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# Disaster Training Application and Research Center

# e - Newsletter

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written and edited by Serhat YILMAZ translated into English by Rumeysa KARACA









Issue 15 / September 2018

## DISASTER TRAINING APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER



# **Corporate Governance and Sustainability Studies started**

In cooperation with Istanbul Aydın University Corporate Governance and Sustainability Application and Research Center (KURSAM), Disaster Training Application and Research Center (AFAM), Energy Policy and Markets Application and Research Center (EPPAM) and IAU Faculty of Communication, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, 2018 – The series of studies to be carried out in the 2019 academic year has been designed as 4 stages to form a whole.

The 1st stage of the study, the Business World and Academic Corporate Governance Practices Conference, will be held on October 19, 2018. With the conference to be held at the Florya Campus A Block Conference Hall of our university, corporate governance practices will be evaluated with the participation of experts from the business world and academia.

The second stage of the study will be the Risk Management Workshop with its Social and Economic Dimensions to be held on January 22, 2019, and the third stage will be the Sustainability in Energy and Environmental Impacts Workshop to be held on March 6, 2019. In line with the study titles determined for the workshops, final statements will be prepared in line with the data obtained in the workshops, which will be attended by experts from the sector and the academic world.

The study will complete its final phase in the 2018-2019 period with the Corporate Governance and Sustainability Symposium to be held on April 18, 2019. The theme of this year's symposium, which will be held at the national level, has been determined as "Innovative Approaches in Governance".

To attend the conference, workshops and symposium, you can follow up-todate information sharing at

http://surdurullenenyonetimvekalkinma.aydin.edu.tr/.



Issue 15 / September 2018

### ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY DISASTER TRAINING APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER



#### Link:<u>https://www.dha.com.tr/saglikyasam/iklim-</u> degiskligi-ile-mucadeledekarbon-vergisigelebilir/haber-1597859



*Link: <u>http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/iklim-degisikligi-ile-</u> mucadeledekarbon-vergisi-40950143* 

## Our article on climate change has been published in many national presses

In order to support activities to be held in different parts of the world on the global event day called Rise for Climate, held on September 8, 2018, we, as AFAM, devoted the section of Basic Problems in Disaster Management Approaches to climate change in our August 2018 issue.

The article we prepared in this issue, titled "Carbon Tax May Come in Combating Climate Change", in which we discuss the measures that can be taken to increase social awareness of global climate change, the impact of which is felt more and more every day, has been featured in many national and local media channels.

The entire article can be accessed by clicking the links under the images.



*Link:* <u>http://t24.com.tr/haber/iklim-degisikligi-ile-</u> mucadelede-karbon-vergisi-gelebilir,695638



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Issue 15 / September 2018

### ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY DISASTER TRAINING APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER





## **Evaluation of Standard Chartered and HSBC decision not to finance coal**

Standard Chartered and HSBC's decision not to fund coal carries an important message in terms of today's energy resources when we consider the global climate and economy. To put it more clearly, you need to get to the bottom of the problem a little bit and look at its historical development.

There are two important thresholds in the formation of what we call modern societies today. The first is the "agricultural revolution", which leads people to settled life, and the second is the "Industrial Revolution", which creates cities where millions coexist. Human impact on global climate change begins with these two thresholds that cause changes in social life. Humanity destroyed woodlands to create more agricultural areas with the agricultural revolution, and with the industrial revolution they began to use fossil fuels for the energy source needed in steam engines.

Forest ecosystems destroyed in order to expand agricultural areas have led to changes in the ratio, heat balance in naturally occurring atmospheric gases in the regions where this destruction occurred, while causing disaster effects such as flooding and erosion. Because these processes did not affect global climate change as quickly as the industrial revolution, they were not the subject of any national or international agenda for a very long time.

But 16. the Industrial Revolution, which began in a century and spread rapidly around the world, allowed the climate problem to grow much more and experience how the world of the future would be an uninhabitable place if it continued like this. Because we obtain a very large part of the energy needs required in almost every activity we perform today from coal and its derivatives, as well as fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas. When converting fossil fuels into energy, we also cause the atmosphere to be exposed to intense greenhouse gases, environmental (air, water, soil) pollution, extreme weather events.

At the heart of all these losses to nature is the fact that cities that are becoming more crowded every year and the growing population consume more and provide more production to meet this consumption.





### ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY DISASTER TRAINING APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER





When we consider decisions that have developed solutions since the 1972 Stockholm United Nations Environment Conference, but have not been implemented, this decision taken by Standard Chartered and HSBC may be a touchstone. In other words, the financial sector has taken a concrete step for the first time and shows that it understands that this system does not have such sustainability. Although similar steps are still a problem for other fossil fuels, the message of this first step is important. Here, of course, after we started using coal to produce energy-intensive industrial revolution in a way of We are beginning to leave after three hundred years, so completely still as the intensive use of fossil fuels and other renewable energy sources, we cannot abandon it still continues our concerns for the future benefit at a very low level.

#### Main reasons for lack of financial support for coal

In making this decision voluntarily without legal binding, they have a statement in line with their own sensitivity to global climate change and referring to the Paris Agreement, which concerns they bear for the future about the continuation of this presence. I believe that in selecting coal as a priority, it is still widely used in energy production, it forms a large part of the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere, and it is decisive that such a decision cannot still be made for oil today. Environmental pollution, extreme weather conditions, habitat extinction, desertification, famine and large mass migrations, which will reach much more advanced levels in the future if the density of fossil fuel use we use today continues, are predicted in very different scientific studies. In an environment of such concerns, the fact that the future of humanity will determine the future existence of all sectors is also an important factor. In other words, this decision is a return on the need to remove obstacles to sustainable development. For sustainable development, it is necessary to ensure sustainability in three different areas: economic, environmental and social. In other words, as mentioned above, the abandonment of the financing provided to coal contributes to these three stages.

#### Participation of other banks in this decision

Two important elements will be decisive in the formation of this situation. First, as the concrete benefits of this practice, which will not become very widespread in the short term, become apparent, other financial sources will also have to adopt this orientation. To put it more clearly, investing its resources in more promising sustainable systems, in addition to the



#### Issue 15 / September 2018

### ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY DISASTER TRAINING APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER





contribution it will make to the reputation and image of an institution that takes responsibility for the common problem of humanity, will lead to significant economic gains. In a statement, Standard Chartered also cited "the dynamism and increasing affordability of alternative energy sources." In other words, by withdrawing financing support from coal, allocating this resource to renewable energy will provide many advantages in a market that is much more open to development than fossil fuels. Seeing the tangible benefits it will provide in this case will encourage more institutions from the sector to similar work. Second, similar orientations will be realized with the contribution that it will make to increasing public awareness of global climate change, as well as the need to respond to the demands that the choice of sensitive institutions and products in this area will bring. We note that it will happen in the medium and long term, if not in the short term, which should be considered in both elements. In order to reduce this time, it is necessary to activate other determining variables. Country governments, private sectors, universities, media and individuals are some of these variables. For example, the media is an effective force in creating public opinion on the causes and consequences of climate change. It can provide faster and more accurate information to the society with its work in this area.

#### Implementation of this decision in Turkey

Although significant investments in renewable energy sources have been made in Turkey, there are advantages and disadvantages that countries with rapid development potential such as Turkey have in implementing similar decisions. The lack of intensive heavy industry can be considered as an advantage because it has the opportunity to choose environmentally sensitive technologies in new investments that it will make in this area and does not have economic obligations to change its existing technology. However, a development that could not be economically a strong participation in the global competitive environment, which is required for energy, its rich coal reserves and the weight for Into the use of fossil fuelbased technologies can be considered as accepting the possibility of economic disadvantage. But in the future, countries where such decisions are not made will face significant problems. For this reason, we can see that Turkey will make these decisions in the future with its existing investments in renewable energy sources.

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