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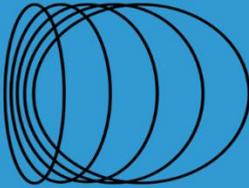
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**Disaster Training  
Application  
and Research Center**

**e - Newsletter**

İSTANBUL AYDIN  
ÜNİVERSİTESİ  
**AFAM**  
AFET EĞİTİM, UYGULAMA  
ve ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ



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**Serhat YILMAZ**

*translated into English by*  
**Cağla DEĞİRMENÇİ**



## **We Carried Out Disaster Preparedness Training for International Students Continuing Their Education at Our University**

In cooperation with Istanbul Aydın University Disaster Training Application and Research Center and UNESCO Chair in, Cultural Diplomacy, Governance and Education, we conducted the first disaster preparedness training of international students continuing their education at our University with the Istanbul Governorship Provincial Disaster Emergency Directorate.

With the study, which is one of the implementation steps of the disaster trainings, which we started in the 2016-2017 academic year, what students should do to be ready for a possible earthquake was conveyed.

With the trainings in which all participants are given participation certificates, it is aimed that the students who will take part in business life after their training will take an active role in reducing the damages of a possible disaster both at home and at work. With the trainings to be repeated throughout the year, we aim to reach all of the nearly five thousand international students who continue their education at our University.

In our country, which is located in an active earthquake zone, it is reported that nearly one hundred and ten thousand students are enrolled in programs such as associate degree, postgraduate, master's and doctorate for educational purposes, according to the data of the Higher Education Institution.

This study, which we started with Istanbul Aydın University Disaster Training Application and Research Center and UNESCO Chair in Cultural Diplomacy, Governance and Education, will set an example for other universities.







## 2016 Turkey Landslide Survey Completed

As it is known, the geography of our country contains many dangers that can turn into disasters due to its geological, topographic and climatic characteristics. For this reason, as Istanbul Aydın University Disaster Training Application and Research Center, we have been closely following the events that cause disasters and emergencies in all our regions throughout Turkey since the year we were established.

We have completed the reporting of landslides and collapses that occurred in our country in 2016 within the scope of the events we follow under the titles of earthquake, flood - overflow, landslide, collapse - mining accident, avalanche, transportation accidents and forest fires.

In 2016, a total of 69 landslides and collapses occurred throughout Turkey. When evaluated on the basis of regions, the region with the highest number of landslides in terms of the number of cases is the Black Sea Region with 51 cases. In the landslides that took place in the provinces of Trabzon, Rize, Ordu and Artvin in this region, a total of 14 people lost their lives and 3 people were injured. The number of landslide cases in other regions in 2016, respectively; Eastern Anatolia Region 6, Central Anatolia Region 4, Marmara and Mediterranean Regions 3, Aegean Region 2. No case was recorded in the Southeast Anatolia Region.



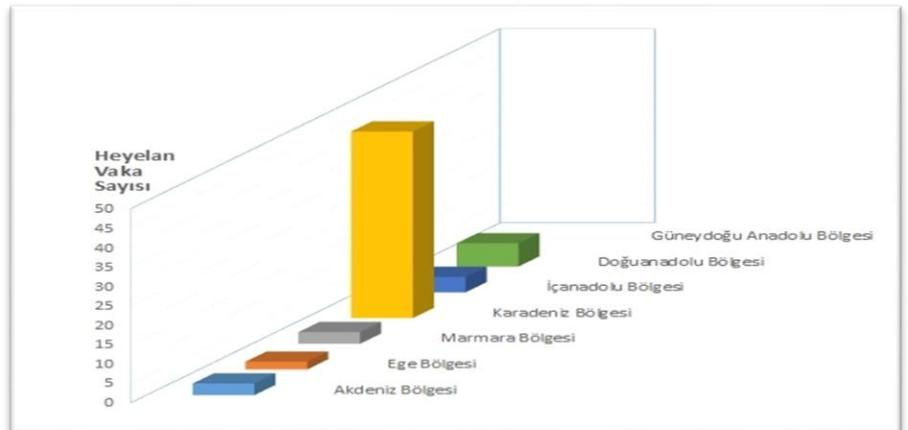
6 July 2016 Rize Landslide, Residential Area  
Picture: Habertürk News



6 July 2016 Rize Landslide, Inside of the Residence  
Picture: Doğan News Agency



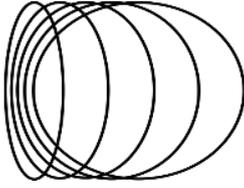
12 September 2016 Erzincan Landslide, Land  
Picture: NTV



Regional Distribution Numbers of Landslide Cases in Turkey in 2016  
Source: IAU, Disaster Training Application and Research Center



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## Main Problems in Disaster Management Approaches in Turkey

As Istanbul Aydın University Disaster Training Application and Research Center (AFAM), we implement many studies simultaneously to improve our social capacity against events that may cause disasters and emergencies in our country. During these studies, we have the opportunity to observe the problems that form the basis of our vulnerability to disasters as a society.

We have created the "Main Problems in Disaster Management Approaches in Turkey" section in our e-bulletin that we will publish regularly in order to benefit from the experiences gained in the field by all our partners working in this field for the solution of these problems we encounter. In this section, where a different problem and solution offers will be evaluated in each issue, we will also submit the solution offers of all our partners involved in the field of disaster preparedness for appraisal, if they share them.

In this part of the series we published under the title of "Main Problems in Disaster Management Approaches in Turkey", we will touch on the importance of increasing the capacity of local administrations in disaster preparedness.

### *The Importance of Increasing the Capacity of Local Administrations in Disaster Preparedness*

In terms of the effects they cause, disasters are situations that require efforts and resources beyond the current capacities of societies in order to return to daily life afterwards. For this reason, disasters, depending on their size, primarily affect the communities in the regions where they occur in many ways and cause the institutions in this region to have difficulties in dealing with the devastating effects of the disaster. In fact, these effects can sometimes deprive millions of people of their social and economic gains and become a global problem.

When we look at the world today, even if the raw material areas, production areas and market areas are in different regions, as a result of the global economy, disasters caused by the risks of any of these regions will cause the disruption of one of the raw material, production and market legs that form the basis of trade, threatens other regions as well.

Ülke	Ölü Sayısı
Çin	1.151
Hindistan	884
Ekvator	676
Kore DC	598
Haiti	596
Pakistan	310
İtalya	299
Endonezya	251
ABD	250
Tayvan	212
<b>Toplam</b>	<b>5.227</b>

*Distribution of Deaths Caused by Meteorological Disasters by Country*

**Source:** Cred Crunch, December 2016, Issue No. 45: [www.emdat.be/publications](http://www.emdat.be/publications)



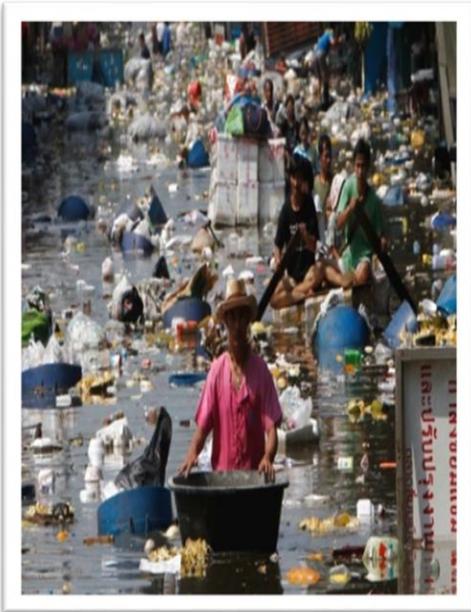
We can consider the floods and high-waters that took place in Thailand in 2011 as an explanatory example. Hundreds of people lost their lives, nearly three million people were affected by the floods, more than eight hundred thousand houses became unusable, and nearly eleven thousand businesses were affected by the floods in Thailand, where 28 cities were flooded in the floods caused by the Monsoon Rains in 2011.

In this disaster, the factories and warehouses of the enterprises, where the main materials used in computer production are produced and which made Thailand one of the leading countries in this field, were also flooded. Ultimately, after this disaster, in which production and shipment came to a standstill in Thailand, a crisis in which computer prices rose worldwide was triggered. In fact, sometimes disasters can have much more severe consequences than the economic losses they will cause on an international scale, depending on their nature.

Although the consequences of a disaster in a region do not always reach international dimensions, it can often have national consequences in the country where it occurs. The earthquakes that took place in the Marmara Region, which is the locomotive of the Turkish economy, in 1999 and the economic sanctions brought afterward are examples of this situation. In short, today, disasters can have consequences that affect not only the regions where they occur, but also nearby regions and countries.

In this case, we can answer the question of how we can reduce the effects of a disaster in a region reaching international dimensions with the approach of "reduce local disaster risks, increase global disaster resilience". For this, there is a need for the implementation of resilient and sustainable planning approaches in cities against the possible effects of disasters. Only in this way, the effects of the disaster can be minimized in the region where it occurs, and the damage it will cause on a larger scale can be prevented.

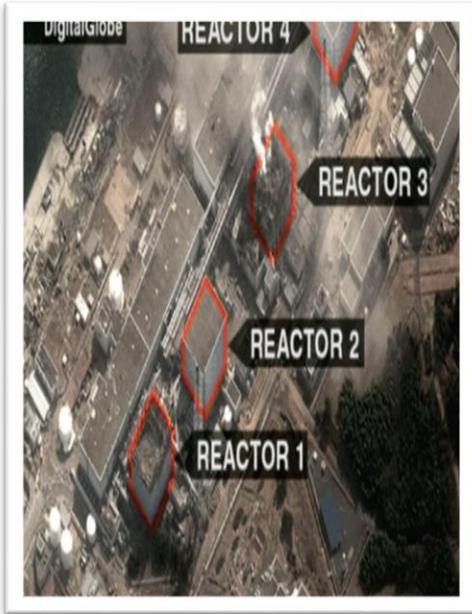
The implementation of sustainable and resistant city plans against the effects of possible disasters is based on increasing the capacities of local governments. Local governments are responsible for ensuring that the rules set by the state to ensure public order are implemented. These rules determine the working areas and boundaries of the local governments that are obliged to serve. When we look at the experiences we have gained from the disasters we have experienced so far, it is seen that local governments are not very successful in the implementation of the decisions taken to reduce disaster risks, apart from the deficiencies of the state.



21 October 2011 Thailand Flood Disaster  
Picture: Aljazeera, <http://www.aljazeera.com>

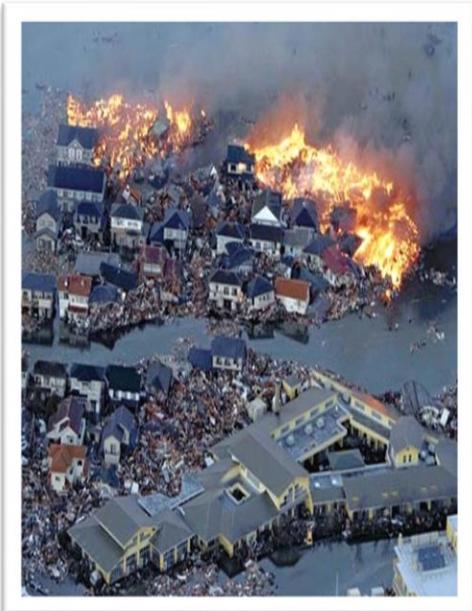


21 October 2011 Thailand Flood Disaster  
Picture: BBC News, <http://www.bbc.co.uk>



11 March 2011 Japan, A View from the Reactor  
After the Nuclear Accident

Picture: CNN, <http://edition.cnn.com>



11 March 2011 Japan Houses Carried by Tsunami  
Waves to the Natori River

Picture: Encyclopedia Britannica,  
<https://www.britannica.com>

From the point of view of local governments, which is the stage where preparations for disasters are put into practice, the lack of sufficient technical and economic resources is the reason why the decisions taken by the state cannot be implemented locally. Unfortunately, this bundle of problems, which continued until our recent history, has been one of the determining factors in shaping our mental development towards disasters. Although this understanding, which needs to be changed for a long time in Turkey, started to change after the 1999 Earthquakes, unfortunately, we still cannot say that we have completely recovered from its effects today.

The necessity of making disaster plans at the level of individuals, households, workplaces, neighborhoods, districts and provinces necessitates the participation and cooperation of all local institutions and organizations. The correct functioning of all this participation and cooperation in disaster management is possible with the coordination of local governments. For this reason, it is necessary to increase the capacity of local governments, which have planning, structuring, management and inspection powers and obligations by law, in order to fulfill their obligations, as well as to change the current understanding of disaster at the administrative and societal level.

As a result, local governments, which have completed pre-disaster mitigation and preparedness studies in a planned and coordinated manner, will be able to return to daily life much faster by ensuring that the effects of the disaster are limited.

Serhat Yılmaz  
Coordinator of AFAM