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# **DMEDD BULLETIN**

## **JUNE 2023**

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# DMEDD BULLETIN

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spouses Solidarity Association News



## MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON MRS ŞEBNEM AKÇAPAR



Wherever we are in the world, I greet you with love and respect, whose heart beats with Turkey and who are part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Page 2)

## 43. TERM BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS ELECTED

The members of the 43rd Term Board of Directors and Auditors were elected on February 8, 2023 at the DMEDD Plenary Meeting held on February 8, 2023, and the 1st meeting of the incoming Board Members convened on February 20, 2023. (Page 3)

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*We wish blessings  
and happiness  
to all friends celebrate  
Eid this month*



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- 16 June 2023- SHOM Green Group "One Health" Presentation





Dear DMEDD Members,  
Dear Friends,

*I greet you all with love and respect as a member of a community whose heart beats with Türkiye no matter where we are in the world.*

*Since its establishment in 1981, DMEDD has been involved in a wide range of activities and has provided scholarships to many martyrs' relatives and/or students in need, as well as providing assistance to many educational institutions. Today, thanks to the management and supervisory boards that preceded us, the name of our association has become known even in the farthest corners of Türkiye and has gained the respect it deserves. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each and every one of our members who volunteered their time and efforts for DMEDD. Please rest assured that their names are at the forefront of our association headquarters as well as in our institutional memory.*

*When the 43rd Board of Directors took office with great excitement, we faced a positive and a negative development. The positive development was that, thanks to the guidance of our predecessors, we chose the 2C (Continuity and Change) model to determine our own path. Under the Continuity Model, we not only welcomed back the board members who had served with such dedication during the previous term, but also witnessed the successful completion of previously initiated projects. We also started to work towards a more sustainable continuity of successful projects, such as gastro-diplomacy and scholarship programs. As part of the Change Model, we explored ways to make better use of digitalization and technological advances. For example, we are working on putting a new face to our website and social media with bilingual sharing that allows foreign missions to follow us. We communicated with similar organizations of the European Union for international recognition. We discussed the problems of international spouses who are joining our community in increasing numbers not only as part of the globalization processes but also in line with the old saying that goes 'love does not recognize any borders'. In the spirit of maintaining gender equality, we made efforts to include male members in the Board of Directors and Supervisory Board for the first time.*

*The negative development was the earthquake on February 6, 2023, which shook us all deeply and caught us unprepared. During this period, we were deeply saddened by the loss of two of our most valuable diplomats, Ambassador Devrim Öztürk and KİM Officer Gökhan Aytaç, who were serving in our Hatay Representative Office. We gave the best example of social solidarity both individually and through the aid that reached Türkiye from different parts of the world to our missions abroad under the coordination of you and your spouses. During this period, the importance of civil society was reaffirmed. Starting from our own wounds, we developed in-kind aid projects for other earthquake-affected families and vulnerable groups, such as women and children. We delivered this aid to the displaced families who were settled to Ankara. We also organized an event on April 23rd at the Ankara City Hospital with children who lost their limbs in the earthquake but did not compromise their joy in life. Our social aid efforts in this area continue at full speed and we are on our way to signing permanent projects.*

*Undoubtedly, another important aspect of 2023 is that we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our Republic. In this context, we organized visits to the historical places of Ankara and our first Assemblies. We have launched the "100th Anniversary of the Turkish Republic" seminar series with distinguished speakers and academicians. As the 43rd Board of Directors of DMEDD, we are honoured to have the chance to witness this important turning point in history - the Centennial of our Republic - and we aim to crown this October 29th with the Republic Ball. We will share the details with you in September.*

*As you know, all these assistance activities are covered by your modest membership fees and the humble income gathered from social events and Traditional DMEDD Bazaars, which are the result of the great dedication of our volunteer friends who work hand in hand with our Board of Directors. After three years of waiting, I am pleased to share that DMEDD Bazaar will finally meet the inhabitants of Ankara this year on December 3rd with your support. Let me thank all our members who paid their membership fees for 2023. They continue to become a drop in the ocean of kindness through DMEDD.*

*With this opportunity, I would like to extend my best wishes for the upcoming Eid Holiday and wish you a wonderful summer vacation with loved ones.*

Prof. Dr. Şebnem Akçapar







### 8 March 2023- Anıtkabir Visit by DMEDD New Executive Board

On the occasion of International Women's Day, we paid an official visit to Anıtkabir to express our gratitude to the Great Leader Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who enabled women to participate in all walks of life in our society. May his soul rest in peace.

### 8 February 2023 43. Term DMEDD New Executive Board Elected

<b>Chairperson</b>	Şebnem Akçapar
<b>Secretary General</b>	Müge Varol Ilıcak
<b>Secretary</b>	Özge Yıldırım Şeyda Erciyes
<b>Committees</b>	
<b>Academia</b>	Ülgen Gürmeriçliler Burak Noyan Filiz Gül Aktaş Adem Karaoğlu
<b>Solidarity</b>	Gülhan Çorman Meltem Özoral
<b>Social</b>	Azra Bozay Betül Aksoy Bilgiç Didem Türemen Hayriye Nur Alpay Zlatomira Yurdakul
<b>Philanthropy</b>	Sinem Kılıç Özlem Göz Alkan Emel Ercengiz Umruk
<b>Accounting</b>	Yasemin Işık Nigar Kılıç
<b>Auditors</b>	
Gülnur Bigalı Sermin Kök Seda Güldere Özge Yalazı Akıntı Hikmet Kararlı Göksel Manav	



### March 15, 2023- Farewell and Thanks to Former Executive Board Members

We came together with the 42nd Term DMEDD Board of Directors and Auditors and extended our sincere gratitude for their valuable contributions in the previous period.







### March 9, 2023- Closing Ceremony of "DMEDD Gastro-diplomacy Training Program"

DMEDD carries out various projects to contribute to the education of future generations. Gastro-diplomacy programme was one of such projects. The closing ceremony of the Gastro-diplomacy Training Programme organised in cooperation with Mogan Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School with the support of the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DIAB) and Hacı Bayram Veli University Faculty of Tourism, was held on 9 March 2023.



### 18 March 2023- Martyrs' Day Cebeci Cemetery Ceremony



On the March 18 Martyrs' Day, we held a commemoration ceremony at the Martyrs' Cemetery of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cebeci, Ankara. We bow respectfully before the memory of our martyred diplomats and all martyrs. May God bless their souls to rest forever in peace.



6 March 2023- Contribution to the "Support Program for Earthquake Victims" of Ankara Governorship Provincial Civil Society Directorate





### 27 March 2023- "Voice of Deep Waters" Concert

The "Sounds of Deep Waters" exhibition was organized at the Turkish-Japanese Foundation Cultural Center, on the initiative of DMEDD.

Beautiful melodies of DMEDD Academy Committee member and contrabass player PhD–Burak Noyan accompanied underwater photographer PhD–Alp Can's presentation with his marvellous photographs.



### 3 April 2023- Bilkent Symphony Orchestra Concert Rehearsal

Today, we, DMEDD members and representatives of SHOM, had the privilege of attending the rehearsal of the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gürer Aykal and accompanied by pianist Gülsin Onay.



### 8 April 2023- LÖSEV "Box of Happiness" Project

On the 8th of April, together with the members of our Board of Directors and Supervisory Board and our scholarship students, we supported LÖSEV's "Koli Koli Mutluluk/Boxes of Happiness" project, which aims to bring the abundance and blessings of Ramadan to the families of children with leucemia.





## 23 APRIL NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY

### 23 April 2023- Ankara Bilkent City Hospital Visit on the Occasion of National Sovereignty and Children's Day

As DMEDD, we participated in the April 23rd National Sovereignty and Children's Day event organized for the earthquake survivor children being treated at Bilkent City Hospital Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Department.



### 12 April 2023- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Candidate Career Officers Training Program DMEDD Presentation

Prof. Dr. Şebnem Akçapar, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of DMEDD, gave a presentation on the establishment and activities of DMEDD to the young diplomats who have just started their long careers at the MFA. In her talk, Prof. Akçapar further emphasized the importance of strengthening the relations between the members of MFA and our association. The meeting took place as part of the Preparatory Training Program for Newly Recruited Career Officers of the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on April 12, 2023.

Follow us on our social media accounts @d.m.e.d.d and dmedd\_info



### 15 April 2023- 1st Parliament and 2nd Parliament Trip

On the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of our Republic, DMEDD plans to organize a series of events. The first one in the series is a must - going back to the roots with a special visit to the First Turkish Grand National Assembly Building (Independence War Museum) and the Second Turkish Grand National Assembly Building (Republic Museum) on Friday, April 14th.





### 9 May 2023- 100th Anniversary of Our Republic Seminar Series I

On Tuesday, May 9, 2023, we held the first seminar of our 'The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye Seminar Series' at the Fatih Rüştü Zorlu Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this seminar, Prof. Dr. Çiğdem Varol, Prof. Dr. N. Aydan Sat, Assoc. Prof. Dr. S. Bahar Yenigül and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Z. Aslı Gürel



examined the social, economic, and spatial transformations of Kızılay and Kızılay Square, which is the heart of the administrative, sociological, economic, and political heart of Ankara since the establishment of the Republic, and presented their book titled 'The Story of the Transformation of the Capital's Kızılay Square'.



### 10 May 2023- Meeting of "Precious Presidents of DMEDD"

43rd Term DMEDD President, Mrs. Şebnem Akçapar hosted a pleasant get-together with our past Presidents at the "Precious Presidents of DMEDD" meeting held on May 10, 2023. During the gathering, we also found the opportunity to exchange valuable opinions and future projects for the rest of the year.



### 12 May 2023- Participation in SHOM's "Traditional Spring Tea"

On the 12th of May we attended the traditional Spring Tea of SHOM, hosted by Mrs Yasmina Mimouni, the esteemed wife of the Algerian Ambassador, on behalf of DMEDD. Once again, we would like to thank SHOM and Mrs Yasmina Mimouni for their kind invitation and the pleasant hours we spent together.





### 23 May 2023- "The Journey of Coffee" Workshop with Murat Erşekerçi

On May 23rd, DMEDD organized an event called "The Journey of Coffee" at Roast'n Berry Academy. Murat Erşekerçi, the founder of Roast'n Berry coffee chains, first gave a presentation to DMEDD and SHOM members about the history of coffee, then demonstrated the new generation brewing techniques and served the brewed coffees.



### 30 May 2023- "White Time Shirt Collection" Exhibition in cooperation with Ankara Maturation Workshop and DMEDD

On May 30, 2023, with the participation of DMEDD and SHOM members, we organized a pleasant program at Ankara Olgunlaşma Institute. First, we visited their Turkish Embroidery, Jewelry Technology, Art and Design and Marbling Workshops and then we visited their exhibition titled "Beyaz Zamanı Shirt Collection" which is a combination of traditional handicrafts and delicate handicrafts.







### 3 May 2023- Ankara City Hospital Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Hospital Visit

Our Board of Directors were hosted by Chief Physician Prof. Dr. Evren Yaşar and they were presented with a painting made by the children who were being treated for the contribution and participation provided by DMEDD to the 23 April celebrations organized by Bilkent City Hospital Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Department



### 31 May 2023- SHOM Green Group Upcycling Fashion Event

On the 31st of May, we attended the "Shom Green Group Upcycling Fashion" event hosted by Lorian Fabian Marropodi, the esteemed wife of the Italian Ambassador, on behalf of DMEDD.



### 3 June 2023- Meeting with Students

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spouses' Solidarity Association (DMEDD), whose main mission is to support education, has been known for its scholarships since its establishment. As members of the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board, we met with students who are studying at different universities that we support with scholarships. We had a pleasant conversation about their education, scholarship processes, their expectations for the future, and other issues that DMEDD can contribute to.







### 5 June 2023 Mindfulness "The Magic of Being in the Moment" Event at the Indian Embassy

On June 5, DMEDD organized the event "Introducing Mindfulness: The Magic of Being in the Moment" which was attended by DMEDD and SHOM members under the guidance of mindfulness and yoga instructor Zeynep Ağacıkoğlu.



### 8 June 2023 - DMEDD Presentation on Traditional Bazaar to SHOM members

On June 8, we gave an informative presentation on DMEDD Bazaar at the SHOM meeting hosted by Hwa Kyung Sah, the esteemed spouse of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.



During the meeting, DMEDD Bazaar Coordinator made a presentation about the "Traditional DMEDD Bazaar" to SHOM Members and many other guests. We reiterated our invitation to the embassies in Ankara for their participation in the Traditional DMEDD Bazaar.





### 15 June 2023 - 43rd Term DMEDDD Meeting with Newly Appointed Consul Generals

Mrs. Şebnem Akçapar, President of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spouses' Solidarity Association (DMEDDD), gave a presentation on the history and activities of our association, on 15th of June, in the framework of the "Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Training Program for the first time posted consul generals and their spouses.



### 16 June 2023- SHOM Green Group "One Health" Presentation

On June 16th, our executive board members participated in the seminar programme organized by SHOM Green Group titled "One Health" hosted by the New Zealand Ambassador. We would like to thank SHOM Green Group, H.E. Zoe Dawn Coulson-Sinclair and her husband Dr. Ross Sinclair for their kind invitation and excellent organisation.

Summary of the day: Following the Covid-19 experience, there is a need for a holistic system that supports early intervention and sustainable development goals to be better prepared for new pandemics that may emerge. Human health can only be protected if our carbon footprint is reduced and economic development criteria are designed to take into account the health of wild nature.





**Take your steps for a good purpose**



The image shows two smartphones displaying the DMEDD Help Steps app. The left phone shows a user profile with a name, a photo, and a list of campaigns. The right phone shows a step counter with a green circular progress indicator and a list of campaigns.

### Would you like to support our scholarship program with every step you make?

Help Steps is an application to promote health and charity. The application encourages users to help others while taking steps. Every converted HS become a support to their favorite NGO campaign, sports clubs or individual beneficiaries campaigns.



Use invitation code "DMEDD" to download Health Steps App





**PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR FALL/WINTER 2023**

1. DMEDD Memorial Forest Tree Planting
2. October 29th Republic Ball
3. December 3, 2023, Traditional DMEDD Bazaar
4. Turkish lessons
5. Bridge tournament
6. 100th anniversary of the Republic seminars
7. Accessible playground project for earthquake victims and disabled children
8. Assistance activities for schools to be established in the earthquake zone
9. The project of being a partner in goodness with Helpsteps
10. Cultural excursions and more...

*Join our social media community to stay updated on our upcoming events!*





**Address:**

Çukurambar, Kızılırmak Mah., 1448.Sokak, Ladin Apt. 3/2, 06520 Çankaya/Ankara

**Telephone:**

+90 (312) 284 93 72

**E-mail:**

[info@dmedd.org](mailto:info@dmedd.org)

**Social Media:**



@d.me.d.d



@dmedd\_info

[www.dmedd.org](http://www.dmedd.org)