



THE STUDENT EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER

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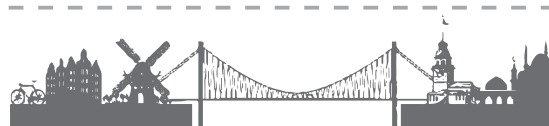
HOLLAND FESTIVAL IN ISTANBUL

Where, when and how?

In the heart of Istanbul, at Taksim Square,

For four days, from April 27th to April 30th 2012,

There will be Dutch village, where young and old, everyone can actively participate, enjoy and experience creative activities.



HOLLAND FESTIVAL ISTANBUL

The aim of the festival;

The celebration of the 400 years of friendship between the two countries.

To remind, reinforce and emphasize the good relations between the two countries.

To provide an environment for cooperation and inspiration in cultural, artistic, sportive fields, in academic and commercial relations and in building friendships.

To increase communication among the peoples of the two countries.

Content of the festival / activities;

An idea will be given of cultural, artistic, sportive, academic and commercial areas of traditional and contemporary life in the Netherlands, and an "open market" environment will be provided to make many forms of co-operation possible.

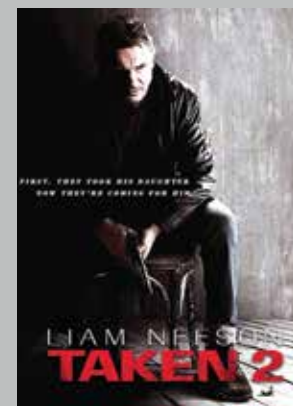
The history of 400 years of friendship between the Netherlands and Turkey will be emphasized and displayed.

An emphasis on language, culture and communication in order to create friendships between the peoples of both countries,

Together with Dutch government agencies, educational institutions, companies, clubs and individuals, with activities from traditional and modern Dutch life style, **With** amusing and creative activities in different cultural, artistic, sportive, musical and dance settings.

Where Turkish-Dutch people can be together, young/old participating actively. ■

IN CINEMAS (OCTOBER)



Taken 2

Stars:
Liam Neeson,
Famke Janssen,
Maggie Grace

A 12-year-old boy searches for the one thing that will enable him to win the affection of the girl of his dreams. To find it he must discover the story of the Lorax, the grumpy yet charming creature who fights to protect his world.





Magic Mike

Stars:

Channing Tatum,
Alex Pettyfer,
Olivia Munn

A male stripper teaches a younger performer how to party, pick up women, and make easy money.

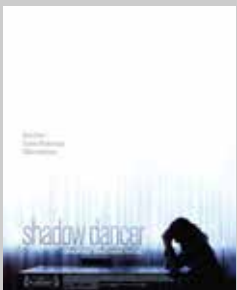


Hope Springs

Stars:

Meryl Streep,
Tommy Lee Jones,
Steve Carell

After thirty years of marriage, a middle-aged couple attends an intense, week-long counseling session to work on their relationship.



Shadow Dancer

Stars:

Clive Owen,
Andrea Riseborough,
Gillian Anderson

Set in 1990s Belfast, an active member of the IRA becomes an informant for MI5 in order to protect her son's welfare.



Tot Altijd (Time of My Life)

Stars:

Koen De Graeve,
Geert Van Rempelberg,
Lotte Pinoy

"Time of My Life" is based on the true story of Mario Verstraete, the young Belgian politician who was vehemently pleading for a law on euthanasia, until he was himself diagnosed with a very aggressive kind of Multiple Sclerosis. ■



POLISH VILLAGE IN ISTANBUL (POLONEZKÖY)

Polonezkoy-Adampol... For breathing outside the metropolis in the company of nature and birds, you may experience both the natural environment and culture in this unique corner of paradise, Istanbul's back garden...

Polonezkoy (meaning "the village of the Poles"), formerly known as Adampol is a Polish village located in Istanbul, TURKEY... It was founded by Adam Czartoryski (Chairman of National Uprising Government and the Leader of a Political Emigration Party) in 1842. The existence of "Polonezkoy-Adampol" within Istanbul is a cultural and historical event that has never been seen before in the world. The village was established in Istanbul, Turkey after Poland was invaded by its neighbors Russia, Austria and Prussia in 1775. Eventually Polonezkoy became a tourist town and a popular weekend break in Istanbul.

WHOEVER INTERESTED IN JOGGING AND SIGHTSEEING HAS TO SEE POLONEZKOY!

You may start the morning with a village-like rich breakfast with home made jams, special village breads, omelets and milk products, in the company of beautiful gardens and tweets of the birds.

Hammock moments start after, under the shadows of fruit trees. A great lunch in a luxury restaurant or in a garden barbecue with the delicious meat or chicken menus and home made starters and snacks. And a coffee, tea break with Polonezkoy's famous Polish pies in the afternoon... Cherry and nut liquors made in Polish style also worth tasting....

Polonezkoy has maintained the culture, friendship and hospitality between Turkey and Poland for more than 160 years. Traditional "Polonezkoy Cherry Festival" is being organized annually in June with the participation of politicians, local dancers and visitors coming from Poland.

It is a unique event in Istanbul. Parties, cultural organizations, concerts, folk dancing and many activities take place during the festival and especially at weekends many visitors came to the village and have joyful moments. Most activities take place on the 1st & the 2nd weekends of June. ■



OIP TEAM

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
INTERNATIONAL MARKETING AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENT
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY COORDINATOR
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS SPECIALIST/INCOMING STUDENTS
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS SPECIALIST/INCOMING STUDENTS

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AN INTERVIEW WITH NOUR FADOL!

Where do you come from?

I come from Canada. My family lives in Calgary, Alberta but I study in Toronto, Ontario.

Which grade you are in?

I am in my last year of undergraduate studies so 4th year.

Where do you live?

I live in Toronto for most of the year but like I said, my family is based in Calgary.

Which school do you study at?

I study at York University.

What is your major?

Political Science is my major in Canada but here I study International Relations.

Why Turkey? Why KOÇ?

I chose Turkey because I thought it would be a great place to get a diverse experience at. I love being in a country I can experience such a mix of cultures: Muslim but very liberal, Mediterranean but at the same time Middle Eastern, Europe and Asia... I love that. Also, its being such a geographically beautiful country also contributed to my decision. I chose Koç because its program seemed better for my studies since it has a large focus on Liberal Arts. Also because a friend did the exchange program here and highly recommended it. Another huge factor in picking Koç over the other university in İstanbul which York has a partnership with (Boğaziçi) was that my friend really spoke highly of the exchange program itself and how the Office of International Programs facilitates their integration into campus life and İstanbul.

In the first week of your orientation in Turkey what kind of experience did you have?

I had a fantastic first few weeks. The events were excellent and the mentorship program was extremely useful in helping us get our feet on the ground and become more comfortable with the city and Koç campus. We were taken to Taksim, İstinye Park, Sarıyer, Garipçe and also toured around campus to get all of our administrative tasks done. The most exciting part was going to the cultural sites like Topkapı Palace, Hagia Sophia and The Blue Mosque. Going to the Grand Bazaar was really cool too!

What was the first Turkish word you have learned?

It was "çok güzel" – two words, I know, but that was the first thing I learned.

How do you find Turkish people as well as KOÇ Students?

It has been a mixed experience for me. Most people though are extremely friendly and kind. They're really interested in learning about us and where we come from while at the same time welcoming us to Turkey and Turkish culture. Unfortunately, many of the Koç students aside from the mentors and ISS keep to themselves more and don't really interact with

us as much. It's great that we have the network of mentors and those we have met through them because they've been extremely helpful.

When you go back to your hometown, will you miss KOÇ University and İstanbul?

I will miss it very very much. I have met so many incredible people here and made so many memories with them. It will really be hard to say goodbye to it all. And this campus is so beautiful and unique that it is hard not to miss.

What is your most favorite place in İstanbul?

It's hard to say but I love anywhere near the water. If I had to choose one place, I would probably say Ortaköy because it is extremely beautiful and they have absolutely delicious waffles!

Which Turkish food do you like most?

This is probably the hardest question yet. How can I pick just one thing?! I really like Bulgur and Turkish rice but I also love mantı a lot.

Do you find the classes easy or difficult compared to your UNIVERSITY?

I think some of them are a little easier because at my university the workload is pretty heavy, but most of the classes are very similar and equally as challenging.

Will you recommend KOÇ University to your friends?

Absolutely!

How do you find the instructors in here?

I think they are very intelligent and well read in their various fields. I'm very lucky to have professors who are passionate about what they teach and fortunately have a lot of expertise in their respective subjects.

What was the funniest experience you had in İstanbul?

I think my funniest experience was my first time in Ortaköy. We were in front of a line of waffle booths and they all kept trying to call at us to buy from them. One man asked where I was from and after I said "Canada" they all kept yelling "hey Canada! Canada come here!" and trying to get our attention. One man put his hand out for me to shake and when I did he gestured that we should get married. In the moment it was really funny that in the middle of everyone yelling different things to attract us to their business that was the strategy he used. ■



24 HOURS AT KOC UNIVERSITY

Activities as an exchange student

As everyone would be well aware, study makes up only a fraction (and a small fraction at that) of University life. The fun you will have and the friends you make along the way by taking advantage of all the University has to offer, will make your time all the more amazing... and really, when it comes to activities, Koç has it pretty much covered. Tucked away, deep in the forest of Sarıyer Koç presents a seemingly endless supply of things to do, from organized skiing/scuba diving trips, to a casual game of tennis to a challenge of surprisingly addictive Tavla (Backgammon) over morning coffee there is something for everybody. Had one too many



Baklava? The University has a fully equipped gym with separate areas for Cardio (upstairs) and weights (downstairs) as well as halls for Pilates and Dance classes.

For the sports obsessed; there is a squash court, a racquetball court, a basketball court, multiple tennis courts, volleyball, badminton and an outside field for all types of football (Rugby, NFL and the Real kind) but for the True Sports connoisseurs, you can't go past Foosball, Table Tennis or the PlayStation in the Dorms.

And then there is the ice rink... Maybe coming from a country where snow is spoken about as if part of myth or legend has skewed my perception somewhat, but my first day of exploring the university uncovered one of the most magical sights. A full size ice rink available to students till 10 pm daily. Whether you glide on the ice like something out of Swan Lake or like me you're as graceful as a pelican, it's a great place to come with friends.

You won't have to look for long until you find something for you. Want more knowledge? There are seminars on interesting topics being held constantly. Want entertainment? There is always a concert or a dance group just around the corner. As exchange students we are extraordinarily lucky to have the opportunity to study at a university that offers us so, so many activities covering such a variety of interests. ■

By: Adrian Mayer

THE WINNER OF EXPERIENCE KOC

Caroline McHeffey

Do you know the song "Ai Se Eu te Pego"? You would if you were a Koc University Spring 2012 exchange student. There are few greater feelings than being Under Odeon when that song comes on. Faces light up, dancing stops, and voices become so loud that you can't even hear the original music over all of the singing. But, I'd be lying if I told you this was my favorite part of Koc University.

And there's always Pi Gastro. There's Pi Gastro at eight in the morning, or one in the afternoon, or six at night, or eleven, or three in the morning, or eight in the morning all over again. I question how I'll return to America without lentil soup and cheese toast anytime of day. But, it's not my favorite part. There's the library that never fails to deliver a different experience depending on what floor you end up on. There's the top floor that is never quiet, or the room to the right of the front door to the library where you can binge on caffeine shots from those (amazing) machines for one lira. There's that main room on the main floor that my friends seem to live in. It's the room where I never get any work done because of the amount of socializing that goes on in there. I mean, the library rents out i-Pads. It should be my favorite part, but it isn't.

It sounds a bit dumb, but my favorite part is sitting "under the stars" here. You know, it's that part of the student center someone would mistake for a mountain lodge. There is no warmer feeling than sitting in that corner when snow is falling down over those flawless green forests that surround Koc. There is no warmer than seeing that with your best friends surrounding you. And it doesn't need to be snowing. No one needs to be talking. Pi Gastro doesn't need to be open. It's enough sit in silence with that group of people you've come to love, trust, and laugh with.



It's that group of people you now call your best friends. It's that group of people you don't know how you're going to live without come June.

But, the very best part of that group is that there's no real reason why any of us should be friends. There's no reason why an Australian and a German who are decedents of those who fought in WWII should be friends. There's no reason why a Palestinian and an American Jew should be friends; because there's no reason why my children should be friends with those of Afghans in years to come. It's hypocritical. It doesn't make any sense. It's going against everything the news and society tells us to do. And, yet, at the end of the day, the only thing anyone cares about is having a great Thursday night in Taksim.

There's something really special that happens to an exchange student. There is something that changes inside someone after two months of being an "international" student. Accents no longer become accents. People no longer become "Turkish" or "American" or "Singaporean." People become people. Because that's all anybody ever is: a person.

I wish I could tell you that my favorite part of Koc University is the yogurt place, or the german classroom which is more of a movie theatre to me at this point. I wish I could tell you the view from the tower was the most beautiful thing I've seen. I wish I could tell you I've rented out an i-Pad from the library, but I haven't. I wish I could tell you these things are the best things to experience here, but, the truth is, that there's nothing better than being with friends with people whose countries you once only heard about on the news. ■



AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT AT KOÇ

Hello Everybody! My name is Foivos Alexandros Tsavas and I come from Thessaloniki (Selanik), Greece. I live in Thessaloniki!

I study at the University of Macedonia Economic and Social Sciences in Thessaloniki, Greece. My major is in Business Administration. I am a 3rd year student. Having visited Istanbul for vacation purposes and having seen Koç University, I decided to do my exchange period/Erasmus at Koç University.

I really liked Turkey and due to the fact that I wanted to diversify my personality I applied Koç University. I am totally satisfied with my choice. I wish I could transfer to Koç University but unfortunately I think it is a bit late for me to do that.

The orientation period was the introduction to Koç University and to the Turkish culture and society. I was exposed to all the museums that exist in Istanbul from Hagia Sofia to Topkapı and Dolmabahçe. In addition to that, we had the chance from the first week to go out with the mentors to Taksim and several other places that really gave us the taste of the Turkish nightlife. Moreover, the minibus and dolmuş experience should be added to the list. In Greece public transportation included only bus, metro and taxi. In Istanbul we came across the dolmuş buses with the friendly Turkish drivers that always ask where you are from and they get happy when you tell them that you are from Selanik!

Concerning the Turkish words and the first one that I have learned, honestly I can't pick one because they are so many! Some examples: domates, patates, tamam, yavrum, çanta and of course BAKLAVA!

Turkish people are really friendly and they have so many things in common with the Greek people! I adjusted really easily to the Turkish society and to its people. The first people that I had interaction with here in Turkey is a bus driver! Honestly, I will not forget him. I had a small problem and he was speaking to me in Turkish and I didn't understand a single word! But it was fun! Koç students seem to be friendly. Despite the fact that I am an exchange student here, they accepted me instantly and really fast!

So far, I love Koç University. Compared to my university, the requirements from professors are many and exist all the time. The phrase that totally describes Koç University to me is: "Koç University can easily "destroy" us by assignments but I love it! 100% I will recommend Koç University to my friends at my university. The instructors here are really serious about their jobs and they provide us with knowledge that can be useful and beneficial for us in the future and in our academic career. Here the classes are a bit more difficult but this does not affect me. When I go back to Greece, I will miss Koç University and mostly its people.

In Istanbul, the place that I really like is Bebek. The seaside restaurants, clubs, cars and the life there is just amazing. I really enjoy it.

Thank you for hearing me! İyi geceler!
Foivos Alexandros Tsavas ■



SARIYER A Cultural Experience

Sarıyer is located in the European side of Istanbul and it has a very long coastline with great places that people enjoy with the Bosphorus view. In old ages, Sarıyer consisted of certain springs, churches, old ports, cisterns and some small settlements with a few houses around old castles. Settlement in Sarıyer started after the conquest of Istanbul by the Ottoman Empire in 1453. Many cisterns, hunting manors, mansions and waterside mansions were built by the bureaucrats of the Ottoman Empire.

After the 1960s, empty areas were opened for settlement especially after the roads were built and the coastline was expanded. Thereby the foundations of today's settlement were laid: Mansions of high income groups on the shores and nearby areas, shanty towns on the hillsides.

NATURAL BEAUTIES

Garipçe

It is a small fishing town near Rumelifeneri. It is worth visiting for its traditional breakfast and Black Sea view.
How to get there?

It takes max 10 minutes by car. You may also take the bus # 150 to get there.
Address: Garipçe Köyü 34450 Sarıyer

Emirgan Korusu

It has a beautiful view with its forest and parks near the Bosphorus shore. Every year in April Tulip Festival is celebrated here.

How to get there?

Take a shared taxi or bus (150) and go to Sarıyer. Then, take the bus # 25E or 40 to reach the place. You get down at "Emirgan" stop.

Address: Emirgan Mahallesi 34467 Sarıyer

Ataturk Arberotum

It's a place where you can find nearly 2000 different flowers, plants or trees along with their history. Also the atmosphere of the park is very peaceful.

How to get there?

Take a shared taxi or bus (150) and go to Sarıyer. Then, take the bus #153 to reach the place. Get down from the bus at "Bahçeköy" stop.

Address: Bahçeköy Orman İşletme Müdürlüğü Atatürk Arboretumu Sarıyer

Belgrad Forest

Being one of the biggest forests of the city, Belgrad Forest, was used as a water tank during Ottoman Empire times. Now it's used as a picnic area. Since

it's a nature protection zone, you have the chance to learn about many plant species.

How to get there?

First you need to take a shared taxi or bus #150 and come to Sarıyer. Then you can take the bus # 153 in order to reach the entrance of the Belgrad Forest. You will get down from the bus at the very last stop. The forest is just a walk distance from the stop.

Address: Doğa Koruma ve Milli Parklar Mühendisliği Bahçeköy Orman Fidanlığı Bahçeköy-Sarıyer

Dams

Consist of 7 dams inside the Belgrad Forest. Every dam has its own architecture and historical texture.

How to get there?

Take a shared taxi or bus #150 and come to Sarıyer. Then, take the bus #153 to reach the entrance of the Belgrad Forest. Get down from the bus at the very last stop. The forest is at a walk distance from there.

Address: Doğa Koruma ve Milli Parklar Mühendisliği Bahçeköy Orman Fidanlığı Bahçeköy-Sarıyer

Rumelikavağı

It's an ancient beauty where you can see a wonderful view from the top of the poplar.

How to get there?

Take a shared taxi or bus #150 and go to Sarıyer. Then, take the bus #41, 25E, 153 or 25G. Get down from the bus at "Hacı Ömer Meydanı" stop. Then you will take the bus again #25A and get down at "Rumelikavağı" stop.

Address: Rumeli Kavağı Mahallesi Emirgan- Sarıyer

Kilyos Beach

It's the nearest beach to the university. International Students' Society like to organize beach parties here when the weather gets warm. The sea and the landscapes around it are worth to visit.

How to get there?

Take a shared taxi or bus #150 and go to Sarıyer. Then, take a shared taxi. You may also take a bus #153 from Sarıyer to Kilyos.

Address: Kilyos Sahil Yolu Demirciköy-Sarıyer

Maslak Summer Places

The place is famous for its peaceful gardens and summer houses from late Ottoman Empire times.

How to get there?

Take a shared taxi or bus #150 and go to Sarıyer. Then, take a bus #41, 25T, 25G or 59RS or a shared taxi going to Beşiktaş direction. You will get down at "Atatürk Oto Sanayi" stop and cross the road from metro downway.

Address: Maslak Kasırları Müzesi Çamlıtepe-Sarıyer

Rumeli Feneri

It takes its name from a village which also has the same name. The lantern located in the upper west part of the Bosphorus where it unites with the Black Sea.

How to get there?

Take a shared taxi or bus #150 and go to Sarıyer. Then, take a bus #40, 40B, 25E, 153 or 41SF and get down at "Sular Caddesi (Sarıyer)" stop. Then take the bus #150 and get down at "Rumelifeneri" stop.

Address: Rumelifeneri Fevzi Çakmak Caddesi Sarıyer

Anadolukavağı

It is located near a sea side village which is famous for its some organic foods. It was used as a defence point to protect the city against enemy attacks.

How to get there?

Take a shared taxi or bus #150 and go to Sarıyer. Then, walk until you reach the seaside. Then, use the ferry to get the other side of the city. The ferry will take you exactly to AnadoluKavağı.

SHOPPING

Sarıyer Street Market

You can buy fresh food, antiques, clothes and some home furniture for a good price.

How to get there?

Take a minibus and get down at Sarıyer. Get down in the last stop. You will see the street market ahead of you.

Sapphire Shopping Mall

You can find really large stores, cinema halls and coffee shops. Also, you can climb the tower and watch Istanbul from 236 metres high. Ticket price to the tower is 12TL for students.

How to get there?

Take a bus #150 from school and get down at the last stop where you can take metro. Then, take a metro and get down at Levent stop.

Kanyon Shopping Mall

One of the most luxurious shopping malls in town with an outdoor

concept. You can eat delicious and different kinds of food, have fun in the cafes or cinemas.

How to get there?

Take the bus #150 from Koç University and get down at the last stop where you can take the metro. Then, take a metro and get down at Levent stop.

Metro City Shopping Mall

How to get there?

Take the bus #150 from main campus and get down at the last stop where you can take metro. Then, take metro and get down at 4. Levent stop.

Cevahir Shopping Center

Famous for the number of shops in it. You can have fun in the amusement center.

How to get there?

Take the bus #150 from main campus and get down at the last stop where you can take metro. Then, take a metro and get down at "Şişli-Mecidiyeköy" stop. ■



RESIDENCE ATTENDANTS AND RESIDENCE RESPONSIBLES ORGANIZED A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

For the first time at school residence attendants and residence responsables started to organize an enjoyable series of activities. Their first activity was having breakfast at Pierre Lotti. 45 students both foreign and Turkish attended to this organization. Students, especially exchange students enjoyed traditional Turkish breakfast with the view of Golden Horn. Mahmut Ozturk and Maggy Musclow were the leaders of this organization.

The second event was going to a Turkish Bath. Rasmyah Hammoudeh, Dilara Yurtseven and Will Boyd organized this activity. To this organization both Turkish and foreign 60 students participated. ■



HELPING BOSNIA

KUGlobalAid is an international service-learning student group, working to build awareness, international solidarity and support those in need.

For its members, KUGlobalAid builds leadership skills, different perspectives and experiences about variety of cultures. By representing both Koç University and Turkey in the international arena and developing social responsibility projects, KUGlobalAid contributes to communication, interaction and solidarity among people from all over the world.

BOSNIA

Srebrenica is a small mountain town in the east of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Before the war, the town was inhabited by approximately 24,000 people, 75% of which were Bosnian Muslims. Srebrenica was one of the areas which the United Nations had declared as a safe area with six other regions including Sarajevo, Bihac, Gorajde, Zepa, and Tuzla. This resulted in a significant number of refugees relocating from neighboring areas to Srebrenica. Thus, the estimated population of Srebrenica rapidly increased up to 45,000 by July 1995. Although Srebrenica was announced to be a safe area by the UN, approximately 8,300 Bosnian Muslims were killed in Srebrenica in July 1995 by the Army of Republika Srpska under General Ratko Mladic.

The massacre occurred despite the

existence of UN troops in the region. Srebrenica Massacre became the greatest human slaughter in the history of Europe since the Second World War, and is the first legally documented genocide in Europe.

Although it has lost visibility in the international media, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still in need of help from the international community. Both the country and the locals have been suffering from severe difficulties induced by economic and political instability. Today, 46% of Bosnians live under the poverty line. The Office of International Programs and KuGlobalAid implemented an international community service project with the partnership of The International Forum of Solidarity-Emmaus in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This week-long project consisted of professional staff and students. Participants were accommodated in local guesthouses, and delivered food, clothing and similar basic needs to local families in need. In addition, participants visited a rehabilitation center in Doboij and engaged with elderly people and children in their activities. To watch the documentary of the trip, please go to <http://globalaid.ku.edu.tr/projects>. ■