Background

The Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) problem has a global, transboundary and multi-faceted impact on environment, health, industry, livelihood, urban infrastructure and agriculture. The intensity and frequency has increased in some areas including the West Asia. In the Middle East and North Africa, about USD 13 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are lost every year due to dust storms. Dust storms negatively affect air quality. The World Health Organization estimates that seven million people die due to poor air quality every year. Immediate action is needed to prevent and mitigate impact of SDS at locally and globally. Countries experiencing the negative impacts of SDS in the region made a number of political commitments to address this issue, including the Ankara Ministerial Declaration on sand and dust storms in 2010.

The first ‘Collaboration on Environment and Meteorology’ was done by Republic of Turkey, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Iraq, and Syrian Arab Republic at the level of Ministry of Environments and the head of Environment Protection Agency on 28-29 April, 2010 in Ankara, Turkey. In this meeting, ‘The Ankara Declaration’ was signed to improve friendship and relationship on environment on 29 April, 2010 in Ankara. According to the Ankara Declaration, Ministers have decided to work together and share their experience and information on environment, managing of air quality, meteorology and combating desertification, forestry, land reclamation, erosion control, and decrement of sand and dust storms.

The second conference of the Ministries, ‘Collaboration on Environment and Meteorology’ was arranged on 26-29 September, 2010 in Tehran. As a result of this meeting, ‘The Action plan for Cooperation in the Field of Environment and Meteorology’ was signed between Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Iraq, Syrian Arab Republic, Qatar, and Republic of Turkey and the temporary secretariat was established in Tehran.

The adoption of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution entitled ‘Combating sand and dust storms’ (A/RES/70/195) in 2015 has contributed to a greater global ambition to address SDS. At the request of UNGA, a Global Assessment of Sand and Dust Storms was published in partnership of UNEP, UNCCD and WMO. This report will be launched at the forthcoming UNGA session and is likely to advocate for further action on SDS at global level. The issue was discussed again at the second session of UN Environment
Assembly (UNEA-2) held in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2016. The UNEA-2 adopted a resolution to establish a global research network on sand and dust storms. The UNCCD is committed to be a key part of global sand and dust storm action. The UNCCD will develop a global policy on SDS and toolkit to be presented at COP 13 in 2017.

The Ankara Initiative is launched to strengthen implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in the period 2016 to 2019. It will support the global sustainable development agenda and leverage the lessons learned from Turkey’s past experience and approaches to land management.

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.


Following these workshops, “International Workshop on Sand and Dust Storms (SDS)” was held from 4th to 7th of October 2016 in Istanbul, hosted by the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (ÇEM) and the Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS) with technical corporation from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

Hereby the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (ÇEM) and Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS) are organizing an international workshop on “Middle East (Regional) Dust Sources and Their Impacts” on 23-25 October 2017 in Istanbul/TURKEY.
Objective of the workshop

- To exchange information and share experience between interested scientists and related organizations to better evaluate the Middle East dust sources and impacts within the scientific framework.

Key Stakeholders and expected participants:
- WMO, UNEP, UNCCD, EUMETSAT, WHO, AEMET, BSC
- UNCCD National Focal Points (UNCCD NFPs), experts (SPI members), academia from the Middle East, North Africa, and possibly Central Asia
- Related scientists, decision makers and NGO’s involved in the sand and dust storms, dust sources, dust modelling and forecast, desertification, climate and meteorology.

Workshop Format:
The workshop will consist of presentations, working groups, and case studies. Language of the workshop will be Turkish and English. There will be simultaneous interpretation throughout the workshop.

Workshop Subjects:
The workshop will be focused on;
- Dust sources and monitoring the changes on these sources over Middle East Region
- Dust-Climate interaction in the Middle East
- Dust forecast and modelling
- Monitoring and impacts of dust transport affecting Middle East

Dates of the workshop:
The date for the workshop was decided as 23-25 October 2017.
Application:
Please send detailed abstracts which should be related to subjects given above by 28 July 2017 to below contact emails. Among the abstracts submitted for a talk, a limited number will be selected for oral presentation.

Please use “Times New Roman 12” in your abstracts.

Contact emails:
akucumen@ormansu.gov.tr; evrencetin@ormansu.gov.tr; gulesera@ormansu.gov.tr; agisik@mgm.gov.tr
Please “CC” all above contacts to your email while sending your documents.

Required Documents for Application:
1- Application form: You can find a copy attached to the e-mail.
2- Photocopy of passport: to be submitted with the application form, if you possess your passport which you will carry when entering Turkey for this workshop. If not, you are requested to submit its photocopy as soon as you obtain it.
   *Passport photocopy should include the following:
   Name. Date of Birth. Nationality. Sex. Passport number and Expire date.

How to complete the Application Form:
In completing the application form, please be advised to:
   a) Carefully read the Information Note and confirm if the objectives and contents are relevant to yours.
   b) Use a personal computer in completing the form or write in BOLD LETTERS,
   c) Fill in the form in English.
   d) Attach a recent photograph of the Nominee,
   e) Attach additional page(s) if there is insufficient space on the form,
   f) Submit the application form with the necessary document(s) via e-mail to the addresses:
      akucumen@ormansu.gov.tr; evrencetin@ormansu.gov.tr; gulesera@ormansu.gov.tr; agisik@mgm.gov.tr

Deadline for application: 28 July, 2017
Host Institution and the Venue

The workshop will be managed by the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (ÇEM) and Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS).

The workshop will be held in İstanbul, Turkey. The accommodation and workshop will take place in General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works 14th Regional Office of Training and R&D Facilities.

Address: Cevizli, Mutlu Sok. Özveri Çıkması Orhantepe Ar-ge Ve Eğitim Merkezi No:6, Maltepe/Istanbul

Logistics and Administration

As the host of the workshop, Turkish Government will cover local expenses (including accommodation, meals and local transfers) of all the participants. We have limited budget for the flight tickets of the experts whose abstracts are accepted by the scientific committee.

** For more information about logistics and administration please contact with Mr. Ali Kucumen and Mr. Evren Cetin. Also, it will be included in the invitation letter.
**Currency**
The national currency is Turkish Lira (TL).  
USD 1 = approximately 3,72 Tl  
EUR 1 = approximately 3,94 Tl  

Also you can check the following link:  

**Electricity**
Plugs with two round pins running at 220V are used in Turkey. An adaptor to connect appliances is recommended.

**Business hours**
**Banks:**  
Weekdays: 8:00 – 17:00  
Weekends: Closed

**Governments offices and organizations:**  
Weekdays: 9:00 -18:00  
Weekends: Closed

**Post Offices:**  
Weekdays: 8:00 -17:00  
Weekends: Closed

**All government organizations are closed on/during National Holidays.**

**Insurance**
Participants are fully responsible for any expenses in the event of death, illness or injury attributable to the attendance at training, and for arranging for such life, health and other form of insurance, as they consider appropriate. The participants are highly recommended to make a travel insurance that covers their travel and visit period. Organization accepts no responsibility for compensation in such events.
ISTANBUL

Istanbul (Turkish: İstanbul) is the largest city in Turkey based on its population, constituting the country's economic, cultural, and historical heart, though not its capital. With a population of 14.8 million, the city forms one of the largest urban agglomerations in Europe and is the second-largest city in the world by population within city limits. Istanbul's vast area of 5,343 square kilometers (2,063 sq mi) is coterminous with Istanbul Province, of which the city is the administrative capital. Istanbul is a transcontinental city, straddling the Bosphorus—one of the world's busiest waterways—in northwestern Turkey, between the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea. Its commercial and historical center lies in Europe, while a third of its population lives in Asia.

Climate

Istanbul has a humid subtropical climate that is mild with no dry season, constantly moist (year-round rainfall). Summer months are warm and humid with very little rain especially between July-August, winter months can be cold and wet with some snow but not that much extreme as some other areas of Turkey. Spring and autumn are mild and this would be the best time for visitors.

During the summer months, air temperature can go up to 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit), highest recorded temperature in Istanbul was 45 degrees (113 Fahrenheit). During winter months, the temperature is around 10 degrees (50 Fahrenheit) with much colder nights, lowest recorded temperature was -15 degrees (5 Fahrenheit). We occasionally get some snow but it's not more than 10-12 days in a total winter period. In the springtime, especially between April-May and September-October, there is a very comfortable climate with around 15-25 degrees (59-77 Fahrenheit). Average temperature in Istanbul, in a year, is around 14 degrees (57 Fahrenheit) with average relative humidity of 76%.

Average rainfall is 787 millimeters a year (31 inches). 35% of the rainfall occurs in winter, 23% in spring, 14% in summer, and 28% in autumn. Generally, northeastern winds prevail in Istanbul (Poyraz in Turkish), with a long term average of 3,2 meters/second (11 feet/sec). Strongest wind speed recorded until today is 42,4 m/sec (139 feet/sec). Summers are dominated by northeastern winds (Poyraz), winters by northwestern (Karayel) or northern (Yildiz) or southwestern (Lodos) winds. Most foggy period for Istanbul is from March to May.

*** For daily forecast please check the below link.

https://www.mgm.gov.tr/?il=Istanbul
Contact addresses for more information

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