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Preface: Turkey-Japan Joint Conference on Geomorphology

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The Turkey-Japan Joint Conference on Geomorphology was held at Ankara University on September 12-17, 2011, organized by Japanese Geomorphological Union, Ankara University, Science Council of Japan, Geomorphological Research Committee. The total participants of the conference were 55 persons from Turkey, Korea, Mongolia and Japan. The one of the purpose of the conference was to encourage the young researchers of geomorphology, therefore 12 graduate students and 8 postdoctoral fellows attended the conference from Japan.

The special session for the young geomorphologists was held at Ankara University on Sep.12, 2010. About 30 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from Turkey, Korea, Mongolia and Japan attended it to present their recent researchers and to discuss eagerly the future targets of geomorphology. 21 oral presentations were performed at the session.

The main symposium titled as "Geomorphological Processes and their Evolutions along Alpine and Himalayan Zone" was held at Ankara University on September 13, 2010. Seven invited lectures, six oral presentations and 13 poster presentations were held.

The participants attended two post excursions. The first excursion (Sep.14, 2010) was for the Hattusha, the ancient capital city of the Hittite Empire. The participants discussed the geomorphological characteristics of the archaeological sites there. The second excursion (Sep.15-17, 2010) was for the central part of Anatolian Plateau. We visited unique topographies at Cappadocia, river terraces along the River Kızılırmak, two stratovolcanos (Mt. Erciyes, Mt. Hasan), scoria cones, inland saline lake (Lake Tuz), and discussed the origins of the topographic characteristics and their geomorphological processes.

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The weather condition during the whole schedule of the conference was very well. Two symposiums and two field excursions were completed without any accidents, and a lot of discussions and international interchanges for geomorphological researches were performed then. We are sure that the conference contributed the further progresses of geomorphology and the expansion of the international research networks, because the more than half of the participants were "young geomorphologists" such as graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.