Training Book for the Turkish Scientific Polar Expeditions

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Information Paper submitted by Turkey

Summary

This paper presents information on the book prepared to be used during the training of the participants for the Turkish scientific polar expeditions, namely “the National Polar Science Expeditions Training Book”.

Background

The studies of Turkish scientists on Antarctica date back to the 1960s. These studies were generally carried out with individual initiatives until 2017. The national polar research gained a different dimension in 2017 with the Republic of Turkey Presidential auspices and the first National Polar Scientific Expedition was organized in the same year. From 2017, until the first quarter of 2021, when this book was published, six National Polar Scientific Expeditions were organized, cooperation was made with more than 80 institutions and organizations, and more than 90 researchers participated in the expeditions.

During the preparation processes of the expeditions, coordination and training meetings are held with all researchers and participants within the scope of the National Polar Scientific Expeditions. The topics of these trainings include general information on polar regions, environmental protocol, health precautions, first-aid, fire-fighting, life on board, communication via VHF radio, etc. The main goal of these trainings is to inform researchers on polar regions and create awareness of unforeseen situations during the expeditions. These trainings involve both theoretical explanations and practical applications. In the theoretical part, the operation of the expeditions and related activities are explained, and the participants are provided with knowledge about the region to be visited. In the practical part, the trainings are generally carried out onboard a vessel, where infrastructures of governmental institutions such as the Turkish Coast Guard or the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) have been used. Using the relevant infrastructure and equipment during the training, it is aimed for the participants to gain experience on the environment to be faced, as well as how to take action in emergencies. In addition, during these trainings, the health and mental conditions of researchers are monitored by psychologists and medical doctors experienced in extreme sports, outdoor and diving topics.

The Training Book

In line with these trainings, the National Polar Science Expeditions Training Book was prepared in 2021 to provide supplementary educational material for both educators and expedition participants. The book, which aims to ensure the safety and security of the participants in the National Polar Science Expeditions, was prepared by TUBITAK, Marmara Research Center (MAM), Polar Research Institute (PRI) with the support of 10 authors. The titles of the sections in the book are as follows:

* Related Legislation
* Science
* Environment
* Emergency & First Aid
* Survival in Nature
* Fire-fighting
* Life and Safety on Board
* Mental Health

Conclusion

The National Polar Science Expeditions Training Book contains information that can be used not only in the polar regions but also in daily life and can be applied during emergencies. The book will be effectively utilized during the expedition trainings, and a summarized booklet version of the book will be prepared for the participants as well, to benefit and practice throughout the expedition.