



Delta-Eko

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Dam projects face to face in NGO stands

While Environment Minister Veysel Erođlu wandered around the nongovernmental organizations' stands he came face to face with Rafet the turtle, which faces extinction because of the Ilisu Dam project. Construction on the project has already begun by the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works, or DSI, and international funders.

The authorities of the Dođa (Nature) Association, who are holding campaigns to save the 10,000 year old settlement of Hasankeyf, informed Erođlu, who has upheld the construction, about the eco-system and species facing danger because of the dam's construction.

The Ilisu Dam project is one of the most discussed dam projects around the world because it will leave the ancient town of Hasankeyf underwater.

Erođlu and the project holders have not given up on the project while it remains certain the project will be the death of one of Turkey's natural and cultural heritage sites.

Historic city to be moved

Scientists and environmentalists find no truth in Erođlu's justification, saying the historic city will be moved and an archaeological park will be constructed. They also claim that not even a sign will be left from Hasankeyf.

According to Professor Zeynep Ahunbay, the president of Istanbul Technical University's Restoration Department, the monument-like pieces that will be placed in the archaeological park will not be the real ones; they will be copies of the existing heritage.

More sustainable water policies, say ministers

Many issues discussed at the World Water Forum remain unresolved but the political commitment to solving water management challenges seems unwavering. Ministers attending the forum have reaffirmed their resolve.

During the seven-day 5th World Water Forum there was one common opinion: water sustains human life and the environment. Yet for heads of states, governments and stakeholders, water is about connecting people, cultures and economies.

Water, indispensable for all economic and social development, food security, and ending poverty and hunger, is also essential to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, signed by United Nations member states for partnership and development and other internationally agreed development goals. The world is facing changes that have negative effects on water resources.

Water in the cities is as important as agricultural land. Cities need proper and efficient infrastructure. According to the "Istanbul Water Guide," investment in these areas should be given the highest priority.



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Ministers at the forum, which closed yesterday, declared there is an urgent need for new policies, adaptation strategies, institutional reforms with the effective contribution of local elected administrations and water users, international commitments, financial mechanisms, technology and innovation in order to address global water issues and adapt water management strategies to the global changes.

The ministers affirmed their political will to take rapid action for the future of water. They called on all nations to join forces to find solutions to the world's water problems.

Loic Fauchon, president of the World Water Council and one of the organizers of the forum, gave small speeches at each session during the forum and took the stage at the ministerial conference. Underlining that the forum is more political than technical, Fauchon said the "Istanbul Water Guide," prepared during the four preparatory meetings before the forum, is one of the most important achievements in water diplomacy.

Troubling facts

"Reaching water easily is not possible anymore. With climate change, water resources are facing more danger," said Fauchon.

Director-general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization Jacques Diouf said 1 billion people face problems because of hunger and scarce sources and touched upon the importance of water for food and agriculture.

Diouf called for efficient use of water in developing countries. "There are also opportunities during crises. I wish to see support for productive integrated agricultural policies."

According to Veysel Eroğlu, the environment minister of Turkey, each nation around the world struggles with water problems. "A good and fair management of water for humans and species is needed." Saying that Turkey is not a rich country in water resources, Eroğlu said the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works, or DSİ, has completed construction of 600 dams to date. "More than 5.2 million of 8.3 million hectares of agricultural land in Turkey already has irrigation. We will invest in hydroelectric energy centres. The aim is to increase our capacity from 14,000 to 40,000 megawatts in 5 years," said Eroğlu.

Ministers and heads of delegations agreed to make the best effort to reach international goals for people to access safe and clean water, sanitation, hygiene and healthy ecosystems through convenient policies. Areas covered included improving water use for agriculture, country-led development projects, and work for raising awareness, preventing pollution, investing in wastewater treatment, improving water-related monitoring systems and improving governance at the national level. They also agreed to support scientific research, education, development and adoption of new technologies and acknowledge the discussions within the UN system regarding human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation. They recognized that access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a basic human need.



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Besides including the effective use of financial resources to increase support for water management, water supply and sanitation, they agreed that new and adequate resources are needed.

'Turkey wants to use water to build peace'

Turkey wants to use water resources to build peace rather than allowing them to become a source of tension, the environment minister said in an interview published yesterday.

Minister of Environment and Forestry Veysel Eroğlu told the Journal of Turkish Weekly that Turkey has been increasing its cooperation with Syria and Iraq over the shared Euphrates-Tigris river basin, with technical experts from the three countries meeting to exchange information and expertise.

One project currently in the works is cooperation between Turkey and Syria to build a dam on the Asi River, which originates in Syria and has an annual water flow of 2.5 billion cubic meters. Eroğlu said the dam would be called the "Asi Friendship Dam."

"The Syrian side was initially worried about floods and some irrigated land that may be flooded after the dam is built," Eroğlu said. "We offered them solutions and helped them build an early-warning system to prevent flooding. Both countries will benefit from the dam in terms of recreation, fishing, electricity generation and irrigation."

"Ministries from both sides have signed a protocol to complete preparatory works for building the dam," he said. "If we can finish the mapping and feasibility studies this year, construction will begin next year."

When asked about reports that the Palestinian authority had requested to import water from Turkey, Eroğlu said officials from both countries would hold talks soon, adding that it was possible to transport water to the Palestinian territories by tanker. Eroğlu said Turkey was ready to sell water to Israel as well if the country made such a request.

In regards to a dam planned for the Meriç River, which is shared by Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece, the minister said Bulgaria was prolonging the process.

Turkish banks give further assistance to energy projects

Turkish banks are providing funding for energy projects by dipping into their own resources as well as the resources of the World Bank, European Investment Bank, development agencies and foreign lenders. They also utilize the resources of financial institutions and funds, as demand for energy surges throughout the country

Turkish banks have begun to weigh in when it comes to providing funding for the rising number of investments in Turkey's energy industry.



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As demand in the industry surged, local banks cranked up the amount of support they have been providing for the energy projects. The industry was supplied with funding worth billions of dollars within the past five years.

The energy industry in Turkey will require an investment of nearly \$130 billion until 2010 in order to maintain healthy growth, according to some experts. The energy demand in the country is rising in line with its economic growth. Rising demand deems energy very attractive for local and foreign companies that are seeking investment opportunities. The increasing interest to invest in the industry generates a much bigger need and demand for funding.

Turkish banks provide funding for energy projects by dipping into their own resources as well as the resources of the World Bank, European Investment Bank, development agencies and banks. They also utilize the resources of financial institutions and funds.

Investment projects for renewable energy, including hydro, geothermal, solar and wind stations, have placed themselves among the most funded areas in the past years, as environmental consciousness began to rise.

Garanti Bank, the Turkish lender co-owned by General Electric, have so far provided loans worth \$1.5 billion for energy, which is the industry foreseen to survive the crisis with minimum impact. The bank has also been authorized to find financing for projects worth \$500 million.

Meanwhile, officials of İşbank, Turkey's biggest publicly traded bank, have announced the bank's decision to increase the amount of support it has been providing for energy projects due to the rising demand. Although it is easier to obtain loans for hydroelectric plants at present, the wind energy investments in Turkey have also been rising significantly, according to İşbank officials. Turkey ranks on top among other European countries with its wind energy technical potential, which is estimated to be around 10,000 megawatts.

Many energy investors have knocked on İşbank's door, according to bank officials, who revealed that the bank has financed 21 renewable energy-based projects to date. The total financing İşbank provided in renewable energy reached nearly \$790 million, they said. Considering the projects that are currently undergoing the evaluation process that figure is expected to surpass \$1 billion.

Required investment

According to energy market experts, Turkey requires an investment of \$105 billion in electricity only. The total amount of investment required by the entire energy industry until 2020 totals to \$130 billion, they said.

Within the last two years, Yapı Kredi has allocated loans worth nearly \$1.3 billion for energy projects. The Turkish bank co-owned by Italy's UniCredit SpA provided financing for an installed capacity of 2,500 megawatts, said Mert Güvenen, a member of the Yapı Kredi executive board.



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Meanwhile, state-owned Vakıfbank helped realize 15 energy projects worth \$324 million as of the end of December 2008. Among the bank's energy projects, renewable energy consists of 65 percent while co-generation covers 35 percent, the bank's authorities said. The bank's project financing department is currently assessing 20 energy projects estimated to be worth around \$600 million, they said. But they also warned that the loans provided for the energy projects would be affected by the crisis.

Halkbank, another state-owned bank, is evaluating 21 hydroelectric plant projects that are estimated to be worth a whopping \$190 million euros. Ömer Baktır, vice managing director at the state-controlled lender, said that the bank is expecting a decline in foreign energy investments due to the global crisis. However, the financing needs of the companies investing, particularly in renewable energy, will continue to increase. "Mergers and acquisitions will also continue in the upcoming period, so banks will continue to see high demand in financing."

The Energy Market Regulatory Agency, or EPDK, has recently begun to play a more active role in the industry. Also, companies that are part of Turkey's private sector have become more and more interested in the industry. They have been playing a more active role in tenders for licenses to establish or run power plants in the country. The partnerships established between global energy giants and large Turkish firms also constitute the source of attraction for the financing of the sector, according to Cem Mengi, vice managing director at Akbank.

"Akbank's corporate banking department has financed 31 energy projects with an investment volume of \$6.4 billion. Akbank provided loans worth \$2.1 billion for these projects," he said, adding that the bank is also planning to provide \$300 million in loans for a 610-megawatt hydroelectric power plant project.

Denizbank has so far provided \$400 million in loans for the energy sector, including project funding as well as corporate loans, said Denizbank Project Funding Department Manager Ceyda Çetin Erten. The bank currently works together with other banks on two large-scale energy projects worth \$1 billion, which are likely to be completed this year, Erten said.

The Industrial Development Bank of Turkey, or TSKB, has evaluated 130 projects since 2005, and financed 71 projects with an investment volume of \$2.5 billion euros, said Burak Akgüç, vice managing director at TSKB.

German power company RWE to invest \$820 million in Turkish plants

The second biggest German power company, RWE, said Monday it bought stakes owned by number one EON in two Turkish projects, including a plant that would generate up to 800 megawatts of electricity.

RWE and Turkish partner Turcas Petrol would pay EON an undisclosed sum for its holding and invest an estimated 600 million euros (\$820 million) in that project, a spokesman for the German group told AFP.



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Work on the gas and steam co-generation plant is to begin in early 2010 and take several years, the spokesman said.

RWE would own 70 percent of the venture with Turcas, a company statement said.

The German power company also agreed to take a 70 percent stake in a coal-fired plant that is in the preliminary planning stages, the spokesman said.

EON has decided to cut back on investments between now and 2011 owing to the international economic crisis.

"We have decided not to further pursue a commitment to the Turkish power generation market," an EON spokesman told Dow Jones Newswires.

But in early March, another German energy company, EnBW, said it wanted to invest one billion euros in Turkish renewable energy projects.

A Green School for greener future

A green project is launched in the country by Greenpeace to educate primary school children about environmental issues and to encourage them to take part in school activities and projects that reduce damage to the environment

Greenpeace has launched a new "Green School" campaign in Turkey, which aims to educate children about global environmental issues and encourage them to undertake projects at their schools that will reduce the level of damage schools have on the environment.

The BJK Junior School in Istanbul's Levent district is the first school in Turkey to take part in the Green School campaign. Students between the ages of 8 and 13 have joined the Green School project and will be participating in workshops and activities for the next six weeks to make their school "greener" for the future.

The project, directed by Asu Sanem Kaya, will take place in six parts, which are differentiated by six colors of the rainbow. Yellow will be the first stage of the project when children will be taught about recycling and all the school's waste will be separated into bins. All the school's paper will be recycled paper.

Purple to reflect negativity

The color purple will represent the negative effects of chemicals on the environment and the school's transition to using organic eco-friendly cleaning products. Green will be for energy saving where children will be encouraged to switch off lights and use less water both in their schools and at home. The school will also be fitted with energy-saving equipment. The lighting outside the school consumes a great amount of energy, so a solar panel will be fitted to harness that solar energy for the outdoor lighting, according to Kaya.



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The red section of the project represents healthy eating and children will be educated about nutrition and organic, healthy snacks will be available on the school premises.

The orange section of the rainbow represents raising awareness, where the participating children will work to organize projects, performances and posters to make other students aware of environmental issues and encourage other students to participate in Green School projects at their school.

The final color and section of the project is blue, which represents workshops for educating children against violence.

Participating student 11-year-old Ozgu Yılmaz said she was looking forward to seeing a rainbow at the end of the project because that would mean her school is environmentally friendly.

Youngsters want better education all around world

World Water Youth Forum, organized for the 4th time within the 5th World Water Forum, brought together hundreds of youngsters from around the world. They discussed the same themes as the participants of the Forum but they already have a concrete solution to world's water problem: They want better education all around the world

While politicians, nongovernmental organizations and company owners were attending many discussions, panels and meetings at the 5th World Water Forum, young adults in attendance have already started taking action to save what's remaining of the world's water.

The 4th World Water Youth Forum 2009, organized for the fourth time under the theme, "Wave to Bridge the Divide," brought together hundreds of youth from around the world. During the last week they discussed the same themes as the adult world water forum participants, and the youth now have a concrete solution to the world's water problem: They want better education all around the world.

The young adults, ages 15 to 26, believe their opinions and decisions can have an affect on politicians, governments and veterans of water related issues, gathered and prepared a declaration to announce they want education to raise awareness that the situation on the scarcity of water is serious.

Annika Greup from the Netherlands, Isaac Musyoka from Kenya, Arin Pamukçu, Sibel Güçlü, Yiğit Canay and Aras Güvenç from Turkey were among the youngsters at the youth forum.

The youth forum was organized by a consortium of different organizations and was supported by many establishments. The young adults came together to discuss the same six themes as the 5th World Water Forum. But they discussed the topics from the youth side.

International participants

Just like World Water Forum, there were participants from different organizations, and people from Japan, Denmark and Belgium. In addition the organizations, there were also young adults who are not affiliated with any organizations taking part. They were called "youth ambassadors," because they were taking part in the forum to reflect the problems in their regions. There were 150 participants in



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total coming from 25 countries. "Everybody has something different to say so we have really had stimulating debates," said Serkan.

Annika was the only one among them who took part in the first Youth Forum, which was held at the 2nd World Water Forum, organized in The Hague. "I was a bit too young then, but I helped them organize it," she said.

In all the youth forums the goal was not only talking about the youth problems related to water but also trying and influencing all the different actors in the forum. They discussed their own opinions and what they thought should be done. They youth ambassadors did not only tell other people to spend more money on youth and their education, they, as young people, see the power in themselves to create their projects, such as educating younger children and setting up actions to raise awareness.

Difference between forums

Isaac thinks that the difference between the two forums was that, as young people, they come to the forum with fresh ideas and opinions. "The main thing we bring here is diversity from different realities. In Kenya people are not able to access clean water. This is like a crossroad between Africa and Europe. Our main objective is to lobby with state orders and the world water forum, and put our offers in consideration," Isaac said.

Underlining that they were not politicians or business owners or executives, Annika said; "We are all united to have a secure future for everyone because it's our future. In the main forum there are also people from many different countries, but they have their goals to follow because it's their country's position. We are independent. The only thing that unites us is to work for a safer future for everyone."

Aras agreed with Annika's speech and said, "Besides being united and sharing the same aim, we are energetic and very much motivated. If we cannot find any solutions we will try to find new ideas at least, to lobby these ideas with government members, politicians and company representatives," Even though they see themselves lacking some technical and detailed information about the water issues, the youth ambassadors offered different ideas from the main forum and added excitement, motivation and aspiration.

Sibel said even though the young adults were not a part of the decision-making process they were still taking part in the forum to affect decisions of the policy and decision makers.

Women should be included

According to the members of the youth forum, in order to empathize with somebody else's problems one should incorporate it into the policy making areas. "To solve women's problems related to water, they should include women in this process. To bring genuine solutions for youth-related problems, one should incorporate youth. That's why the youth forum is important," said Sibel, adding that they were trying to make their voices heard by expressing their opinions.



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They asked for youth to be involved in policy making. For them, involving youth will broaden the path to the solutions because they are the ones who are able to think outside the box.

The young adults, who also took part in the themed sessions of the 5th World Water Forum representing their discussions, have worked on a "Youth Declaration." The declaration was on the six themes and the general action they thought youth and others can take. They presented the declaration to the forum participants and distributed a copy of it to the attendees so that people can look and refer back to the ideas when they go back to their local communities.

They hope that their declaration will be considered because they are bringing objectivity to the international and intercultural dialogue to the forum. The politicians, stakeholders and all the experts have many ideas but at the end of the day young adults want them to take action.

Arin said that the declaration not only shows the actions that they want to take, but that they care about the issues being discussed during the forum. "It is for the youth to be recognized."

While Isaac asked for the policy makers who have ideas on how solve the water problem, to take action to bridge the water divide. Aras said many politicians, stakeholders and experts have their own aspirations and policies to follow, but "we come from different places and we only have one aim and the same point of view."

Education is important

The most important point for them is education so the declaration's focus is mostly on education. Improvements can be made if people are better educated on how to use water and techniques to conserve, they said. They think there should be classes in schools for children to be more aware about the water problem. They also have local and global action projects.

Although their ideas refer to all of the countries around the world, they believe it all can start with the local action. "It's all about starting with individual action. We cannot reverse what is happening but we can stop it," Isaac said. We will not wait for our governments to take action; we will start ourselves, Annika said. The youth ambassadors follow the motto "think globally but act locally."

These young adults will keep communicating to encourage to more people and youth to make a change. The Youth Forum helped them become aware of the situation in other countries and they are not planning to forget the experience when they return home. "We are building networks. We will set up a body to keep up with each other, because the time between the forums is too long and we want to continue working. We aim to have a sustainable cooperation," said Annika.

'Alternative' forum on water opens

The Alternative Water Forum opened. The three-day event will be home to many discussions about struggles around the world concerning water. Many members of non-governmental organizations, academics, experts and politicians will take part in the "alternative" forum, which will take place at Bilgi University's Santralistanbul campus.



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The participants of the Alternative Water Forum believe that water is a common public property and all people have the right to access clean water. Ecologic Water Management; Ecologic destruction in Turkey; Hegemony Water and Water Politics; Hydroenergy; Dams and Sustainability; Dams and Cultural Heritage; Water Poisoned by Nationalism; Water and women; and Water as a common good and water management are among the headlines that will be discussed during the forum. The forum will end Sunday, on the day when 5th World Water Forum ends.

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