

ITC CONFERENCE GRANT SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the grantee to the MC Chair.

Action number: CA16202

Conference title: 9th International Workshop on Sand / Dust storm and Associated Dustfall

Conference start and end date: 22/05/2018 to 24/05/2018

Conference attendance start and end date: 22/05/2018 to 24/05/2018

Grantee name: AYSE GOKCEN ISIK

ACTIVITIES DURING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS CONFERENCE:

The workshop including 12 sessions and 3 poster sessions was held with participation of 170 scientists from 37 countries. Sessions covered following topics: including dust sources, dust transport, dust effects and dust-climate interactions. The workshop was a great opportunity for future cooperation by meeting many experts in the field. Total 4 people with one oral presentation and two poster presentations from Turkey participated in the workshop.

After the opening ceremony, the workshop started with a plenary lecture of Paul Ginoux about dust-climate interaction. At the first session, I had a chance to listen to Joseph M. Prospero who pioneered in the study of mineral aerosol transport. He had a remarkable presentation on characterizing the transport of African mineral dust to South America and the Amazon Basin. Later, I listened to Kerstin Schepanski who had helped me to understand dust-climate interactions with her research when I first started to research on dust impacts.

Our presentation with the title “Analysis of Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) Between the Years 2003 and 2016 in the Middle East” was presented by me at the third day of the workshop at the session whose chair is Saviz Sehatkashani, Atmospheric Science and Meteorological Research Center (ASMERC), Tehran, Iran. After my presentation, I received 2 questions and during coffee break, we had a fruitful discussion with a few colleagues.

The presentations were selected conscientiously and covering interesting topics for me. I tried to listen to many of them and during the coffee breaks, I met with many experts. In my opinion, we had a limited time to have a look at the posters due to the delays in oral presentation. Organization committee was hospitable and did a great job. Workshop venue was selected well, it had such a great atmosphere and location. I did not attend conference dinner at Hotel Laguna Nivaria.

During the workshop, I talked with Enric TERRADELLAS from the Spanish Meteorological Agency (AEMET) Sergio RODRIGUEZ, from the Supercomputer Center in Barcelona. Carlos PEREZ, Sara BASART and Jose PRIETO from EUMETSAT about the models, observation network and future events.

At the end, the workshop was ended with a good closure. I attended Izana Observatory trip on 25th of May.

IMPACT ON YOUR RESEARCH AND FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

(max.500 words)

Our research was presented at an international event which makes it reachable for a crowded audience. Middle East is one of the important regions for dust transport. Moreover, it gets more attention nowadays, and the trend analysis of the region is beneficial to understand the condition. Involving in this COST-Action was a great chance to meet with experts of dust modeling, and helped to construct new connections with other related organizations and experts.

Presentations were very inspiring, they cover many interesting topics which will help me shape my future research. The ones with modeling studies (especially WRF-Chem), analysis of observation data will give some insight. I talked with the experts using WRF-Chem and i might get some technical support from them in the future.

Another expert which I wanted to meet was Slobodan Nickovic from Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia (RHMS). I knew him from his previous collaborations with Turkish State Meteorological Service. Finally, we talked face to face during the workshop.

In order to monitor the desert dust originating from the Middle East and Africa, Turkey has plans of new dust observation systems (Sunphotometer) to be installed in 2-3 locations in the future. More information about the devices was obtained from Cesar Lopez, Sieltec Canaryes Company.

Trip to Izana Observatory, the largest solar observatory in the world, was so great that we could see many devices and get information about them.

I would like to thank the Management Committee of the COST Action for awarding me. If I had not been selected, probably I would not have a chance to present my research and meet with excellent experts. I also met with ITC Grant Conference Coordinator, Dr Pavla Dagsson-Waldhauserova who helped me a lot during the application process. I asked my questions related to future grants. Overall, the workshop helped me build new connections with many great experts.

Main objective of COST Action CA16202 is to encourage the use of monitoring and forecasting dust products. Topics covered at the workshop were in accordance with this objective. Participation of the workshop helped me gain more knowledge on dust models and observation systems, products i can use in the future for my research. The workshop maintained the platform to establish a network involving research institutions, service providers and potential end users like me. Especially, we have social obstacles faced with many individuals from different groups. The workshop was a great organization to beat these obstacles and served well to the COST

objectives. The presence of high concentrations of airborne mineral dust used to look like a local or regional issue to me. On the contrary to my past opinion, we could examine all the issues related to dust at global scale and possible future coordination was being discussed during the workshop.

