



Research potential of doctoral studies on environmental sciences and engineering

Asli Seyhan Ciggin^a, Ilke Pala^a, Tugce Katipoglu^a, Ebru Dulekgurgen^b,
Sureyya Meric^c, Derin Orhon^{d,*}

^aFaculty of Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering Department, Istanbul Technical University, 34469 Maslak, Istanbul, Turkey

^bFaculty of Engineering, Environmental Engineering Department, Pamukkale University, Kinikli 20070, Denizli, Turkey

^cDepartment of Civil Engineering, University of Salerno, 84084 Fisciano (SA), Italy

^dTurkish Academy of Sciences, Piyade Sokak No. 27, 06550, Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey
Tel. +90 212 285 3793; email: orhon@itu.edu.tr

Received 22 December 2009; Accepted 22 March 2010

ABSTRACT

The paper evaluates the scientific merit of doctoral studies on environmental sciences and technology, involving completed doctoral studies in Turkey between 2000–2007, as a case study. The investigation revealed 446 scientific papers derived from 170 completed doctoral studies. This level represented 22% of the total number of publications at departments with graduate programs in this field. 42 of the completed studies (25%) did not produce published papers other than the compulsory doctoral thesis. These publications received 2766 citations, corresponding to 6.2 citations per publication; 65 of 170 doctoral studies completed (38%) had no record of any citation, indicating that aside from 42 doctoral theses which did not produce any publications, results of 22 doctoral studies were published but received no citations. Impact factors of selected journals for publication varied within a wide range of 0.429 to 3.894 with an average value of 1.65, based on 2007 impact factor records.

Keywords: Doctoral studies; Scientific publications; Citations; Impact factor; Graduate education; Environmental sciences and engineering

*Corresponding author.