric van der Kleij, Founder of EdenBase.

Ata then moderated a panel session on 'Investment and Globalisation Strategies for the Turkish Tech Ecosystem' with Brian Kinane, Partner at Sure Valley Ventures along with two 'national treasures' for the ecosystem: Cenk Bayrakdar, Partner at Revo Capital and İlker Sözdinler, Investor and CEO of United Payments.

The event concluded with Russ doing his obligatory 'selfie' with the attendees, followed by networking with fantastic Turkish delight, pastries and tea. Welcome to Global Tech Advocates!

