



UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
International Cooperation

TRAINING COURSE ON
“THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN COMBATING
DESERTIFICATION”

13 June – 18 June 2012, Ankara, Konya, TURKEY

Background

Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs prepared a project on land rehabilitation/combating desertification and forestry for regional cooperation. It is supported by Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA).

The project hereby is a technical cooperation project that covers issues such as reasons for desertification/land degradation, seed and seedling production for combating desertification/land rehabilitation, forestation, erosion control and participatory approach with the aim of increasing the level of regional collaboration among the countries of the region and enabling each country in the region to share the technical experience they have gained so far.

As a result of United Nations Rio Conference, three main conventions in the field of environment were determined. They are Biodiversity, Climate Change and Combating Desertification conventions. 110 countries have been affected by desertification which is a global problem. One of the most important results of desertification is the loss of soil fertility and as a result there emerges hunger, famine, migration and wars.

Our country has quite significant experiences in combating desertification/land degradation which is an important problem for the humankind and our planet and we are declared as one of the leading trainer countries by United Nations. Sharing the experiences gained by our country with the countries under desertification danger in Central Asia, the Balkans and Africa complies with our country's mission.

Objectives of the training course

- To exchange of information/knowledge and experience on role of the NGO's regarding on combating desertification from the interested countries,
- To promote effective cooperation among the related institutions and NGO's of countries and transfer of technology and know-how on the field of combating desertification and erosion,
- With this educational and technical project our goal is to share the knowledge of our country on Combating Desertification/Land Degradation (Combat wind erosion, sand stabilization, building green belts near populated areas, flood control, forest rehabilitation, dry land afforestation, seedling growing, integrated watershed management, fight against forest fires, building forests durable to fire.) with Least Developed Countries on the African continent, Central Asia, the Balkans and capacity building on these subjects.
- To declare what NGO's role should be on combating desertification.

Eligibility:

The course is open to two representatives from developing countries and least developed countries and is aimed at related decision makers, forest engineer and NGO's involved in the management of environmental problems related to afforestation, erosion control, desertification and forestry.

Application:

The candidates will make an application to TIKKA regional offices in their country and for each country, two participant will be selected from at least four candidates (more than four candidates can apply for each country, two of them will be selected) by a committee composed by The General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion of Turkey (ÇEM).

Dead Line for application: 20 May 2012

Course Format:

The course will consist of lectures, group-learning activities, case study and field trips.

Language of the trainings shall be Turkish, English, Russian and French.

Participants will do 15-minute presentation about their work in combating desertification.

To celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification on 17 June 2012, participants are requested to bring in their local clothes.

Dates of the training course:

The date for the training course was tentatively decided as **13 June -18 June 2012.**

Host Institution and the Venue

The Course will be managed by General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion - Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, The Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)

The course will be held in Ankara and the excursion will be held in Konya, Turkey.

ANKARA

Centrally located in Anatolia, Ankara is an important commercial and industrial city. It is the center of the Turkish Government, and houses all foreign embassies. It is an important crossroads of trade, strategically located at the centre of Turkey's highway and railway networks, and serves as the marketing centre for the surrounding agricultural area. The city was famous for its long-haired Angora goat and its prized wool (mohair), a unique breed of cat (Angora cat), Angora rabbits and their prized wool (Angora wool), pears, honey, and the region's Muscat grapes.

Ankara is a very old city with various Hittite, Phrygian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman archaeological sites. The hill which overlooks the city is crowned by the ruins of the old castle, which adds to the picturesqueness of the view, but only a few historic structures surrounding the old citadel have survived to the present day. There are, however, many finely preserved remains of Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine architecture, the most remarkable being the Temple of Augustus and Rome (20 BC) which is also known as the *Monumentum Ancyranum*.

History

The region's history can be traced back to the Bronze Age Hatti civilization, which was succeeded in the 2nd millennium BC by the Hittites, in the 10th century BC by the Phrygians, and later by the Lydians, Persians, Greeks, Galatians, Romans, Byzantines, and Turks (the Seljuq Sultanate of Rûm, the Ottoman Empire and Turkey.)

After Ankara became the capital of the newly founded Republic of Turkey, new development divided the city into an old section, called **Ulus**, and a new section, called **Yenişehir**. Ancient buildings reflecting Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman history and narrow winding streets mark the old section. The new section, now centered around **Kızılay**, has the trappings of a more modern city: wide streets, hotels, theaters, shopping malls, and high-rises. Government offices and foreign embassies are also located in the new section.

Ankara is one of the world's oldest capital cities, having been a major urban center, though not a capital, for far longer than cities like London, Paris or Madrid; even Istanbul. When

present Istanbul, then the Roman provincial town of Byzantium, was being groomed as a new capital for the Roman Empire in 324, Ankara was already an important administrative center from which most of the northern half of Turkey was run.

Climate

Ankara has a continental climate, with cold, snowy winters due to its elevation and inland location, and hot, dry summers. Rainfall occurs mostly during the spring and autumn. Under Köppen's climate classification, Ankara features a semi-arid climate. Because of Ankara's high altitude and its dry summers, nightly temperatures in the summer months are cool. Ankara's annual average precipitation is fairly low at 415 millimeters (16 inch), nevertheless precipitation can be observed throughout the year. Monthly mean temperatures range from 0.1 °C (32.2 °F) in January to 22.9 °C (73.2 °F) in July, with an annual mean of 11.7 °C (53.1 °F).

KONYA

Konya is a city in the Central Anatolia Region of Turkey. The metropolitan area in the entire Konya Province had a population of 1,036,027 as of 2010, making the city seventh most populous in Turkey.

Culture

Konya has the reputation of being one of the more religiously conservative metropolitan centers in Turkey. It was once known as the "citadel of Islam" and its inhabitants are still comparatively more devout than those from other cities. Konya was the final home of Rumi, whose tomb is in the city, and whose followers established in 1273 the Mevlevi Sufi order of Islam there and became known as the whirling dervishes.

Konya produced Turkish carpets that were exported to Europe during the Renaissance. These expensive, richly-patterned textiles were draped over tables, beds, or chests to proclaim the wealth and status of their owners, and were often included in the contemporary oil paintings as symbols of the wealth of the painter's clients.

Climate

Konya has a continental climate with cold, snowy winters and hot, dry summers. Rainfall occurs mostly during the spring and autumn. Under Köppen's climate classification The city has a semi-arid climate (Köppen BSk). Summers temperatures average 30 °C (86 °F). The highest temperature recorded in Konya was 40.6 °C (105 °F) on 30 July 2000. Winters average -4.2 °C (24 °F). The lowest temperature recorded was -25.8 °C (-14 °F) on 25 January 1989. Due to Konya's high altitude and its dry summers, nightly temperatures in the summer months are cool. Precipitation levels are low, but precipitation can be observed throughout the year.

Logistics and Administration

TIKA will manage air travel expenses (by the most economical, direct route) from originating country to Ankara Esenboğa Airport. Details will be given through invitation letters to the admitted candidates.

TIKA/ÇEM will arrange transportation to and from the airport to the activity locations and transportation for the filed visits.

Full board accommodation in hotels of the Ankara and Konya area and meals will be covered by ÇEM.

ÇEM and TIKA will officially forward to the Turkish Embassies of the relevant countries the name of the participants to enable them to contact the consulates for visa procedures.

Contact addresses for more information

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