

WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear participants and colleagues,

On behalf of our organizing committee, I would like to welcome you to the 6th Conference on Aromatic and Medicinal Plants of Southeast European Countries (6th CMAPSEEC) held in Antalya, Turkey on April 18th-22nd, 2010. The conference is organized on behalf of the Association for Aromatic and Medicinal Plants of Southeast European Countries (AMAPSEEC) and it will be the 6th series of the AMAPSEEC congresses, which are held every two years. On this occasion, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the president and all members of AMAPSEEC for giving us this honorable opportunity to organize 6th CMAPSEEC in Turkey.



AMAPSEEC started to organize the congress series titled as CMAPSEEC in 1998 in Belgrade (FR of Yugoslavia) under the idea of bringing scientists together from the region working on the scope of medicinal and aromatic plants. After five previous conferences of AMAPSEEC organized in various Southeast European countries including FR of Yugoslavia, Greece, Slovak Republic, Romania, and Czech Republic, now, it is our pleasure to organize this special international conference (6th CMAPSEEC) in Antalya, Turkey in 2010. Although title of the conference emphasizes "Aromatic and Medicinal Plants of Southeast European Countries", the conference will be a real medium for scientists and academicians from all over the world working on the same field. Therefore, 6th CMAPSEEC will constitute a global platform open to all researchers of any nationality, who would like to present their relevant studies as well as to establish new collaborations between participants of the Southeast European countries and rest of the world.

In this sense, Turkey is a bridge country between Europe and Asia, located on both of these continents. Besides, our country has a great biodiversity possessing approximately 12.000 plant species, 30% of which is endemic as well as an interesting fauna depending on the three different seas surrounding Turkey; The Black Sea, The Aegean Sea, and The Mediterranean Sea. Antalya, the conference location, is the largest city and year round holiday resort on the Turkish coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Antalya is also one of those unique places in the world where it is possible in the same day, to ski on snow in the morning and sunbathe on the beach in the afternoon and many historical sites remained from the Romans' periods. The city is also called "Turkish Riviera" because of its archeological richness and natural beauty of the area.

The conference will cover the 10 plenary lectures, 3 special lectures, 59 oral presentations, and 423 poster presentations on the topics of all aspects of medicinal and aromatic plants including cultivation, processing, and conservation of medicinal plants, bioactivity of natural products, natural product chemistry, ethnobotany and ethnomedicine, analysis and activity of essential oils, and plant biotechnology. The conference venue is the Convention Center of Hotel Kervansaray-Lara in Antalya. Up to date, over 400 participants from 50 countries have registered and we hope that AMAPSEEC will gain many new members through this occasion. We would like to remind you that the 6th CMAPSEEC will also be a special atmosphere to celebrate 10th anniversary of foundation of AMAPSEEC.

As a final word, we (as the organizing and social committees) look forward to welcoming and hosting all of you in Antalya, Turkey on the occasion of 6th CMAPSEEC on April 18th-22nd, 2010.

Many thanks to all participants for their great interest in the 6th CMAPSEEC and we wish you a pleasant stay and have good memories in Antalya.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ilkay Erdogan-Orhan".

**Prof.Dr. Ilkay Erdogan-Orhan
(Chairperson of the 6th CMAPSEEC)**