



**Delta-Eko**

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### **'Green' projects to be supported in Turkey**

The Industrial Development Bank of Turkey, or TSKB, and the French Development Agency, or AFD, signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday to support "green" projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Turkey. The TSKB did not give information about the budget to fund green projects under the agreement.

However, AFD's CEO Jean Michel Severino said that the French agency would grant 5 billion euros in loans for projects across the world and that it had decided to allocate 200 million euros for the Turkish banking industry this year.

TSKB Director-General Halil Erođlu said his bank had funded 71 renewable energy projects in Turkey that amounts to 2,255 megawatts, or 15 percent of Turkey's overall renewable energy capacity. The AFD has provided 800 million euros of financing for projects in Turkey, including a natural gas power plant in northern Turkey, a wind farm in western Turkey and a hydroelectric power plant in eastern Turkey.

### **İşbank gets 250 mln Euro Loan from EIB**

İşbank, Turkey's biggest bank by assets, has agreed to a loan of 250 million euros from the European Investment Bank, or EIB.

The 12-year loan will be used to finance lending to small- and medium-sized enterprises, or SMEs, the Istanbul-based İşbank announced Monday. Speaking at the signing ceremony for the loan deal, İşbank Managing Director Ersin Özince said long-term resources attained at low costs would contribute significantly to the banking sector's increased support of the real sector.

Loans such as the one obtained from the EIB will bring both diversity and stability into Turkish banking, he said. "We aim to support economic growth and the creation of employment with such loans."

Within the scope of the loan deal, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and public or private firms operating in the fields of infrastructure, environmental protection, efficient energy, health care and education will be financed. Noting that deposits are the most significant resource-creating tools for banks, Özince said syndicated loans constitute a substantial proportion of the resources in foreign currency.

"Securitization, repos and similar transactions are more disadvantaged in times of crisis," he said. In response to a question about expectations following the Group of 20 summit in London, Özince said: "I expect Turkey will perform well in the economy. However, Turkey should have an economy that allows no surprises and increases its credit rating."

The EIB is prioritizing support of SMEs in its Turkey aid schedule to increase the robustness of the country's economy, said Alain Terrailon, EIB representative in Turkey. EIB may offer loans of between 2.5 billion and 2.7 billion euros this year, he said.



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### **Children to observe serious topics at fest**

The 25th Children's Festival, organized by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's City Theaters, will be held from April 13 to 23.

According to a statement, festival activities will include performances of theatrical plays of both domestic and foreign origin, workshops and other art-related activities.

#### *The changing world*

The festival, which aims to be a way for children to start observing the changing world through art, philosophy, conversation and plays, will be held at the following venues: the Kadıköy Haldun Taner, Ümraniye, Kağıthane Sadabat and Kağıthane Küçük Kemal Children's Theater.

The festival will begin with activities at Kadıköy Square on April 13, including a staging of the play "Mucize" ("Miracle"), a co-production by Serbia, Denmark and Turkey and a children's program of puppet theater and shadow plays presented by the City Theaters.

Ömer Madra, a writer, journalist and radio-show host, will also speak to children on the topics of global warming, environmental change and recycling.

### **Uni students go green with an ecology carnival**

Sustainable living, ecology, fair trade and climate change are the prominent topics at a carnival that will kick off at Bosphorus University on Monday. The issues will be brought forward by film screenings, concerts and classes

Next week Istanbul's Bosphorus University will turn green as it hosts its first "ecology carnival" to raise awareness about pressing global environmental issues. Organized by a team of ecologists called Marul, or lettuce in Turkish, from the Bosphorus University Social Service Club, or BUSOS, will be kicking off Monday on the north campus. The main objective of the carnival is to inform people about environmental issues such as climate change, unfair trade and water access and to encourage people to participate in schemes that will help conserve the environment.

The Marul group will be organizing concerts, discussions, workshops and sports activities based on various different environment-related subjects. Lectures will also be held at the university by various ecologists and experts. During the course of the week, a variety of sales will be held across the campuses to promote recycled goods and seminars will be held about different forms of recycling methods within local communities. During the carnival, participants will be encouraged to bring any unwanted items from their homes such as furniture and clothes to be re-sold and reused.

#### *Program full of activities*

The carnival is open to all April 13 to 17. The Marul group will be coordinating the carnival and details of their campaigns will be delivered throughout the fair. On the final day of the event, Bosphorus University's BUSOS will team up with the Agricultural Laborer Union, or Çiftçi-Şen, to organize a "world agriculture campaign day."



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On Monday at 4:50 p.m., the carnival will kick off with an opening ceremonial walk, lead by Sambistanbul starting on the north campus and continuing through to the southern campus center.

At 5:30 p.m., there will be music and entertainment, organized by Sambistanbul. At 8 p.m., there will be an open-air screening of a film from the festival titled "Corporation" Ğ a film about sustainable living. The screening will take place on Bosphorus University's south campus.

On Tuesday at 3 p.m., there will be a discussion titled "Either Sustainability or Development." Umit Şahin will be leading the talk.

At 5:15 p.m., there will be a musical instrument production workshop lead by Hangar Musicians, where participants will make instruments made out of garbage and recycled materials.

At 6:30 p.m., Kara Günes will give a live concert without using an electrical system. At 8 p.m., there will be a film screening of "Thirst," which is based on protests in Bolivia and India against the privatization of water. The screening will take place on the south campus.

On Wednesday at 12:30 p.m., there will be a workshop directed by İmece Evi in which participants will collect grass and herbs from around campus and cook.

At 2:30 p.m., there will be another workshop held by İmece Evi about ecological detergents in which participants will produce detergents made out of ash water, ecological soap and other environmentally-friendly products.

At 3 p.m., there will be a discussion about intellectual property rights, which will be held by BUSOS and Chris Stephenson from Bilgi University. This will take place in the Turguy Oyan room on the north campus.

At 4 p.m., there will be an outdoor yoga workshop organized by Andrew Zionts from the Cihangir Yoga School.

At 5:30 p.m., there will be a workshop that will look at producing products from raw materials as an alternative to consumption. The Bosphorus University Fine Arts group will organize the workshop. At 8 p.m. there will be a film screening of "Tamogrande" Ğ a film from the festival based in Peru about sustainable living.

#### *Food workshop*

On April 16 at 12 p.m., a food workshop will take place with the attendance of the cooks of Slow Food Youngsters Food Action. There will be various sauces and food cooked in addition to discussions on anti-fast food culture at the university's south center.



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At 3:30 p.m., there will be an open class on food sovereignty. Zafer Yenil, a lecturer in the university's sociology department, and Abdullah Aysu, Çiftçi-Sen chairman, will be talking during the lecture on food sovereignty and agricultural laborers' struggles. The class will be open to everyone.

There will be a rhythm workshop at 5:15 p.m. that will host Hangar Musicians. The musicians will use the instruments designed by the unused materials and garbage during Tuesday's workshop.

World Agriculturists Combat Day will be celebrated with a series of activities on April 17, organized by the Bosphorus University's Social Service Club and Çiftçi-Sen.

### **Coal's firepower to rule on coasts**

Producing electricity via coal-fired power plants receives a boost from the Energy Market Regulatory Agency as the agency approves large-scale projects to produce more than 100 megawatts of electricity per year. Environmentalists protest the government's move, saying coal is too polluting and future energy needs should be met by renewable resources

As Turkey grapples with environmental damage caused by its 15 existing coal-fired power plants, the construction of more such facilities is underway, with many planned for the country's coasts.

The Energy Market Regulatory Agency, or EPDK, has approved applications for some of the 46 large-scale projects that will produce more than 100 megawatts of electricity per year, with paperwork for the rest proceeding on schedule. Experts say the use of coal, rather than renewable resources, to produce electricity go against global trends and could compound the damage already caused by power plants in Turkey.

According to the environmental organization Greenpeace, the seven power plants planned for the Mediterranean province of Adana will harm the habitats of endangered species, including the Aleppo Pine tree (*pinus halepensis*) and the Loggerhead sea turtle (*caretta caretta*). Likewise, the five plants planned for the northwestern province of Çanakkale pose a great danger to the region's wildlife and tourism.

Greenpeace Turkey Director Uygur Özesmi said coal-fired plants are the main cause of global warming, no matter where they are built, producing 41 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. "All research into trapping carbon has produced nothing practical," he said. "The earliest practical use of such research will be implemented sometime in the 2040s. And by then, alternative fuels will be much cheaper to use than carbon-based resources."

Because most of the 46 facilities planned for Turkey will run on imported coal, Özesmi said their construction "will also cause dependence on overseas resources." The Turkish public is mobilizing against the construction of such plants, with demonstrations already occurring in the Black Sea region and around İzmir. One EPDK official, who did not wish to be named, said the agency was only in charge of issuing licenses for such plants, not inspecting them for their environmental effects.

"Getting a license from us does not necessarily mean they will be given a positive report from the Environment Ministry or a building permit from the local government," the official said. Professor



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Tanay Sıdkı Uyar, the director of the New Technologies Research and Practice Center at Marmara University, said that 100 thermal plant tenders in the United States were canceled this year alone. "The much-talked-about carbon capture and storage technology, or CCS, has not become available yet," Uyar said, adding that he saw these types of power plants as one country sharing its pollution with the world.

The world will meet in Copenhagen in December to discuss what to do when the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions expires next year, Uyar said. "Every plant built in Turkey before then is like sweeping the carbon under the rug."

When the power plant in the Aegean town of Yatağan, in the province of Muğla, opened with much fanfare in 1976, it was seen as a sign of Turkey's growing industrial might. Unfortunately, it took 30 years for the plant to get a functioning waste-gas-filtering system. Thousands of local residents have lodged complaints against the plant over the years, with the trials linked to the plant becoming one of the staple cases at the European Court of Human Rights. In the southeastern province of Kahramanmaraş, a power plant operated without a purification system for 20 years despite complaints by locals, who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The facility's ash filters were broken for a decade, during which 15 million tons of unfiltered solid, liquid and gaseous waste destroyed the region's farming industry and its underground waters.

Similarly, a plant in Muğla's Gökova region put an end to efforts to develop the area as a major nature-tourism attraction.

According to a report released by Çukurova University in Adana, the coal-fired power plant in the area's Yumurtalık region destroyed the local fishing industry. Area fishermen have filed complaints at the European Court of Human Rights.

### **Bafa opens to ecotourists**

Lake Bafa in the borders of Aydın and Muğla provinces is on its way to becoming a tourist attraction again but with a twist. Saved from the drought, the lake's nature park is now open for ecotourism. The park's 24 kilometer-long eco-path highlights area's natural and historic features, while being sustainable and environmentally friendly

Lake Bafa, inside the borders of Aydın and Muğla provinces and at the southeast of the Büyük Menderes River Basin, is open for ecotourism. The ecotourism walking trail featured Lake Bafa Nature Park's long-term development plan has been completed.

The 24 kilometer-long course starts from Serçin Village of Söke County and ends in Kapkırı Village of Milas County.

Kuşadası Foundation of Nature Lovers for Protecting the Ecosystem and National Park Engineering, or EKODOSD, performed the organizational work for the trail. The course was planned so it would be sustainable, environmentally friendly and help strengthen love for nature.



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The course's creators, EKODOSD President Bahattin Sürücü, and Erdinç Kutsal, an engineer working at the national park, said they created the path to combine the traces of old civilizations and natural life. Sürücü underlined that nature is asset in countries' tourism and directly related to their power in that sector. He added that countries that preserve nature increase their share in tourism.

"It is known that countries that actualize sustainable tourism and environment-sensitive applications are more in favor," explained Kutsal. "Countries that preserve and increase their ecological beings and wildlife by certain rules also increase their tourism potential."

"Ecotourism, the one that does not destroy nature, is in the scope of that," he added.

Sürücü said they hoped to prove it with the course they prepared would attract tourist attention.

Sürücü said they have been following the traces of old civilizations first and foremost.

"Our path offers a view of rich plant life," he said. "The course is inside the wildlife area north of Bafa."

"It is a unique area that features history, culture, flora, fauna, mythology and incredible nature views," he went on to praise the area.

#### Mystifying view

Sürücü said people who have only seen the south of Lake Bafa would be mystified by the view from the north.

"Beşparmak rocks, magnificently defying the laws of physics, are rarely seen in Turkey," the engineer said. "Each kilometer of that course will introduce you to a different type of beauty."

Sürücü continued by explaining that both the remains of dead animals and the continuing wildlife are there to observe.

Sürücü also said that the view from the hills will interest photographers very much, and they will feel "as if they are on another planet." Last but not least, rock drawings portraying ancient wedding scenes believed to be from 7000 B.C. will also be on the course, according to Sürücü.

The current situation of Bafa is definitely an improvement considering its condition in recent year, as there has been no water entering or exiting the Lake except rainfall in recent years.

Due to the drought, the water level of Bafa Lake, located between the borders of Aydın and Muğla, has decreased below the two-meter threshold for sustainability.

A series of projects and rainfalls helped the Lake Bafa fight the drought as well.



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### **A Japanese architect awed by Istanbul's style**

ISTANBUL -The ecology-minded Japanese architect Kengo Kuma was in town last week, where he told colleagues and architecture students about his latest designs at a conference at Istanbul's Building Information Center. Since he was a student, he has been an admirer of old Turkish architecture

A Japanese architect who has transformed the focus of his work from concrete buildings to ecological and sustainable designs came through Istanbul last week to talk about his architectural style.

In Istanbul, Kengo Kuma was the guest of the city's Building Information Center, or YEM, and Chamber of Architects. As he spoke onstage, he looked a little tired from all his traveling for fairs and conferences, but he still was passionate in talking about architecture and his work, which emphasizes the materials used in a structure.

The talented architect was a student first in Tokyo, then continued his studies at New York's Columbia University. Kuma, 55, said he learned many things from his teachers and the interesting people he met in New York. He considers his house in Yokohama, a suburb of Tokyo, where he was born, as the starting point of his career. "The 1960s were a time of economic expansion in Japan," Kuma said. "Many new houses were built, but my house was very different from those newly built modern homes." Kuma described his childhood home, which was made of wood and clay, as old and dirty. But though he was embarrassed to live in it back then, he came to believe that there was a beauty in the house because it was in a traditional style, not a contemporary one, adding that he doesn't like to follow the typical modern trends.

In the 1980s, which Kuma described as a period of post-modernism, he studied the construction methods used in architecture and began to consider the relationship between the construction method and the design, which he considers important background to his work today.

Kuma likes reading about the histories and architecture of the places that he is going to visit. When he was a student, a professor told him that the most beautiful example of architecture was Istanbul's Hagia Sophia, a former basilica that was turned into a mosque and is now a museum.

"There should be life in the structure," he said. "Architecture is mostly considered a killer of nature, but it does not have to be, if we design in harmony with nature."

Kuma believes that Turkish architectural traditions still hold the spirit of sustainability, although he says some of the city's high-rise buildings distract from the greatness of its architecture. "It is one of the greatest cities in the world, but it is a pity that the characteristics of the traditional architecture are disappearing," he said. "People should respect the tradition of the city and maintain the density. If the character of the city disappears, no one can put it back. It would be too late."

### **'Build low-rise buildings'**

After visiting Istanbul many times and being interested in its history, Kuma planning to use the city's roof styles in his future designs. He also talks about owning a house in Istanbul. If he has the chance,



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he would advise the city's architects to build low-rise buildings. "I would love to design a modern-art museum. By the Bosphorus would be perfect," he said.

Emphasizing that sustainability is one of the most unique characteristics of Japanese traditional architecture, Kuma said his country has the tradition of caring about the environment because it has a very limited land area and a big population. Compared to other countries, it is also lacking in natural resources. "Under those kind of severe conditions, the Japanese people have been developing sustainable design and we try to combine the sustainability with architecture," he said, saying such practices have been important since the beginning of the country's history.

"When Japan was under the influence of China, a large empire that does not have a culture of saving energy and natural resources, Japan placed importance on natural resources," Kuma said. "For small countries like Japan, energy waste is a big problem."

Though Kuma prefers small cities for traveling, he is more passionate about managing projects in big cities, which he says have many problems that he wants to help solve.

"What I am interested in is not the style, it's something behind the style, such as technology and philosophy," he said, adding that the most exciting projects for him have always been about the people. "If the people I work with are interesting, I enjoy my job."

**Materials are important**

Kuma's preferred materials are ones like wood, glass, bamboo and steel that more easily integrate with nature. He says architecture in the 20th century too often ignored the materials, creating concrete buildings that destroy the beauty and uniqueness of a place.

When he started out in architecture, Kuma said, he learned from books and magazines. But now he is learning from places and their local people and materials. This direct communication and interaction has been improving his architecture, he said, admitting that his style has changed a lot since he started his career in 1986, after finishing his studies and returning to Japan from New York.

At that time, he was only using concrete for his buildings. After the 1990s, which he calls an age of depression, Kuma changed his style. He started working in the countryside, learning many things from local Japanese men. He defines this "depression age" as a chance for architecture and a fortunate period for the new ecological and sustainable style. He said Japan has been so influenced by American culture and the U.S. economic system, it is losing its own traditions of local industry, craftsmanship and human relations.

**Urgent action a must to keep Aegean clean**

The Marmaris Coast Guard commander has called on the Muğla Governorship to take measures against boats that are discharging waste into the sea and some sailing under foreign flags that are suspected of artifact smuggling.



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Speaking at a yacht coordination meeting set up to improve boating tourism, the commander of the Marmaris Coast Guard, Süleyman Ercan, said they have seen rapid increases in ocean pollution and have observed that the private sector is not always acting according to the rules.

Coast Guard observations show that "most yachts are not acting according to the bilge discharge rule" covering the release of waste into the water, Ercan said, adding that it was difficult to determine the exact source of pollution seen in the marinas because there are so many yachts. "For that reason, people infringing the rules may not be punished. We believe that marina authorities should be held responsible for pollution," he said, adding that, "Some yachts are also anchoring in the areas forbidden to divers, which creates a risk of artifact smuggling. Considering all this, urgent measures should be taken."

Source: [www.hurriyetdailynews.com](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com)