

REPORT OF THE “FLOOD AND LANDSLIDE ISSUES IN THE BLACK SEA REGION “ MEETING

Date: 26-27 October 2010

Venue: Novo Hotel, Trabzon TURKEY

General Overview

Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, European Disaster Training Center (AFEM) with support of EUR-OPA organized a seminary to take up flood and landslide issues in the Black Sea Region. Two keynote speech and 17 presentations made during two days programme. More than 60 experts, academicians and local administrators, NGOs, Chamber of Geological Engineers attended to the seminary. EUR-OPA Secretariat and the “European Training Information Center” in Baku also represented in the seminary.

Seminary included 3 sections called; *“Climate Change, Floods And Early Warning Systems”*, *“Landslides Case Studies In The Black Sea Region”* and *“Solutions To Flood And Landslide Problems”*.

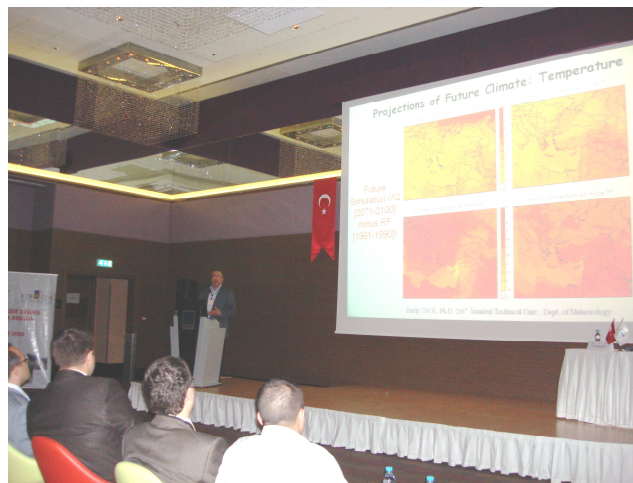


Discussions and Outputs of the Sessions

- Session 1: “Climate Change, Floods And Early Warning Systems”

The session started with a keynote speech given by Prof. Dr. Miktad KADIOGLU from Istanbul Technical University and continued with six presentations. Prof. KADIOGLU discussed the terms of flood, flash flood, and gave information about the flood risk management and examples from Turkey and the world. At the end of the session following outputs were uttered by the participants;

- There is a gap between scientific community and practitioners (especially the central and local authorities). There are also lack of team work between different stakeholders working in the field of floods and early warning.
- Technical capacity of the local authorities are also discussed as one of the main problem for the region. Especially for the Black Sea Region, there is a strong need for flood, landslide and avalanche expert to contribute to the local authorities' studies.
- Participants underlined the need for effective early warning systems in the region, especially for floods and landslides. The need for more detailed flood risk maps for the Black Sea Region was also stated as one of the priority areas with respect to flood risk reduction.



- Session 2: "Landslides Case Studies In The Black Sea Region"

The session started with a keynote speech given by Prof. Dr. Candan GOKCEOGLU from Hacettepe University and continued with five presentations from the representatives of universities and governmental organizations. Prof. Gokceoglu informed participants about the terminology on landslides, hazard, risk and susceptibility concepts and gave examples from landslides in Turkey and other countries. In the Questions&Comments session participants discussed the following issues;

- There is an urgent need for landslide inventories and related documents to be compiled systematically. There is also a need for those databases to be shared for public use. Government units must play a crucial role for creating and managing such databases,
- Studies on landslide mapping and susceptibility are limited with the academic studies with some exceptions at governmental level exists. Local authorities and public units must be more involved at these studies.

- There is no specific information about landslides in school curricula. In order to create public awareness information especially for children, landslides must be included at school curricula.
- This meeting once again showed that databases and historical information about past events are very important. There is a strong need to harmonise those data and must be reached through single one source.

- Session 3: “Solutions To Flood And Landslide Problems”

Last session of the seminary included six presentations from different organizations. In the Questions&Comments session participants discussed the following issues;

- In the last session participants called attention to the mainly organisational and administrative matters of the governmental units. Participants suggested that there is a need to coordinate hydrological and meteorological services by establishing or restructuring existing organizations.
- Participants underlined the importance of local authorities and uttered the decentralisation at disaster management.
- As offered by several international policies and strategies, the new disaster management structure must pay more attention to the risk reduction issues rather than response and emergency management.
- Participants offered that preparation of flood master plans and strategy document in order to use water sources effectively both for the Black Sea Region and whole country is very important.
- Participants also took attention to the need for a common terminology at disaster management is very crucial for Turkey and need to be established and distributed to all stakeholders.