



Delta-Eko

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Tel: 0312-440 7940 Fax: 0312-440 1011

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Erođlu: Turkey acts responsibly on climate change

Speaking at the 30th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in Antalya, Environment & Forestry Minister Veysel Erođlu said yesterday Turkey was taking important steps to prevent and decrease the influences of climate change despite not reducing greenhouse gas emission under the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

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Minister urges more investment in energy

Encouraging the use of renewable energy resources in the following decades should be a priority for both the private sector and the government, Energy Minister Hilmi Güler said last Friday.

Speaking at a conference titled "Powering Turkey," Güler said the country may produce 90,000 megawatts in total if all the necessary investments are completed by the year 2020.

Güler pointed to the significance of "the triangle of energy, environment and agriculture," adding that food and the environment will have increasing importance in the future, potentially affecting decisions to build new power plants.

The increase in the number of private hydroelectric power plants in Turkey is derived from the "environment of trust" created by the government and new regulations aiming to ease private investment in the sector, he added.

The private sector and domestic industry will be encouraged toward those investments, Güler said. The Domestic Industry Platform, or YERSAN, has recently been established to use domestic products in building solar or wind power plants, the minister said, adding that a local drill for petroleum is produced for the first time in Turkey with this project.

Although Güler said alternative renewable energy solutions such as wind energy should be used more, he said coal and natural gas will also be used in producing electricity in a safer way.

Hasan Köktaş, the head of Turkey's Energy Market Regulation Agency, said their goal is to make the private sector the only actor in electricity distribution by 2020. Electricity demand increases 8 or 9 percent each year, he said, adding that the agency aims to use almost all the potential in hydroelectricity, geothermal and solar power areas by 2023 to compensate for the growing need.

The conference was organized by EFG Istanbul Securities.



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Kindil Çeşme dispute goes deeper

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has denied any involvement in allowing a hotel to be built at Kindil Çeşme, the last camping place in Kemer.

Environmental groups have launched a legal battle against the construction of a hotel at the area, claiming it would ruin the holiday spot in the city of Antalya. It was a result of a process that started about five years ago after the legal status of the Beydağları National Park was changed, but the Ministry of Culture and Tourism declared that it was not involved in the process.

"The allocation was made about five years ago by the Ministry of Nature and Environment, and it is not related to our ministry," said İbrahim Acar, the head of the provincial directorate of culture and tourism.

The owner of Gök-an, the company that won the bid to have the right to build the hotel on Kindil Çeşme, said they would not harm the environment. "We have the managing rights on the area for 29 years," Niyazi Gökhan said. "No trees will be cut for this project."

Volunteers raise their voices against 'deterioration of Kaş'

Claiming that the renovation work is deteriorating the coastal town, NGOs in Kaş are raising their voices in defiance. In a conference to outline their plans against 'devastation' of their beloved town near the Mediterranean city of Antalya, volunteers criticize renovation work in the historic square and the construction of a new marina.

Kaş volunteers held a conference in Ankara to voice an S.O.S. and seek support for the Mediterranean township near Antalya.

Explained simply with the slogan, "How Kaş is being deteriorated" on the invitation poster, the conference brought nongovernmental organizations and volunteers together to protest the changes in the tourism and fishing town. "Kaş is being sacrificed to political games and trapped in urbanization," said an attendee. The groups particularly pointed out the "devastation" of the town square in the name of "renovation" as "election investment" on the eve of the local elections and the on-going earth filling of the seaside for the sake of new marina construction.

"Kaş is our last bit of diamond to be preserved," was the starting sentence of the meeting's opening speaker, Atila Uras, a university lecturer on global climate changes. Uras outlined Turkey's unique location on the globe, embraced by "three warm seas" at the meeting point of the continents, with the variety of vegetation as broad as to compete with continents. He assured that Kaş is unique in Turkey, and also in the world, with the city's natural and historical sites.

Marina under spotlight

With numerous photos, he showed the hairpin shores of the area, distorted for the sake of road broadenings or for constructing tourist facilities, at the cost of sealing the natural caves or harming wildlife.



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As for the new marina, the merits of which are being debated, he said: "Of course we need roads, marinas and airports for the transportation of goods and people. But all should be built with respect to the environment and people." "The construction contractor should convince the local people by obtaining an Environmental Impact Assessment Report from the Ministry of Environment, certifying that the earth-filling of the shore will not pollute the sea or seal off the underwater springs, which are constantly purifying the sea with crystal-clear fresh water," said Uras.

"No project is viable against the will of the local people," he said.

The renovation work on Kaş's historic square is also a subject of discussion, a topic that makes many environmentalist groups bitter.

Next big project for Eskişehir

Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality is building sewer treatment plants that will generate their own electrical power.

The new sewer treatment plants in construction at the third kilometer of Alpu Highway are vital for Alpu Lowland and Porsuk Stream, read a written statement from Eskişehir Mayor Yılmaz Büyükerşen.

Büyükerşen said 52 percent of the construction is complete and machine installments have started. "Building the giant treatment plants, worth \$50 million, is one of the biggest projects in the history of Eskişehir and they will generate the majority of their electrical power from waste water," said the mayor. According to the statement, precautions are being taken to avoid noise and smell and the pretreatment of mud will be done in closed systems.

Büyükerşen also indicated that the concrete work for the energy production towers is complete and the plants are being built with the latest technology. Next, the electrical and mechanical systems are going to be installed. This is the second biggest project for Eskişehir after the tramway, according to Büyükerşen.

The research ship 'Akdeniz Su' put to sea

A ship starts its journey in the Mediterranean but this one is not for tourism. The ship named 'Akdeniz Su' will examine the waters in various aspects such as biodiversity, pollution and marine life

Akdeniz Su, the research ship prepared by Akdeniz University for investigations on various subjects such as biodiversity, pollution and marine life, was put to sea with a ceremony.

The ship was bought from Trabzon approximately one year ago by the university and its equipment was installed at Manavgat. Akdeniz Su will perform research on many types of fish, including the highly-poisonous puffer fish, which eliminates other species.

Akdeniz Su is 26.5 meters long and 8.5 meters wide. It features six cabins, a cold storage depot, a laboratory, and devices for cruising, communication, locating fish and weather reports.



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Opening ceremony

The ceremony at Kaleiçi Marina was attended by Antalya Mayor Mustafa Akaydın, Professor İsrail Kurtcephe, Chancellor of Antalya University Zafer Köken, Bar President Professor Nalan Gökoğlu, Dean of Faculty of Aquaculture at Antalya University and many of the academic staff and Aquaculture Faculty students.

Gökoğlu said that the ship will research all of Turkey's seas and some international waters as well. "It has been transformed into a vessel that may stay at open sea without entering a harbor for two weeks." Gökoğlu said at a time when marine life is threatened and seas are polluted, they plan to do every kind of sea research with the aid of this ship.

Gökoğlu said in recent years, species like puffer fish have been coming to the Mediterranean from the Red Sea via the Suez Canal.

"Of course, these species are taking the places of domestic species, causing their elimination. These matters should be investigated. Which species are migrating from the Red Sea, their numbers and the migration's effects of domestic species should be looked into. On the other hand, species like swordfish and tuna fish are reducing in numbers. For this reason their population and spawning grounds should be determined," he said.

Gökoğlu said the ship will be helpful for establishing a fishing policy by providing data on hunting statistics. "Alongside works of biodiversity at sea, research will focus on fish migrations, determining endangered species for their protection, setting hunting prohibitions and developing hunting methods for sustainable fishing," Gökoğlu said, and added that they will provide the means to help underwater archeology projects if granted the necessary equipment.

Thanks for Akaydın

Professor Kurtcephe reminded that the better part of the world is water and thanked Mayor Akaydın for his contributions in buying the ship during his time as the Chancellor of Akdeniz University.

Mayor Akaydın pointed out that it was the first official ceremony of Antalya University since he left the title of Chancellor and spoke on how they had bought the ship, worth 1 million Turkish Liras, for 500,000 liras with great difficulties. Akdeniz Su set sail after Akaydın and Kurtcephe came onboard and made inspections.

Lake Sapanca to need extra water in future

Sapanca Lake in the western province of Sakarya can provide 120 million cubic meters of water per year, but after 2015 there might be problems providing enough water from the lake unless necessary measures are taken, according to a professor at Sakarya University.

Associate Professor İbrahim Yüksel runs a project to provide drinking water and multipurpose water from the lake for the long term. According to the first data Yüksel obtained from his project, which started in 2007, currently there is no problem with providing water from the lake. "In 2010 and afterwards, 110 million cubic meters of water is expected to be drawn from the lake. Currently 105



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cubic meters of water is drawn from the lake," Yüksel said, "However, the need for water in 2015 would exceed 120 million cubic meters, which might cause problems in providing water."

Measures needed

Currently, the lake has an active volume of 70 million cubic meters of water, which can provide 120 million cubic meters of water per year. However, toward the year 2040, it is estimated that 140 million cubic meters of water will be drawn from the lake, which would require an active volume of 88 million cubic meters, according to Yüksel. To increase the active volume to 88 million cubic meters, some measures are needed, he said. One of the measures Yüksel mentioned is to increase the efficient water altitude of the lake and carry water from nearby rivers.

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