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## Students enhance knowledge on Civil Engineering on Turkey trip

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DUBAI: Students from the Amity Civil Society (ACS) of Amity University Dubai (AUD) and two faculty members have returned from an educational tour of Turkey.

Lecturer of the Amity Civil – Architecture Department Vidya P Mohanan said that the trip was made successful and eventful in the best manner with the cooperation of Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Turkey.

The students visited the Civil Engineering Department of ITU headed by Dean Prof Dr Unal Aldemir and Vice Dean Prof Dr Serder Bilgi, who briefed about the university's history. "The research laboratories of ITU had machines to create an artificial environment of earthquakes on building models and to test the effect of quakes on them," she said.

Students from Dubai also attended workshop in the largest hydraulics lab in the Middle East, soil mechanics lab and the material science lab. "It helped them to enhance their knowledge on various aspects of Civil Engineering and it also paved way for them to know about the challenges that are being faced in the current world," Vidya added.

The students had immense support from the ITU faculty members as well as students from ITU. The Vice Dean of the Civil Engineering Department, Serdar Bilgi, accompanied the students throughout the visits at the university. Graduating students Serra Kuday and Yesim Duman from ITU led the students on a campus tour which gave the students a wide view of the campus, she noted.

Organised through the AUD, Civil engineering department's Student Multicultural Learning Programme, the trip provided students with educational, social and cultural experiences.

The students visited several historical locations including the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace. They studied how the each structure was different from that of another and tried to understand the basic model and techniques used in construction of building in Istanbul. The students also visited the grand bazaar which is a famous hub for selling of handmade clothes, carpets, crafts etc, she said.

During the five-day stay in Istanbul, the students also had the opportunity to visit and learn the history of the city.

"We are currently working on creating more multicultural learning opportunities for our students' development," said Dr Narayanan Ramachandran, Pro-Vice Chancellor. The programme has gained popularity among the student body and many students have shown interests in taking part in its future cultural tours," he added.

Commenting on the visit, graduating civil engineering student, Obaid Inayatullah said, "This trip has been one of the best experiences I have ever had. Not only was Turkey magnificent with its rich history and thoughtful people, but those participating in the trip have been some of the greatest people I have ever met. I believe this trip paved a great ending as I graduate from AUD."