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**PRESS RELEASE**

**ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) supports to improve the disaster resilience of critical public facilities in Istanbul**

ECO Trade & Development Bank (ETDB) has allocated EUR 40 Mln project finance loan for the financing of Istanbul Seismic Risk Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness Project (ISMEP) to improve the disaster resilience of critical public facilities and to enhance emergency preparedness of the City of Istanbul.

Given the critical importance of Istanbul, the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul prepared the “Earthquake Master Plan” for Istanbul which is a comprehensive strategic instrument addressing seismic risks and proposing mitigating measures. The plan outlines the necessary steps in order to mitigate the risks associated with earthquake. It calls for safer construction through use of earthquake resistant technology, employment of good construction materials and using competitive manpower for the design, construction and supervision of buildings.

Within the framework of the above plan, Istanbul Seismic Risk Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness (ISMEP) Project had been prepared by the Turkish Government with the assistance of the World Bank and became effective in 2006 by the establishment of Istanbul Project Coordination Unit (IPCU) under Istanbul Governorship. ISMEP Project aims at improving the city of Istanbul’s preparedness for a possible earthquake, through enhancing the institutional and technical capacity for disaster management and emergency response, strengthening critical public facilities for earthquake resistance, and supporting measures for better enforcement of building codes.

The main components of the ISMEP project are;

- A. Enhancing Emergency Preparedness
- B. Seismic Risk Mitigation for Public Facilities
- C. Enforcement of Building Codes and
- D. Project Management.

Given the vast need in strengthening /retrofitting critical public buildings, ETDB approved and started the disbursements of EUR 40 Mln project finance loan for the reconstruction of public schools in Istanbul which will also function as emergency shelters in case of a calamity.