

**DISASTER OF TURKEY**  
**10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF**  
**THE 1999 MARMARA EARTHQUAKES**

ORGANIZED BY



*Reflections from the Past – Mobilization for the  
Future*

<http://www.anmaetkinlikleri.org>  
<http://kocaeli2009.kocaeli.edu.tr>

and the  
ENDORSEMENT, SUPPORT AND  
PARTICIPATION OF A WIDE RANGE OF  
CONCERNED INSTITUTIONS,  
ORGANIZATIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS

**OBJECTIVE STATEMENT**

The earthquakes that occurred on August 17, 1999 in Kocaeli and November 12, 1999 in Düzce combined to represent the most devastating disaster experienced by Turkey in recent history causing more than 18,000 lives, 49,000 wounded, 108,000 heavily damaged buildings, 380,000 damaged buildings and 15 billions of dollars of economic loss in the Turkish economy. The earthquakes affected the whole Marmara Region impacting more than 16 million with the biggest losses occurring in the cities of Kocaeli, Duzce, Bolu, Sakarya, Yalova, Bursa and Istanbul.

As 2009 is the decennial commemoration of this disaster, Kocaeli University, Turkish Red Crescent and Turkey's General Directorate of Disaster Affairs have unified to organize a set of seminars, discussions, reflections, and analyses to commemorate this particular mark in Turkey's history under the title: **'DISASTER OF TURKEY: 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION WEEK' Reflections from the Past; Mobilization for the Future.** The Commemoration Week will focus on the communities that were most affected to look at how they have fared during the disaster and how their lives have transformed. The national and international attraction that the City of Istanbul has received since the earthquakes has eclipsed any attention to the communities that were most affected. This Commemoration Week intends to correct such neglect by focusing on these particular communities, organizations, and institutions that experienced the largest impact and losses. To accomplish this goal, the organizers are bringing together a broad and diverse set of stakeholders that each have a story to tell and a perspective to present. The enrichment comes from the exploring and collating the collective experience and knowledge to draw lessons for the future. These stakeholders include local public officials both appointed (governorates) and elected (municipalities), private sector representatives, community leaders and organizers, non-governmental organizations, professional and trade organizations, academia, and media.

A decade is an appropriate benchmark to stop and reflect, to discuss and analyze, to go back in time in order to trace the future. It is also the time to be critical and provocative in order to ensure that complacency does not take place and that we forget again. The threat of earthquakes remains a formidable challenge for Turkey and for all communities and institutions. Which lessons should we draw and how do we work together to respond to the challenges and trace the path for a safer future. How can we bring our collective experience and learn from others to solve the difficult problems associate with earthquake risk reduction and build a culture of prevention among our institutions and communities.

The commemoration will include social, cultural and scientific activities and will provide ample time for reflection and discussion. A multi-disciplinary and multi-interest approach

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will be adopted. The international community will be invited to come and contribute its own experience and help provide an outsider perspective that may help in building consensus. The event will take place on August 16-19, 2009 at the Prof. Dr. Baki Komsuoglu Culture and Congress Center in the Umuttepe Campus of Kocaeli University. There will be parallel scientific sessions, panel discussions, workshops and we are also planning field trips to visit retrofitted sites and also new districts constructed after the earthquakes.

Local and national authorities are also expected to come together and discuss their experience of the past ten years, their problems, and future plans and visions about preparedness for the forthcoming earthquakes and disasters.

Participation fee of invited speakers, panelists, NGO representatives, delegates from sponsors, delegates from partner organizations' representatives, stakeholders' representatives and young researcher from developing countries will be covered by organization budget. We will not charge any fee to participants from our stakeholders. Our whole activity are open to everyone including academicians, students, public officials, community leaders, private sector, professionals, practitioners, advocates, and the general public. The list of planned commemoration events and planned scientific sessions is given in Table 1. Volunteers are needed at all levels to help with the organization and financial contributions are welcome and will help offset some of the cost associated with the organization of the event is greatly appreciated. Any excess will be used for developing education program for handicapped people and for community preparedness.

We look forward to seeing you commemoration in Kocaeli. If you need further information, have any suggestion, or want to volunteer and get involved with the organization of the event, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For more information, visit the symposium and commemoration web pages:

<http://kocaeli2009.kocaeli.edu.tr>  
<http://anmaetkinlikleri.org>

Best Regards,

On behalf of Organizing Committee  
**Prof. Dr. Şerif BARIŞ**

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**INTERNATIONAL  
EARTHQUAKE  
SYMPOSIUM  
KOCAELİ 2009**

**AUGUST 17 – 19**  
PROF. DR. BAKİ KOMSUOĞLU  
CONGRESS CENTER UMUTTEPE, KOCAELİ TURKEY

<http://kocaeli2009.kocaeli.edu.tr>

Architecture | Disaster-Risk Management | Earth Sciences | Educational Sciences  
Engineering Sciences | Law Sciences | Medical Sciences | Social Sciences

DISASTER OF TURKEY 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

TURKKIZILAYI KOCaeli UNIVERSITY