

Dr. Yılmaz ARGÜDEN

Dr. Argüden is a strategist, governance expert, advisor, and board member of major public and private institutions, and NGOs. His career spans the private sector, public sector, multinational institutions, NGOs, and academia. He is the Founder and **Chairman of ARGE Consulting**, a management consulting firm known for value creating strategies and institution building. He also served on the boards of more than 70 corporations in different jurisdictions, as the founding Chairman of the Turkish office of **Rothschild & Co.** investment bank and as the Chairman of the largest Turkish steel company, **Erdemir**.

ARGE is the **first Turkish signatory** of the **UN Global Compact**, has been recognized at the European Parliament as one of the best three companies “**Shaping the Future**” with its commitment to corporate social responsibility. ARGE has served as the **B20 Knowledge Partner** for Governance & Sustainability, as an **EFQM Advisory Organization**, as an **IFRS Integrated Reporting Training Partner** and as a member of the Professional Services Working Group of the World Economic Forum.

Dr. Argüden has a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from the Bosphorus University, where he received both the **Top Academic Achievement Award** and the **President’s Prize for Student Leadership**. He was a playmaker on the High School and University basketball teams and won National Championships over three consecutive years. He received his **PhD in policy analysis** from the RAND Graduate School **with General Distinction**. Throughout his education, he received scholarships from Fulbright, TÜBİTAK, and NATO.

He started his career at the R&D Center of the Koç Group. He worked at the RAND Corporation as a Policy Analyst focusing on energy policy and human resources policies. Later he joined the World Bank where, as a Senior Officer, he has worked with more than 20 countries. Upon his Government’s invitation, he returned to Türkiye where he led the Privatization Program, when initial foreign investments were attracted to the program, the public offering of Government’s shares in industrial enterprises was initiated, flourishing the Istanbul Stock Exchange, and the Turkish investment banking industry was established. He also served as the **Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister**.

He served as an adjunct **Professor of Strategy** at the Boğaziçi University, Koç University, and the Military Academy. He is an **author** of numerous books and a columnist focusing on business, strategy, sustainability, and governance issues.

As a renowned governance expert, he has served as the Chairman of the Governance Committee of **Business at OECD**, as a member of the Private Sector Advisors of the **IFC’s Corporate Governance Group**, and as the Chairman of the Trustees of **Argüden Governance Academy**. As the elected Global Chair of Local Networks, he represented the National Networks on the Board of the **UN Global Compact**, the world’s largest sustainability platform.

Dr. Argüden is also a **social entrepreneur**, seeking to improve the quality of life in the community. He initiated the **National Quality Movement**, as the Chairman of the Turkish Quality Association, to improve the management effectiveness of private, public, and civil society institutions throughout Türkiye by promoting TQM philosophy. As the Chairman of **Turkish-American Business Council** and the **Turkish-Canadian Business Council** he has been a leader in **developing bilateral business relations**. As a Founding Board Member of the independent Turkish think-tank, Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) he has been a staunch promoter of **public policy analysis**. As a Founding Board Member of the Turkish Education Volunteers Foundation (TEGV), he has been active in improving the **quality of education** by improving delivery systems and content development. As the Founding Vice-Chairman of Corporate Volunteers Association (CVA) he has led the efforts to actively promote **corporate social responsibility** and **volunteerism**. He has also served as the Vice-Chair of the **Turkish Basketball Federation**.

He is an Eisenhower, Fulbright, NATO, and Turkish Scientific and Technological Research Council (Tübitak) fellow and a recipient of numerous leadership, distinguished citizenship, and career awards. He was named a **Global Leader for Tomorrow** by the World Economic Forum for his commitment to improving the state of the world (1999), received the **Distinguished Citizenship Award** for his efforts in the development of Turkish-American relations (2008), and the **Distinguished Industry Leadership Award** from the International Industrial Engineering Society for his contributions to the profession (2022).