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NEW HORIZONS

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DISPOSAL PROCESS STARTED IN KOCAELİ

GLOBAL PROBLEM LOCAL SOLUTION

GREEN PAPER AWAITS PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

PRACTICAL APPS FROM ANDROID BOOTCAMP

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“ROLE MODEL MEETINGS” IN THE SCOPE OF TURKEY’S ENGINEER GIRLS PROJECT HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Turkey’s Engineer Girls (TEG) Project has been conducted in collaboration with Ministry of Family and Social Policy, Ministry of Education, Limak Foundation and United Nations Development Program (UNDP). To take the impacts of the project to bigger populations, as a part of TEG Project High School Program, “Role Model Meetings” have been established in 48 pilot high schools in 10 different cities.

Volunteer women engineers were assigned as role models to pilot high schools to discuss about what is engineering, its benefits and costs, and their own professional experiences in the field. Until now, in total, 48 high schools in Ankara, Antalya, Hatay and Istanbul were visited.

Turkey's Engineer Girls project aims to reach 48 high schools in 10 different cities in 2017-2018 academic year. Within the project, "Role Model Meetings" in Ankara, Antalya, Artvin, Çanakkale, Elazığ, Hatay, İstanbul, Kırklareli, Muğla and Siirt were organized to bring role model woman engineers and students together.

Visits to high schools, as a component of the project, are intended to guide high school students in department and profession selection with regard to their interests and skills, especially in the engineering field. In this manner, the first and foremost objective is to lead students to make career plans and select their future professions wisely, without the stereotypes.

In order to meet this goal, first of all, "Training of Trainers", a training session for school administrators and counselors, was organized between 20-22 March 2018. Then, woman engineers were assigned as role models to each high school to share their professional knowledge and experience, and to answer students' questions for better understanding of the field of engineering.

Up to this point, "Role Model Meetings" in Ankara, Antalya, Artvin, Hatay, İstanbul and Kırklareli have been completed. During the meetings, role models made informative speeches to students on gender equality, engineering as an occupation for women, social perceptions and awareness on woman's engagement in work life and obstacles behind university study and work preferences and triggering factors of these common perceptions created by the society, and they answered students' further questions on mentioned topics. To provide better understanding on the concept of engineering, the role model woman engineers shared their daily work life as an engineer, highlighted the obstacles they have faced with as women in work life.

At the "Role Model Meetings" in Antalya, role model Hatice Gül Selman counted setting a goal, being organized, utilizing internship opportunities wisely and being open to learning new things as her 'key to success'. In addition, she stated that women should 'be powerful and confident' and 'fight against stereotypes' in work life.

Likewise, at the "Role Model Meetings" in Hatay, role model Eda Kurt advised to be communicative, curious and investigative, and to make your dreams come true and while doing so not missing on life, in order to be successful. She also mentioned the difference between men and women participation rates in labor force and supported the idea that women should stay strong against obstacles women face in work life.

Role model Naciye Nüket Özden, at the "Role Model Meetings" in İstanbul, stated that 'engineering does not have gender' and 'for women, there is no such thing as impossible.'

For next step, "Role Model Meetings" will be completed also in Çanakkale, Elazığ, Muğla and Siirt. By the end of May, it is aimed to reach to over 20.000 individuals including students, teachers, school administrators and counselors.

GLOBAL PROBLEM LOCAL SOLUTION

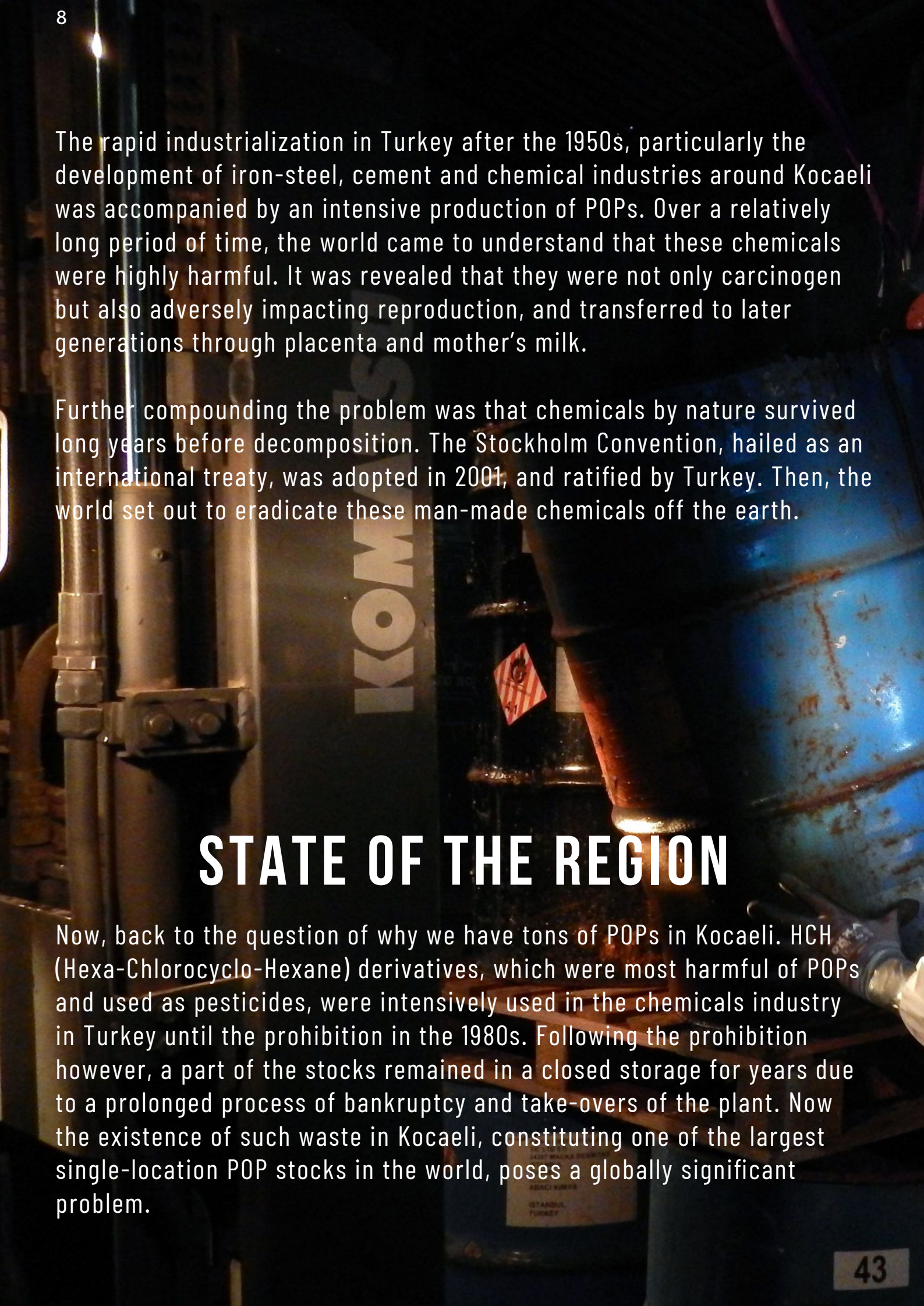
Disposing the largest Persistent Organic Pollutant stock in the world

IMMINENT DANGER

Do you know that hundreds of tons of chemicals, which may cause cancer upon contact, are kept in a storage site in Kocaeli? Do you further know that such chemicals can be carried by water and air; cause cancer and other serious medical problems upon contact or inhaling; if not intervened, may cause grave dangers to people in our country and in the world, and even an ecological crisis; simple inquiries show that they are not produced or used anywhere in the world; and can spread over so large areas that they may end up resurfacing at the poles? This type of chemicals is called Persistent Organic Pollutants, or POPs.

ONCE A HERO
NOW A PUBLIC ENEMY

Do not panic right away. First, let us see what POP is. For example, DDT (Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane) is a POP, which earned the Nobel Prize for its inventor in 1948 for its strong toxic impact on pests, and saved thousands of lives in anti-malaria drive in Africa. Indeed, DDT was sold as “cure-all powder” for years in Turkey. It was however found out later that it was not at all innocent.



The rapid industrialization in Turkey after the 1950s, particularly the development of iron-steel, cement and chemical industries around Kocaeli was accompanied by an intensive production of POPs. Over a relatively long period of time, the world came to understand that these chemicals were highly harmful. It was revealed that they were not only carcinogen but also adversely impacting reproduction, and transferred to later generations through placenta and mother's milk.

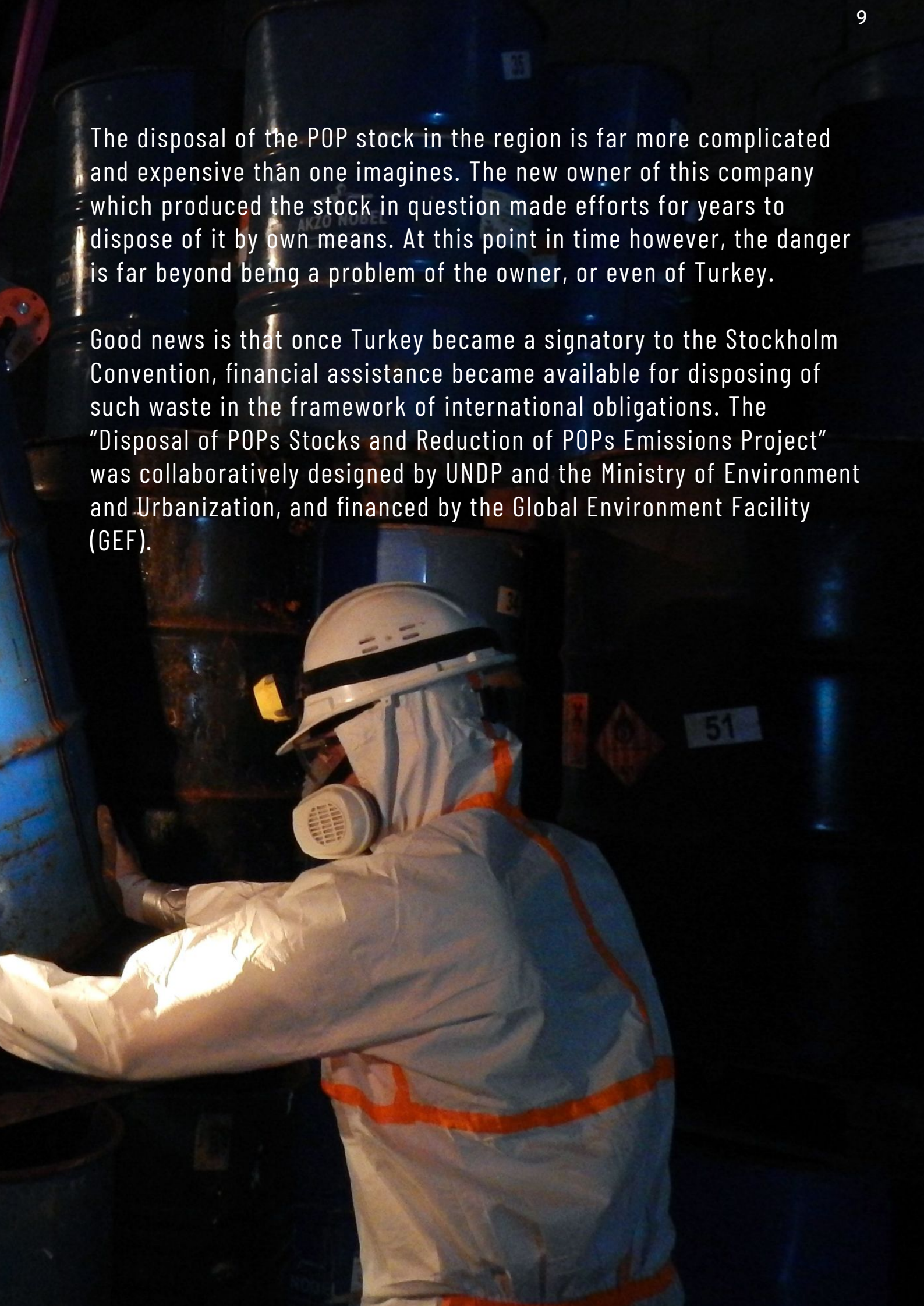
Further compounding the problem was that chemicals by nature survived long years before decomposition. The Stockholm Convention, hailed as an international treaty, was adopted in 2001, and ratified by Turkey. Then, the world set out to eradicate these man-made chemicals off the earth.

STATE OF THE REGION

Now, back to the question of why we have tons of POPs in Kocaeli. HCH (Hexa-Chlorocyclo-Hexane) derivatives, which were most harmful of POPs and used as pesticides, were intensively used in the chemicals industry in Turkey until the prohibition in the 1980s. Following the prohibition however, a part of the stocks remained in a closed storage for years due to a prolonged process of bankruptcy and take-overs of the plant. Now the existence of such waste in Kocaeli, constituting one of the largest single-location POP stocks in the world, poses a globally significant problem.

The disposal of the POP stock in the region is far more complicated and expensive than one imagines. The new owner of this company which produced the stock in question made efforts for years to dispose of it by own means. At this point in time however, the danger is far beyond being a problem of the owner, or even of Turkey.

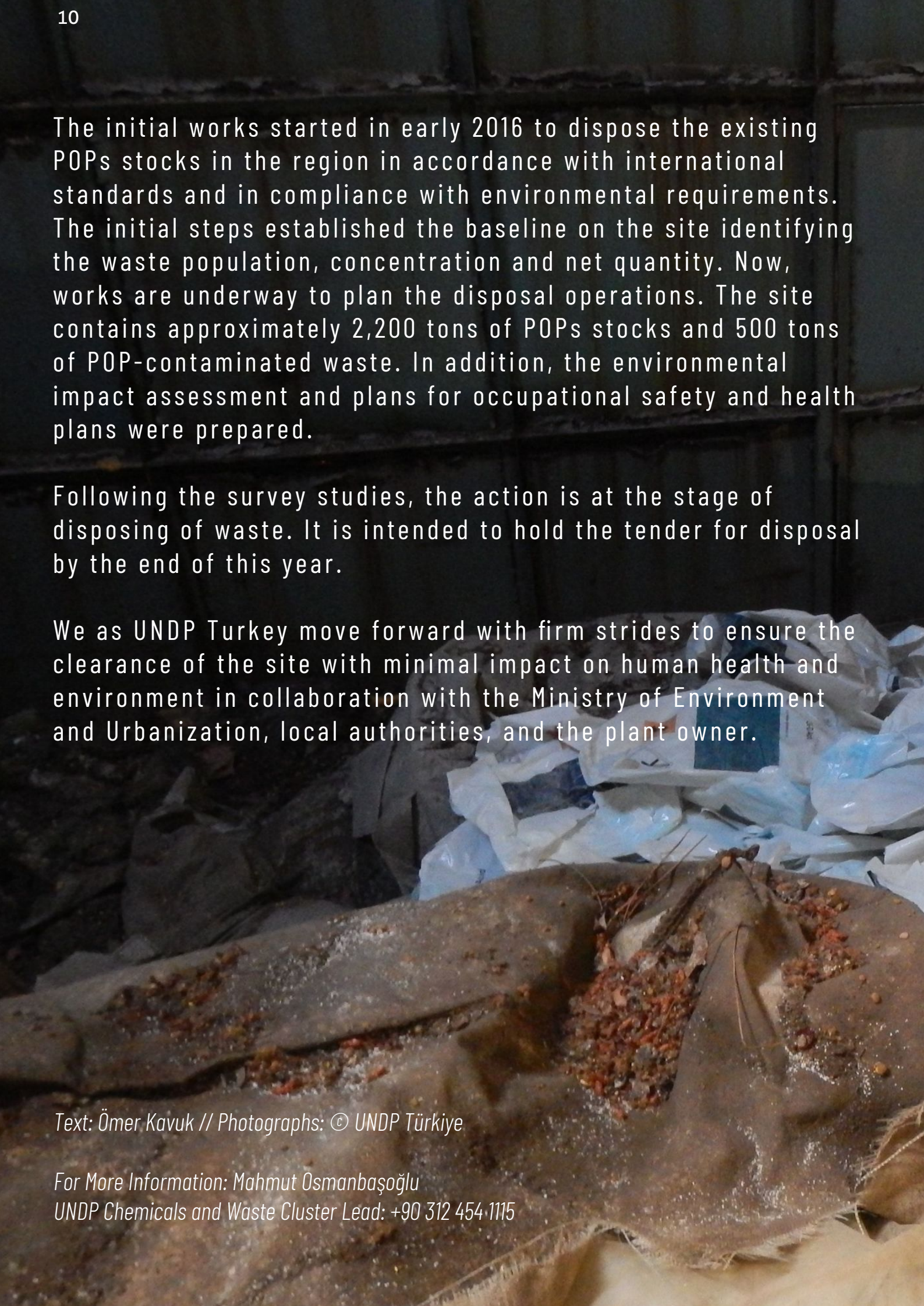
Good news is that once Turkey became a signatory to the Stockholm Convention, financial assistance became available for disposing of such waste in the framework of international obligations. The "Disposal of POPs Stocks and Reduction of POPs Emissions Project" was collaboratively designed by UNDP and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, and financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



The initial works started in early 2016 to dispose the existing POPs stocks in the region in accordance with international standards and in compliance with environmental requirements. The initial steps established the baseline on the site identifying the waste population, concentration and net quantity. Now, works are underway to plan the disposal operations. The site contains approximately 2,200 tons of POPs stocks and 500 tons of POP-contaminated waste. In addition, the environmental impact assessment and plans for occupational safety and health plans were prepared.

Following the survey studies, the action is at the stage of disposing of waste. It is intended to hold the tender for disposal by the end of this year.

We as UNDP Turkey move forward with firm strides to ensure the clearance of the site with minimal impact on human health and environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, local authorities, and the plant owner.



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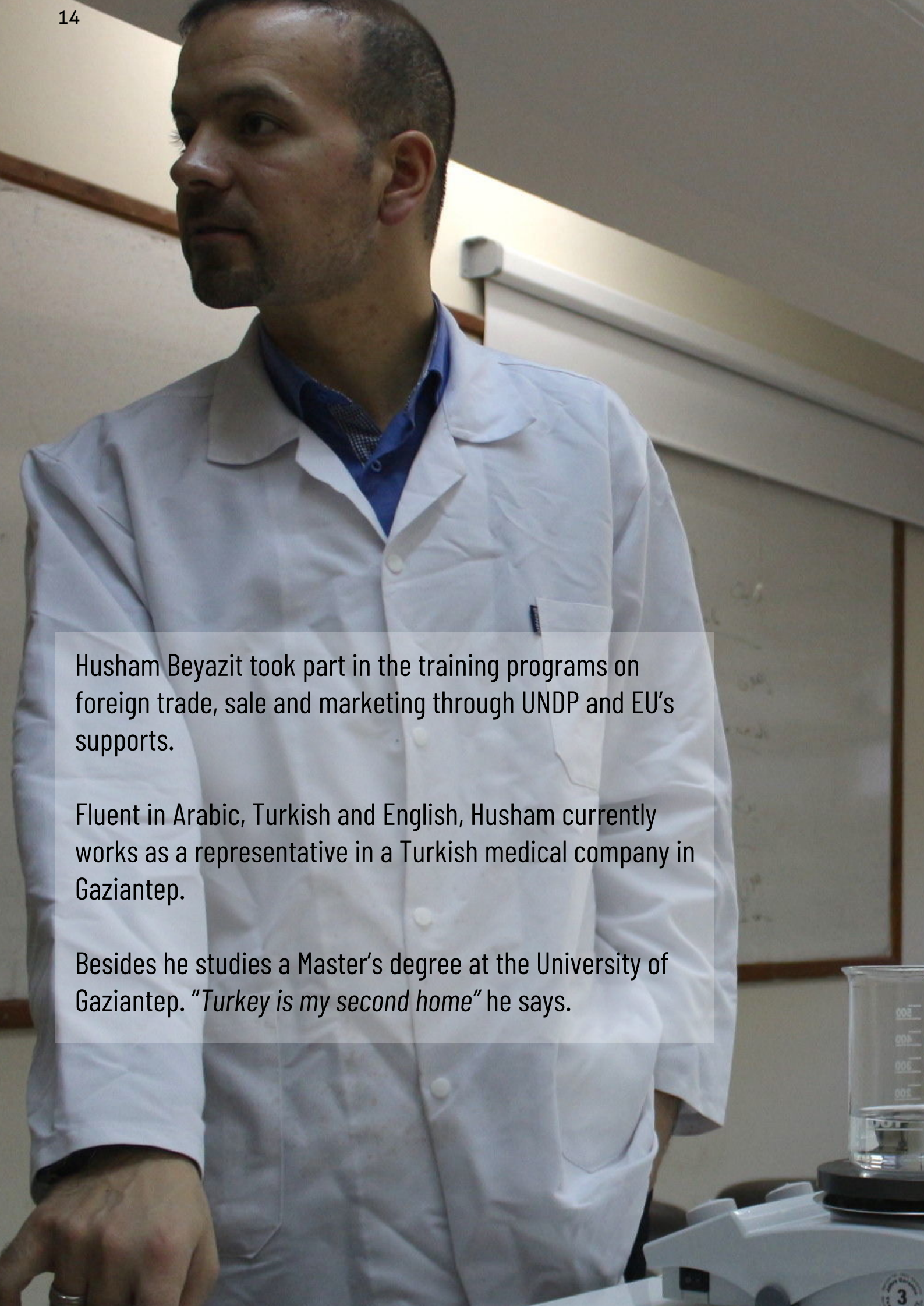
EVERYDAY HEROES

Inspiring stories of bravery from 4 people



Husham Beyazit took part in the training programs on foreign trade, sale and marketing through UNDP and EU's supports.

Fluent in Arabic, Turkish and English, Husham currently works as a representative in a Turkish medical company in Gaziantep.

Besides he studies a Master's degree at the University of Gaziantep. *"Turkey is my second home"* he says.

Kareemat, "Association of Honourable Women" in Kilis, was founded by Nejjla Al Shikh, who was displaced to Turkey from Aleppo 6 years ago.

Nejjla is a psychologist and works actively with her sister Rama in the association where vocational trainings in various fields, Turkish and English language courses are given to Syrians as well as locals.

Supported by the UNDP Syria Crisis Response and Resilience Program, Kareemat hosts for over 200 women per day.

Nejjla, helping women to recover from war impacts, to make a living and above all, to find ways to make believe in themselves, says *"Tears should not bring us down. We have to keep strong to build our country one day".*

Zeina Mahli participated the vocational trainings provided by UNDP and EU for Syrians as well as locals and made possible to learn Turkish to an extent to even professionally reach.

She works as translator at the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality Art and Vocational Training Courses Center (GASMEK), another local institution UNDP supports either. Her work helps other Syrians to attend courses at GASMEK in 46 different fields.

"The vocational training courses led me to follow my lifelong dream of studying and helped me stand on my own feet, so that I can thrive and not merely survive. This is not a story of mine, but all of ours", she says.

Sene, is one of the strong and hard-working women who had to mobilize all the skills and competencies to build a new life in Turkey as well as support to their families.

Sene improved her agricultural skills at the training courses given by UNDP and the Government of Japan's support.

Discovering new skills with the trainings, on organic fertilization, irrigation, she now works at the greenhouse built by UNDP's support and is decisive to overcome the difficulties.

YOUNG SYRIANS AND LOCALS CREATED PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD WITH UNIVERSAL CODING LANGUAGE

Investment in youth pays off! After seven months of hard work and dedication, a group of 28 students, a mix of Syrians and locals graduated the Android Bootcamp, with the ability to work as developers.

The mobile application building training, which was presented in cooperation with Bilgi University and Re:Coded that is a non-profit-making innovation organization established for humanitarian purposes, hosted by Harran University, came to an end. At the end of the training given to 28 Syrian and Turkish students for seven months, young people learned the Android coding language, wrote codes and developed mobile applications.

Designed by the partnership of distant learning portal Udacity and Google; Android Basics Training is provided under the scope of the "Strengthening Social Stability in South-eastern Anatolia Project" that is implemented in cooperation of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Turkey and the GAP Regional Development Administration and funded by the Government of Japan.

A total of 28 young people from the Syrians and locals in an age group of 17 to 30, who participated in the trainings offered in English language since October, developed mobile applications for the practical needs of the companies, wrote codes and enriched their theoretical knowledge with practical coding lessons.

Six mobile applications were developed to practice and to meet the requirements

At the end of the coding training, six mobile applications were developed. These are: “Mültecinin Ötesinde” (Beyond Refugee), “Re: Coded”, “E-Bursum”, “Kapgel Dükkanı”, “ESP Kelime Hazinesi” (ESP Vocabulary) and “Beni Yolda Tut” (Keep Me On Track).

Among these applications, "Beyond Refugee" serves to reach the correct information and the correct terminology about the refugees; "Re: Coded" serves to share the teaching materials and the learnings of the young people who participated in the coding training, "E-Bursum" helps to enable online access to scholarship information, "Kapgel Store" serves to access shops where orders can be placed online, "ESP Vocabulary" enables the students whose native language is not English to access online the vocabulary related to the field they are studying, and "Keeping Me On Track " offers to set targets for the people on topics such as finance, nutrition, private life and fitness and to see the stages they have taken on their way to such targets.

Besides, during the training, young people also participated in Social Innovation Hackathon in Gender Equality, which was held in Istanbul in December 2017 and it was a first in Turkey of its kind. Young people completed with more than 60 developers, designers and entrepreneurs who developed technological and life-facilitating solutions for gender equality and they have created a project that was selected due to its potential to create the greatest impact. At the end of the Hackathon, the winner developed another application called "Safe-R" which is a mobile psychological counselling application that offers the women and girls who are experiencing any violence or harassment the option to hide their identities, if needed.

Addressing the meaning of the programme for the region and the youth, UNDP Turkey Project Manager Arif Mert Özturk said: *"We continue our efforts to increase the resilience of the individuals, communities and institutions that are most affected from the Syrian crisis, in cooperation of UNDP Turkey and GAP RDA. With the mobile application training program in Şanlıurfa, we supported young people, who are our main target audience to discover their potential for creativity, and to gain highly demanded and internationally accredited skills to access decent work and income opportunities."*

TOTAL FACTOR PRODUCTIVITY

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE COMPLETED SUCCESFULLY

An International Conference was held in Istanbul within the context of the "Support to Development of a Policy Framework for Total Factor Productivity in Turkey Project", which is financed by the EU and the Republic of Turkey, implemented by the UNDP and with the Ministry of Development as the final beneficiary. Opening remarks of the conference were made by the Ministry of Development Deputy Undersecretary Hayri Maraşlığolu, UNDP Turkey Country Director Claudio Tomasi, EU Delegation to Turkey Counsellor François Begeot and Director of Central Finance and Contracting Unit M. Selim Uslu.

Total Factor Productivity Project is in its 3rd year

The Project, which was launched in 2015 and is being implemented to define the obstacles in front of economic efficiency and to determine the solutions, completed its 3rd year. At the International Conference held in Istanbul under the project, a road map was prepared for the reforms proposed. Besides, the Green Paper, which is a major output of the Project, was presented to the participants.

The conference, which was held on 28-29 March 2018 in Hilton Bosphorus Hotel, sought an answer to the question of "What should the government do to boost the performance of private sector in the 21st century?". The conference brought together representatives from public & private sector, university and civil society.

Green Paper revealed to public

The Green Paper, which is the first version of the Project outputs, was revealed to the public during the conference. In the Green Book; a new perspective of an economic growth that focuses on TFP growth is said to be designed to take precautions against the negative situation observed in Turkey's productivity performance in recent years. It is also underlined that competitive strategies based on low wages, including the low-skilled workforce, have gradually lost their validity due to the accelerating digitalization trend in the industry (robots, 3-dimensional printers, smart factories, etc.)

GREEN PAPER WAITS FOR PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Click on the tree to

The Green Paper, which was prepared within the context of "Total Factor Productivity (TFP) Project" and consists of due diligence and policy recommendations to increase the contribution of total factor productivity to growth is completed. The document, which serves as a consultative document and seeks the opinions of stakeholders regarding the final policy framework (White Paper) design, is published on the project's website to seek for stakeholders' opinions.

o read Green Paper

It will be base for the White Paper

The Green Paper, which is in a form of a consultation document and was published on the project's website (http://tfvp.org/yesilkitap/), is drafted to receive the opinions of the stakeholders to design the White Paper. The White Paper will be the final policy framework to be completed following the consultation process and submitted to the Ministry of Development to be included in upper-scale policy papers as well as in the preparation of sectoral and thematic strategy documents in the future.

Contributions expected for the consultation process

The Green Paper contains questions about determinations and policy recommendations that specifically target stakeholders, whose opinions will help with recommendations. Opinions and contributions on the "Consultative Questions" can be submitted using the following channels:

-Using the contact form at www.tfvp.org/yesilkitap

-sending e-mail to yesilkitap@tfvp.org address

-sending letters to Yıldız Kule Yukarı Dikmen Mah. Turan Güneş Bulvarı No: 106 Kat:12 06550 Çankaya/Ankara address

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CHAMBERS OF INDUSTRY CONTINUES AT FULL SPEED

Consultations with the Chambers of Industry continues within the scope of the Total Factor Productivity (TFP) Project, which is being implemented to define the obstacles in front of economic efficiency and to determine the solutions.

Purpose is to get opinions on the Green paper

The consultation process is continuing for the contributions to be made in the Green Book which was drafted within the context of the "Support to Development of a Policy Framework for Total Factor Productivity in Turkey Project", which is financed by the EU and the Republic of Turkey, implemented by the UNDP and with the Ministry of Development as the final beneficiary. Following the publication of the Green paper, the first version of the project outputs, the opinions and recommendations of the Chambers of Industry are being received.

Presentations are being made about the Green Paper and the project to the participants at the meetings held with Samsun, Adana, İzmir, Konya Eskişehir, Şanlıurfa, Antalya, Bursa, Gaziantep and Kocaeli Chambers of Industry. At the meetings, there is also a mutual exchange of views, ensuring that the participants are involved in the Green Paper consultation process and are informed about the relevant channels.

Meetings all around Turkey

CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM FOR DEVELOPMENT HELD IN IZMIR

Sustainable tourism was discussed in all aspects in the Conference on Sustainable Tourism for Development held in Izmir. Premised on the fact that sustainable tourism was an important instrument for development, the Conference brought together representatives from the public sector, universities, private sector and civil society.

Pursuing an objective of raising awareness on sustainable tourism, the Conference served a platform to share information on activities in the country and international arena, and on contributions of sustainable tourism to development. The Conference futured panel sessions on Sustainable Tourism and Sustainable Development Goals, Innovative Practice in Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Tourism and Destination Management, Tourism Transformation, Good Practices in Sustainable Tourism, and Future Lies in Tourism.

The Conference was organised under the "Capacity Building for Sustainable Community Based Tourism Program" implemented by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

It is aimed to promote changes in tourism policies, private sector practices and consumer behaviour in a way to support the reduction of poverty and inequalities, promotion of economic growth, and climate action in the world by 2030 through the Sustainable Development Goals.

International efforts pursue a strengthening of tourism in five major areas in conjunction with sustainable development: 1. Inclusive and sustainable economic development, 2. Promoting social inclusiveness, increasing employment and reducing poverty, 3. Effective use of resources, protection of environment and climate action, 4. Protection of cultural assets, multi-culturalism and cultural heritage, 5. Mutual understanding, peace and security.

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Resilient nations.