



Delta-Eko

Cinnah Cad. 106/6, Çankaya, 06550 ANKARA

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

www.delta-eko.org

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Germany's EnBW to invest \$1.25 bln in renewable energy in Turkey

The German power group EnBW wants to invest 1 billion euros (\$1.25 billion) in renewable energies with a partner in Turkey, a press report said on Tuesday. "As a first step, we want to invest around 1 billion euros in the next three to four years," EnBW boss Hans-Peter Villis told the Financial Times Deutschland. EnBW has signed a letter of intent with the Turkish group, Borusan Holding, with each side owning a 50 percent share of the joint project.

The Turkish market for renewable energy is expected to grow by around 8 percent per year, the newspaper said. The development of wind and hydraulic energy sources was expected to result in a maximum generating capacity of 1,000 megawatts, EnBW said. Borusan is a conglomerate with sales of more than 2 billion euros (\$2.5 billion) in 2007, with operations in steel production and the distribution of the German luxury automobile BMW, the report said. EnBW is the fourth biggest German power company, with 2008 sales worth more than 16 billion euros (\$20.2 billion).

The French energy group EDF owns 45 percent of the shares in EnBW.

Environment is a way out of the crisis, a remedy for afterwards

In Washington D.C. the biggest ever protest will be held against coal which, of all the fossil fuels, is the single biggest contributor to global warming (www.capitolclimateaction.org). Through a symbolic action, the protest will target the Capitol Power Plant owned by the U.S. Congress. It's a cold fact that the use of fossil fuels will accelerate the end of the world.

The solution is to rapidly stop using coal. Whereas many countries are showing sensitivity towards the use of coal, Turkey is the record holder in greenhouse gas emissions, the main source of global warming, with a 74.4 percent increase in the period 1990-2004. In Turkey, power plants fueled by coal produce 20 percent of total gas emissions.

Currently a total of 15 thermal power plants use brown coal processed in Turkey. And these plants are a nightmare for the environment because it is a low-quality type of coal. Sulphur, nitrogen and CO₂ are produced during the combustion of fuels. These cause acid rain when they react with water particles in the air, in addition to soil and water pollution. Filters placed on chimneys to keep ash are insufficient most of the time.

According to information provided by Greenpeace-Turkey, there are 47 power plant projects pending. If they are implemented, the country's greenhouse gas emissions will increase 50 percent. We'll surely become the champion of all times. Our neighbor Greece, who decided to prioritize solar energy over coal and nuclear is certain to be overtaken by the champion!

Energy transmission infrastructures in developed countries was a priority in the implementation of New Deal type programs with a focus on employment and mass consumption, generated in the wake of the 1929 crisis. To increase the production of home appliances with access to affordable electricity, huge infrastructural projects such as 'Tennessee Valley Authority' were put in place. And today in



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order to come out of the current crisis, we need environmental infrastructures in a way to encourage renewable energy over fossil fuels and "to care about air, water and soil." That was the core of President Obama's historic speech Monday.

A new paradigm

We should also make investments in green collars. "Green collar" is a term for engineers, farmers, architects and educators working in the renewable energy (wind, solar and geothermal), organic farming and energy saving sectors. Data provided by the American Solar Energy Society, renewable energy and energy efficiency represented 8.5 million jobs in 2006. And as many as 40 million jobs can be generated by 2030. As for Turkey, no proper data exist but it is estimated to amount to 45,000 green collars.

And the third policy we need is energy efficiency and a change in consumption habits. An Open Society Foundation sponsored report made simple suggestions: commuting should be spread around as part of transportation, aged electricity production facilities should be rehabilitated, energy efficiency should be increased, power plants in the Aegean region should develop CO2 capture and storage systems, clean coal technology in coal-based power plants should be prioritized and renewable energy use should be increased. Environment friendly light bulbs and showerheads can also help. Turning off televisions before going to bed in the night and using washing machines and dishwashers at full capacity are some other simple measures to be applied.

Countries that can do these will save their future. However, considering that individual remedies are not the solution, joint decisions and implementations are necessary. Unprofessional approaches by the officials in charge of the environment in Turkey to the gravity of the situation are a sign that this country won't be a part of such joint efforts.

The government's approach is self-evident. Whoever raises his/her voice against energy sources causing pollution, he/she is being accused of day-dreaming and then of having a hidden agenda. The "Environment Minister in charge of Industry" keeps arguing that such people are against employment and industry and those environmentalists, as a matter of fact, do not want the country to develop, but that we cannot go back to the Stone Age. However, the wind power potential of Turkey, for instance, is about 48,000 megawatts. In this sector, 1 megawatt is being generated by 12 people that means 576,000 jobs!

The current global economic crisis is putting heavy pressure on our production and consumption habits. We have two options: either we do everything in our power to go back to the reckless development model behind the present crisis and therefore to speed up our end, or to find new ways and return from the threshold of the disaster.

Prime minister's water prize awaits reporters

The deadline is looming for the Turkish Republic Prime Minister's Water Prize, an award for journalists who published works of excellence on water-related issues in the Turkish and non-Turkish press.



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Turkey, as host country of the fifth World Water Forum, aims to honor individuals who have contributed to increasing society awareness of water-related issues through the prime minister's prize. "The importance of the media in fostering a paradigm shift in public opinion cannot be underestimated," according to most of the forum coordinators.

The prize will be presented to one local and one foreign journalist during the forum, which will take place between March 16 and 22 in Istanbul. A distinguished jury consisting of international water experts and journalists will select the winner. The total amount of the prizes is 40,000 euros. Prizes will be awarded after submitted articles published in the Turkish or non-Turkish press are screened. Each winning journalist will receive 20,000 euros.

World Water Forum to raise awareness of water

The World Water Forum is a gathering that aims to raise the importance, awareness and understanding of water issues and propose concrete solutions to address global challenges.

The general theme of the prize is also the main theme of the forum, "Bridging Divides for Water." The theme implies bridging divides between the east and west, north and south, rich and poor, developed and developing countries, and supply and demand.

Countdown for world water forum begins

The huge hourglasses filled with water and placed around Istanbul to count down the days until the 5th World Water Forum are slowly starting to attract attention to this upcoming international event.

The forum, which will start March 16 at the Stlce Culture and Congress Center, is hosted by the world's largest water-related organization and is expected to draw around 20,000 attendees. In an attempt to inform everyone about the event, the daily Star reported yesterday that the organizers have designed 10 hourglasses, five of which have already been placed in Taksim, on BaĒdat Avenue, in Kadiky, in BeŒiktaŒ and at Kanyon shopping mall in Levent. The rest of the huge sculptures will be placed in various other districts of the city.

Last drops to fall at closing ceremony

The 2.5-meter-tall and 1.3-meter-wide hourglasses are a way of taking this important international forum to the streets. Their last drops of water will fall at the closing of the forum March 22. The 5th World Water Forum, organized under the theme of "Bridging Divides for Water," will include 100 sessions on 23 broad topics. State ministers and local administrations from 123 countries will meet and discuss water issues, but the forum will not only be a place for discussion.

It will also feature the World Water Expo and Water Fair and be a place for hundreds of exhibitors to present their latest activities and newest technologies. The number of international registrations reached 6,000 this week.

Other events during the forum include a poster and photo exhibition, international "Water and Film" events, a Global Water Education Village, a learning center, networking spaces, water-related



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performances and ethnic manifestations on water themes. The Forum Secretariat also allows people to speak freely during the event, in a designed space inside the forum venue.

Finding artistry in the collection of garbage

If Istanbul is a factory that produces tons of waste everyday, its main recyclers are the freelance garbage collectors who go from street to street, collecting cans, bottles, paper and every other recyclable item directly from the bins.

In a city that accommodates more than 12 million people, Istanbul is estimated to have over 100,000 garbage collectors. Considering that there are hardly any recycling bins in the city, garbage collectors contribute a great deal to the recycling economy, handling more than 90 percent of it.

These facts might sound like the beginning of a story on city planning. Yet, this is the first step of an art project, called STARGEM, or Garbage Collectors Research and Development Center. Run by two artists, Güneş Terkol and Burak Delier, together with sociologist Eylem Akçay, STARGEM is an open ended project that advocates art being a platform for formulating social relationships and aims to collaborate with garbage collectors for different projects.

"I had long been thinking about doing something with garbage collectors, especially starting a research center that would develop from within," Burak Delier said. "After my research I came across Eylem, who had already worked on the subject. And together with Güneş, we started STARGEM."

The three chose PiST, an alternative art space in Pangaltı, as their meeting and working place, where they go and work four days a week. "When we started STARGEM, we did not have a specific idea about what it would be. Then we discovered that there was a storage space nearby, where garbage collectors go and put their stuff. So we went there and we started speaking to them. Then Osman joined us, too," Delier said.

Osman Gülek, 33, works in Istanbul's Pangaltı area as a garbage collector. When he met the three, he said he wasn't quite able to understand what the three of them wanted exactly.

"We actually didn't want to do anything for the garbage collectors. We are not offering any solutions to help them," Eylem Akçay said. "On the contrary we are avoiding grand solutions to existing problems. And we are inviting more garbage collectors to come and speak to us."

After a few conversations, and with suggestions from Osman, they decide to make a bag for Osman's two-wheeled garbage basket, on which there is Osman's favorite Turkish singer Ferdi Tayfur. "We made a Ferdi Tayfur bag out of clothes, because Osman really likes him," Terkol said. "But this was only an early idea, there were other things we wanted to do together." Another project they came up with was to make a pedestal out of trash. "We collected all the trash we could find; plastic bottles, bins, cans, paper and a chair. And we made it into a pedestal similar to the ones used under sculptures. Then we left it in front of a public sculpture in a park in Maçka," Delier said. "There are so many sculptures symbolizing the power of the state and the ruling class. We wanted to reverse that and remind people that our civilization is indeed rising on trash."



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The three are also continuing to organize talks, video screenings and workshops, where they are opening debate on issues of waste and recycling. Participation in these activities is free of charge and open to everyone.

Not a UN project

STARGEM is not a social responsibility project where artists try to get funding from higher institutions, such as the World Bank or the United Nations to help the lower class, yet there is still the question of why such a collaboration needs to exist between the middle and lower classes. What if such projects opened their doors and invited a group of bankers or doctors? Would that be easier or more difficult?

"The kind of collaboration we are talking about is not really directed towards the middle class. We are also analyzing the already existing relationship between these two classes and that includes definitions and assumptions made by the middle class over and about the other," Akçay said.

STARGEM began in January and will continue until March at PiST. Again one can't help wonder if this is enough time to form a continuous dialogue. "We don't think of our relationship with the garbage collectors as an obligation. And we don't have utopian ideas like reaching all the garbage collectors," said Akçay. "Whether temporary or permanent, it has caused a change in the public sphere." STARGEM is not only pointing its finger at an urban issue but also at other platforms that art can house. If art indeed offers us a particular language to understand the world, perhaps the first step is to get rid of its four walls.

Germany gives support to Siirt

Germany will provide 19.4 million euros-worth of financial support for a project to build a sewage network and drinking water supply to Siirt, a southeastern Anatolia town of Turkey, the German Embassy in Ankara.

"This project is an indicator of the political, economic and cultural relations between Turkey and Germany," Eckhart Cuntz said, according to the statement.

Five green stars to eco-friendly hotel

Based in Belek, Antalya, the Calista Luxury Resort has become the first Turkish hotel to be awarded a "green star" for its environmental awareness.

The hotel's five-star rating plaque was replaced with a green five-star plaque by the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Ertuğrul Günay. The green star project was launched by the Ministry two years ago, in order to raise awareness on environmental issues.

Seda Bayburtlu, the Quality Manager of the Calista Luxury Resort, said that this project was a result of teamwork. "Such projects can only be realized by a management team with high awareness and professional teamwork. We owe a lot to all our managers and workers," said Bayburtlu.



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The green stars are given on 122 criteria based in 10 essential subjects. The hotels need to have an environment policy and a private eco-manager, or be audited by a specialist firm. They will also need to pay attention to water and energy usage, and training employees to raise their awareness on ecologic matters. Another important factor is using local produce in meals at least twice a day.

Lego Projects aims to draw kids to science

The president of the creative children's organization says science and technology play a big part in today's world, and as the pioneers of the future it is important for youths to participate in projects similar to the Lego tournament to develop their creativity skills

Environmentally friendly robots swarmed into Istanbul on Friday for the 5th First Lego League tournament. Eighty teams of children aged 9 to 16 are engaging their creations in the competition this weekend.

The First Lego League is a worldwide tournament comprised of 49 participating countries, and this year 130,000 youths will be competing. The first round of the 5th robotics tournament in Istanbul, sponsored by Koç Holding, aims to encourage children across Turkey to be involved in science and technology and participate in creative projects to develop their minds and scientific skills.

Didem Çapa, president of the creative children's organization & the key organizers of the tournament & said science and technology play a big part in today's world, and as the pioneers of the future it is important for youths to participate in projects similar to the Lego tournament to develop their creativity skills.

Organizers of the tournament, including the Children's Creative Organization, Smart Kids Organisation, Mimar Sinan University Industrial Product Design Department and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, set a theme each year for the robotic projects. This year's theme is "***climate change***" a topic that aims to raise awareness among the participants about issues related to the environment such as global warming.

In the Robotic Lego tournament this year the 80 teams from 17 provinces across Turkey have built Lego robots and mechanical devices to compete on a racecourse and complete various tasks related to the climate change theme. The robots will be expected to switch off lights, open windows, pick up litter and bringing Lego figures together to form a community.

The robots will be judged on their performance through the points they gain while carrying out tasks on the racecourse and other factors within the project's framework. When presenting their robots to the panel of judges on opening day, the teams will be asked to deliver a short presentation about climate change and environmentally friendly engineering. Moreover they will be asked detailed questions by technical judges about stages of the construction process for the robots. The judges will merit the projects based on all these factors with teamwork at the forefront.

Speaking to the Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review, Çapa said, "The performance delivered by the robots on the day is not as important as the overall idea of the project." Teams in the top prize



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categories, which include first place champions prize, best project prize, best robot performance prize, best robot engineering prize and best teamwork prize, will be selected to participate in the Open European 1st Lego League tournament, which will be hosted by Istanbul in 2010 during its time as the European Capital of Culture.

The 5th First Lego League tournament is taking place in Istanbul this weekend. Honorary president of Koç Holding, Rahmi Koç, will be appearing Saturday at the tournament to hear the climate change project presentations and see the performance from the Lego robots. "I believe this project is a driving force behind better understanding and practice of science and technology policies in our country," said Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbaş.

The creative children's organization

The Creative Children's Organization said it believes these events, such as the Lego project, shed light on the future career choices of students and encourage children to pursue activities that will help develop their creative skills. The association organizes events in cultural and public locations like Topkapı Palace Museum, Yıldız Palace Museum, Anatolian Civilizations Museum, Ayasofya Museum, Rahmi M. Koç Museum, Dolmabahçe Palace Museum and Istanbul Atatürk Airport TAV. Plastic art, music, and drama are exhibited in the events held with the participation of schools and other youth groups. The association sets goals to provide opportunities for students to explore their own cultural assumptions and values.

Cooperating for better 'Med' Representatives

Representatives from Croatia, Italy, Lebanon, Macedonia, Morocco and Turkey meet in Bodrum under the auspices of the Mediterranean Local Administration Partnership Program, or PAMLED, to determine a list of short-term projects that the group will work on until November. Problems faced cannot be solved locally, says the head of the group

Environmental awareness, cultural heritage and archaeological tourism will be the focus of a pan-Mediterranean group this year, local administrators from six countries decided after three days of meetings in the Bodrum district of Muğla.

Representatives from Croatia, Italy, Lebanon, Macedonia, Morocco and Turkey met under the auspices of the Mediterranean Local Administration Partnership Program, or PAMLED, to determine a list of short-term projects that the group will work on until November.

The projects will be supported by EU funds. "We came up with good plans against population increase, [to improve] service quality in tourism and living [and on] restorations of ancient towns and the future of tourism spots," said Fabana Fiarro, chair of the PAMLED rotating presidency.

"During the three days, we developed projects on sustainable development, water management and communications between locals and tourist managers to improve the tourism potential in our towns."



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Farro added that the three main projects are going to be presented to the EU until November, in order to obtain economic funding. They will be also sent to the ministries of culture and tourism in the participating countries.

Speaking at the meetings' closing ceremony, Bodrum Mayor Mazlum Ađan said that the PAMLED meetings were crucial to help the tourism towns solve their problems.

"The problems in the Aegean and Mediterranean holiday spots cannot be solved without cooperation," said Ađan, giving his own town as an example. "We would need at least \$500 million to solve the Bodrum peninsula's every problem. We cannot solve them with the budgets of local administrations."

"Bodrum brings in \$2 billion of income via tourism every year, but it cannot get 1 percent of that amount from the government to be used in investments. Bodrum and other tourism towns will act together," Ađan added, "With the projects prepared here, Bodrum will have a serious chance to be funded by the EU. With its 5,000-year history, Bodrum's nature, culture and history should be handled with better care. We will do the best we can to preserve those assets and pass them on to the next generation."

Following the meetings, participants toured Bodrum, visiting the Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum, the Antic Theater and the Myndos Gate.

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