

Agency for Cultural Affairs FY2023 Emergency International Contribution Project for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (Expert Exchange)

"International Contribution Project for the Reconstruction of Historical Urban Areas in the Republic of Turkey"

[Purpose of the Project]

On Monday, February 6, 2023, an earthquake struck southeastern Turkey, causing extensive damage to the region and its surroundings. In response to a request from Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey—an institution with which Mukogawa Women's University has a general exchange agreement—three faculty members specializing in architectural structures and architectural design from Mukogawa Women's University, along with two officials from Kobe City experienced in architectural guidance and crisis management following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, were dispatched to Turkey from Wednesday, April 12 to Thursday, April 20. The purpose of their dispatch was to conduct on-site surveys from the perspective of architecture to contribute to the reconstruction of the affected areas.

During the April 2023 survey, it was confirmed that in Antakya, a historic city once the capital of the Seleucid Empire's Syria, many mosques and churches, designated as cultural heritage sites, had collapsed, and the historic urban landscape of the old city of Antakya was in a state of devastation. As Antakya progresses toward recovery, there is concern that economic priorities might drive the construction of new buildings, thereby neglecting the city's unique historical and cultural identity. Therefore, the aim of this project is to respond to an urgent request from Bahçeşehir University—connected to the Hatay Metropolitan Municipality, where Antakya is located—to take emergency measures from an architectural perspective toward the reconstruction of the old city of Antakya.

[Details of the Project]

(1) Literature and Document Research on the Historical and Cultural Characteristics of the Old City of Antakya

We will collect and analyze documents and literature related to the urban landscape of the old city of Antakya, organizing and understanding its multilayered historical and cultural features.

(2) On-Site Survey of the Disaster-Stricken Areas in the Old City of Antakya

We will survey historical structures in the old city of Antakya, including mosques such as the Habib-i Neccar Mosque. The survey will not only focus on individual historical buildings but also examine the current conditions of the streetscape and urban structure of the old city. Professor Murat Dündar, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design at Bahçeşehir University, will accompany the on-site investigations.

(3) Invitation of a Turkish Expert to Japan and Hosting of a Public Seminar

We will invite Professor Murat Dündar, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design at Bahçeşehir University, to Japan to hold a public seminar at Mukogawa Women's University as part of an expert exchange. The seminar will share information on the damages in the old city of

Antakya with Japanese experts and facilitate discussions on how best to reconstruct the old city of Antakya.

(4) Preparation of a Report

Based on the activities outlined in (1)–(3), we will prepare a position paper serving as a foundation for reconstruction proposals for the old city of Antakya.

(<https://its.mukogawa-u.ac.jp/620/>)



Wall surface of a house that once had a courtyard — a typical example of a residence in Antakya.