

A NEW INTEGRATED APPROACH FOR WATER EDUCATION IN TURKEY

Goksen CAPAR¹, Cigdem COSKUN DILCAN¹, Bogachan BENLI¹, Suleyman KODAL^{1,2}

- (1) Water Management Institute, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey
e-mail: gcapar@ankara.edu.tr, coskunc@ankara.edu.tr, bogachanbenli@gmail.com
(2) Department of Farm Structures and Irrigation, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey
e-mail: kodal@agri.ankara.edu.tr

ABSTRACT

Water resources are at risk all over the world today. Population growth, changes in land use, pollution and climate change are adversely affecting the quality and quantity of water resources. Today, 80% of the world population lives in water insecure areas. In order to sustain human and ecosystem health, access to safe water resources need to be provided for the communities. Therefore, water security is a top issue at the international agenda. Universities have important role in leading research and providing education for water professionals and cooperate with relevant institutions on water management and policies. In Turkey, Ankara University founded Water Management Institute (Ankara WMI) in 2010 in an attempt to tackle water related problems at local, regional and international levels. The institute aims to conduct research and education activities on sustainable water management, water policy and security issues. Focusing on development of a new graduate programme on water education, Ankara WMI has proposed to establish an inter-disciplinary Master of Science programme on “Water Policy and Security”. The programme was developed by analyzing similar international and related national programmes as well as performing gap analysis for existing programmes and the future needs. According to the new curriculum, students will need to take three must courses, namely, Water Science, Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Policy and Security. The remaining credits will be completed via selective courses, such as Adaptation to Climate Change, Decision Support Tools for Policy Analysis, Water Governance and International Law on Watercourses.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Water security is a top issue at the international agenda.
- There is a growing need to adopt an integrated approach on water education in the world and in Turkey.
- Ankara University Water Management Institute was founded to tackle water related problems at local, regional and international levels.
- An inter-disciplinary Master of Science programme on “Water Policy and Security” was proposed to contribute to capacity building in our country.