

*Peace through understanding
between cultures*



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Newsletter

HasNa's mission is to promote cross-cultural understanding and economic empowerment in culturally divided areas of the world and to encourage individuals and communities in such areas to work together toward advancement and peaceful coexistence.

Training Center in Southeastern Turkey to Open in 2010

Planning for a training center in southeastern Turkey has begun. HasNa believes that newly acquired knowledge and training must be reinforced in order for people to change old habits, particularly outdated ways of making a living. The center's "customers" will be people who are employed or looking for a job. Training will be in such topics as agricultural methods and management, micro-enterprise management, the English language, water management techniques, and conflict resolution. One of our initial efforts will be to identify agricultural training needs. The center will also fund local university research oriented toward providing knowledge to farmers, who will then apply it to their farming methods-much like the U.S. Agricultural Extension Service. Our goal is to have the center



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operational in 2010.

Our participants and the president of the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) are encouraging us to set up this center; they see it as a valuable resource for the local region to significantly enhance economic opportunities, while providing a venue for uniting different groups toward a common future.

We have been successful in obtaining an endorsement from GAP, as well as promises of funds from Turkish business people and participants in our programs. Once the training center proves itself, financial resources will come from local employers, tuition fees, and other private supporters.

“The region is hungry for job training, and HasNa is ready to offer it,” said Nevzer Stacey, HasNa’s founder and president.

We hope to eventually make the training center available to other parts of Turkey, as well as neighboring countries.

HasNa Trains DISIAD and MUSIAD Businessmen from Diyarbakır

In the winter of 2007, two groups of businessmen from Diyarbakır, Turkey traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive training in communication skills and business management. The participants are members of Turkish businessmen’s organizations. The businessmen work in different sectors including construction, marble, automotive, food service, health, and clothing.

The participants were trained in communication skills by Kathy Owen and Edna Povich.

“I learned that different ethnic groups have to respect each other to live together,” said a businessman from Diyarbakır.



Deniz Sevgili Oña, HasNa’s Program Associate, and Nevzer Stacey, president, pose between businessmen’s training participants.

The goal of the training was to improve business performance by exposing the trainees to innovative concepts like corporate responsibility and human resource development. Robert Wise of SystemWise Consulting trained the participants in the elements and structure of business, improving efficiency, and increasing employee productivity.

The participants then attended workshops taught by distinguished business leaders, such as Abdullah Akyüz, president of TUSIAD-U.S., and Gerald Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority. They also visited the Turkish Embassy and Graniser, a marble company in Virginia.

Participants prepared individual business plans to implement upon their return to Turkey.

“I plan to increase production by five percent,” said Irfan Türk, who is employed in the marble industry. HasNa plans to evaluate the business plans later this year.



Businessmen enjoying their visit to a marble company in Virginia.

Farm Extension Workers Trained by HasNa & University of Maryland



Ten farm extension workers from throughout southeastern Turkey and their supervisor traveled to Washington, D.C., to be trained in agricultural techniques and conflict resolution from September 16 to October 7, 2006. Farm extension workers are responsible for assisting farmers with improving their operations. They work for the Turkish Government- in the Department of Agriculture and the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP).

Extension worker training participants discuss techniques with a farmer at a Maryland farm.

The Center for Dispute Settlement conducted the three-day conflict resolution training. Then, the extension workers traveled to Maryland to be trained by the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The agricultural component sought to improve the professional capacities of the extension workers by training them to enhance farm operation skills, plan effective farmer field days, and conduct research. As part of the program, the eleven participants traveled throughout Maryland to dairy farms, chicken farms, sheep and goat farms, and fruit and vegetable farms.

The farm extension workers also had the opportunity to compare the Turkish extension system with the U.S. system.

On the final day of training all the participants presented their plans to the trainers at the University of Maryland.

Georgetown Professor Instructs English Teachers in Turkey

On December 18, 2006, Dr. Bennett Lindauer, an instructor of English as a Foreign Language at Georgetown University, volunteered with HasNa to travel to Şanlıurfa, Turkey to teach twenty-five English teachers new teaching methods and improve their classroom skills.

"I liked listening to a native speaker who is full of knowledge and experience with teaching a foreign language," said Ayşen Akartuna, a

secondary school teacher. The training lasted five days. Professor Lindauer also observed English classes at two schools in Şanlıurfa.

"I felt at home in Şanlıurfa. And a lot of this feeling had to do with HasNa, the teachers, the students I met, and the people who put this together. What an experience!" said Professor Lindauer.



Bennett Lindauer stands among the English Teachers in Şanlıurfa.

Plums Introduced as an Alternative Crop in the GAP Region



Workers plant plum saplings in the Bozova area.

HasNa gives grants to its graduates so that they can use the skills they learned in their training to help their communities. In 2006, HasNa awarded a small grant to one of its graduates. Mr. Servet Abrak, the recipient, planted plum saplings in the Bozova area near the village of Kaçarsaluca. Mr. Abrak is a member of the Water Users Association. He wanted to show how planting plums could be an alternative to planting crops such as cotton, cereals and legumes. Fifteen farmers have access to the demonstration area, where they can learn about the crop. Mr. Abrak is currently working

on a brochure to help spread the word.

“It is certain that fruits get higher revenue than traditional crops such as cereals,” said Mr. Abrak.



HasNa Affiliated with Global Peace Index

The Economist Intelligence Unit recently launched the Global Peace Index, the first study attempting to rank countries based upon their overall peacefulness. Researchers who compiled the index conducted analysis by using twenty-four indicators to establish levels of peace for 121 countries.

Norway came out as the world’s most peaceful country, and Iraq came out as the least peaceful. The United States was ranked 96th, and Turkey and Cyprus came in at 92nd and 51st, respectively.

HasNa is proud to be affiliated with the Global Peace Index, and we hope that it will initiate worldwide discussions about peace and aid in our mission to reduce conflict in divided communities. Read more at www.visionofhumanity.com.

Leader Farmer Training Program

From September 15th to 28th, in collaboration with the University of Maryland, HasNa trained seven farmers and three Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) officials from southeastern Turkey in conflict resolution, water management, sustainable agriculture, and farmer outreach skills. For two weeks the participants visited about three farms each day where they learned about production practices and marketing. The goals of the program are for the farmers to change or improve their farm production and serve as an example to other farmers in the region.

HasNa's Summer Interns

Daniel Schwarz is a senior at the University of Florida, majoring in economics and political science. Daniel interned at HasNa this summer, and researched funding opportunities and worked on proposals and the newsletter.

Phillip Basciano is a junior at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he studies international relations and marketing. This summer, Phillip worked on a marketing strategy to commemorate HasNa's upcoming ten-year anniversary.

HasNa's Upcoming Programs

Cyprus Volunteer Network Project

The Management Centre of the Mediterranean, HasNa's partner organization in northern Cyprus has received a grant from the United Nations Development Programme to create an extensive local and international Volunteer Network Project. HasNa is augmenting the project by training its leaders in conflict resolution and volunteerism.

Micro-enterprise Management Training Program

HasNa will conduct micro-enterprise management training for a group of low-income women from diverse backgrounds on October 30th and 31st in Mardin, Turkey. The training program will help the participants develop skills in understanding basic business concepts and managing a micro business. The objectives of the program are to raise the economic and social status of the low income women and provide training in conflict resolution for an ethnically diverse region.

Volunteers!



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Thoughts from the Chair



If you would like to reach out to people in divided lands and do something personally to make the world a better place, then HasNa may be for you.

Efforts are being made to impart fear and to divide different peoples and cultures globally. There is an ever-increasing divide between rich and poor. The U.S. government and many of its policies are held in lower esteem around the world than at any time in memory.

Many people are avoiding such concerns, yet continue to enjoy the benefits of and depend upon a more economically integrated world. But, many others are trying to figure out what they can do to create a better world with a brighter, more equitable, and less divided future. If you are among the latter, HasNa can allow you to be personally and directly involved with divided and disadvantaged peoples in distant lands.

HasNa has been successful over the past ten years in building credibility and strong links to members of local communities. You can get involved by financially supporting HasNa, or by personally volunteering in its activities. If you are interested in making a difference in the world, I urge you to consider the opportunity HasNa provides.

Warren Muir, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors

Volunteer Spotlight



The following interview with dedicated HasNa volunteer Suzanne Stack was conducted by HasNa's Summer Programs Intern, Daniel Schwarz.

1. What have you volunteered to do for HasNa's past programs?

I've been active in HasNa since its inception. Over the years, I have invited many participants to my home for tea or a home-cooked meal, contributed food for opening breakfasts and farewell parties at Nevzer's home, and prepared welcome baskets. I've conducted tours of DC, shopping and dining trips, and driven participants around town.

2. You have donated countless hours to HasNa. Why do you feel that HasNa's work is beneficial?

HasNa offers a profoundly rational approach to fostering peace and understanding. Each participant in a HasNa training program is exposed to a unique mix of activities that I believe offers a chance to break down barriers and foster peace.

I also benefit from HasNa. It's not a one way street. HasNa offers me a chance to pay back some of the kindness that I was shown when overseas as a child.

3. How do you keep in touch with HasNa's graduates?

I have e-mailed and written several participants, plus I've seen them when I traveled to Turkey. We met with Gonca Karaca Bilgen, the first woman to be in a HasNa training program, and with Bülent Gulçubuk, a professor in Ankara who does evaluations for HasNa. I met with Mehmet Arzu, Metin Kanatlı, Muhittin Meral, and Emine and Hüseyin Demir. I also met up with Adil Nas, deputy governor of the Niğde province, and Ali Ciftçi, a large landowner. It was wonderful seeing the participants again. It makes my travel to Turkey very special.

Join Us! Become a HasNa volunteer and help us to promote peace. Send your contact information to deniz@hasna.org or call HasNa at (202) 478-1034.