

Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia	BULLETIN № 3 (82)	October 2019
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BISHKEK DECLARATION OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION'S HEADS OF STATE COUNCIL

(extract)

The leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Member States (hereinafter the SCO or the Organisation), following the meeting of the SCO Heads of State Council in Bishkek on 14 June 2019, declare the following.

[...]

The Member States will continue to promote cooperation in agriculture focusing on the effective implementation of the SCO Programme of Cooperation in Food Security (Dushanbe, 12 October 2018). In this respect the Member States believe it necessary to develop a package of measures that will upgrade cooperation in food security including, above all, the development of a corresponding legal framework, information and analytical work in this sphere, cooperation in training experts and establishing cooperation with interested states and international organisations. Further agreement and adoption of the Programme Implementation Plan will become an important practical step in this area.

[...]

The Member States consider the sustainable development and effective management of water resources to be an important and urgent task, one of particular importance for the preservation of the natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity, and for the achievement of the social Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, they welcome the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution 73/226 of 20 December 2018 Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development," 2018-2028, aimed at facilitating coordination and increasing the effectiveness of measures and steps taken towards this end.

They expressed concern about the widespread consequences of the ongoing desiccation of the Aral Sea and noted the importance of advancing interaction with the UN, and the countries and institutions interested in solving this problem.

[...]

The Member States, in view of the importance of preserving environmental balance in the SCO space and restoring biodiversity for future generations, ensuring favourable conditions for the wellbeing of the people and for sustainable development, welcome the signing of the Action Plan on implementing the Concept of Cooperation in Environmental Protection for 2019-2021.

The Member States welcome the agreements reached at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Katowice on the guiding principles for the practical realisation of the Paris Agreement. They confirm their commitment to fighting climate change.

[...]

DECLARATION OF THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA: SHARED VISION FOR A SECURE AND MORE PROSPEROUS CICA REGION

(extract)

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

Having met in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on the invitation of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon on 15 June 2019 for the Fifth CICA Summit to address the existing, new and emerging issues of collective concern to the Member States, with a view to generating the necessary responses and initiatives thereof;

Highly appreciating the personal role of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Leader of the Nation Nursultan Nazarbayev, as the Founder of CICA, and expressing our deep appreciation for his significant contribution to the development of CICA and welcoming further active participation of H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev in the elaboration of CICA prospects and common efforts for peace, security, and interaction in Asia;

Reaffirming our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized norms and principles of international law, upholding the objectives and principles of CICA enshrined in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States of 14 September 1999 and the Almaty Act of 4 June 2002;

Emphasizing the importance of common, comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable, indivisible and equal security based on the common understanding that has been reached so far and recognizing the need for developing dialogue on a regional security architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive, evolutionary and based on universally recognized principles of international law, that creates environment, where all States co-exist peacefully and their peoples live in conditions of peace, freedom and prosperity;

Mindful of the existence of mutual interests and common problems among the Member States and convinced of the need to further strengthen the existing cooperation;

Conscious of the fact that the world community continues to face numerous traditional and non-traditional challenges and threats;

Maintaining that the Member States should uphold solidarity and make further efforts towards enhanced peace and stability in Asia and the world, taking into account richness in the cultural diversity, on the basis of dialogue and cooperation under CICA framework and shared responsibilities in international and regional affairs;

Recognizing that international cooperation is the most important and efficient instrument in addressing the issues faced by the global community;

Underscoring the need to strengthen cooperation between regional and international organizations and forums in Asia and beyond by encouraging establishment and promotion of cooperation ties between CICA and other regional and international organizations and forums on issues of mutual interest;

Deciding to further strengthen the CICA process and continue implementing confidence building measures; and build a harmonious region with enduring peace and prosperity through comprehensive and in-depth dialogue and cooperation;

Declare the following:

[...]

24. We believe that promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and prosperity, as well as elimination of poverty and illiteracy, are among the most effective measures to remove the breeding ground of terrorism and extremism. We stress the need to further conduct regional and sub-regional dialogue, strengthen multilateral cooperation and adopt appropriate measures to promote sustainable development, economic cooperation and well-being of our people. We call for greater market access, non-discrimination in trade, increase of domestic and international funding for agriculture, improving market of the agricultural products for direct access of agricultural manufacturers and rural development; promotion of sustainable agricultural production; and work towards enhanced food security for all, especially in Asia.

[...]

26. We acknowledge that energy security, including supply and demand, has impact on sustainable development at national, regional and global levels and well-being of people in all countries. We commend contributions of the Member States to ensure energy security. We recognise high potentials of various energy resources in the CICA region, including renewable and clean energy sources. Taking into account the interdependence of bilateral and multilateral commitments in relevant areas, we strongly encourage cooperation in development and deployment of low emission technologies and renewable

energy technology, sharing expertise and technologies, especially by developed countries to developing countries.

27. We acknowledge the importance of global partnership in mobilizing financial resources and investment with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

28. Increased deployment and use of advanced low emission technologies for fossil fuels, renewable energy and increased energy efficiency are crucial in addressing climate change and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7. Member States are encouraged to participate in different cooperative platforms and mechanisms and undertake concerted efforts to reduce the costs of finance and technology and to mobilize capital for increased deployment of modern energy technologies.

[...]

30. We confirm readiness for joint cooperation for ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all to achieve the water related Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

31. We, recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, welcome the efforts aimed at the implementation of the International Decade for Action: “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018–2028, which provides a timely platform for dialogue and exchange of information, good practices and expertise, as well as an important instrument to facilitate achieving the water-related sustainable development goals and targets.

TAJIKISTAN LAUNCHES SECOND UNIT OF THE ROGUN HYDROPOWER PLANT

Avesta reports that the President of Tajikistan launched the second unit of the Roghun hydropower station on the 9th of September - the 28th anniversary of the State Independence of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The commissioning ceremony of the second unit was attended by the country's leadership, members of the government and the Parliament of Tajikistan, as well as constructors of the Roghun.

On 16 November 2018, the first unit of the Roghun HPP was officially launched.

According to the national Ministry of Finance, 2.1 billion Somoni (US \$ 222.6 million) were allocated from the state budget for the HPP construction this year. 4.7 billion Somoni (US \$ 498.4 million) were additionally allocated for the construction, of which 3.4 billion Somoni were provided from the state budget and the rest – by selling Eurobonds.

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN EMOMALI RAHMON AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE SECOND UNIT OF ROGHUN HPP¹

Distinguished Compatriots!

Dear Constructors of the Roghun Hydropower Plant!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am honored and thrilled to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on the occasion of our national grand holiday – the 28th anniversary of the State Independence of the Republic of Tajikistan and launch of the second unit of Roghun HPP as the life-changing facility for our nation.

The Roghun HPP is the creation, i.e. offspring of our beloved Motherland's independence and freedom, and commissioning its second unit on the day of celebration of this national grand holiday is the most precious present

¹ <https://www.vfarhang.tj/index.php/en/prezidenten/speeches/3016-speech-by-the-president-of-the-republic-of-tajikistan-emomali-rahmon-at-the-launching-ceremony-of-the-second-hydro-unit-of-roghun-hpp>

to the noble people of Tajikistan

We launched the first unit of this palace of light recently on November 16 of the last year, and this facility has already generated 570 million kWh of power by far and dispatched it to our country's energy grid.

Today, every resident of Tajikistan witnessed another festal occasion – launch of the second unit of this source of light, which we ensured thanks to the strong will, strength and hard work of you – dedicated specialists and constructors.

I would like to offer to all of you the sincere gratitude of the Government and the people of Tajikistan, and once again highlight that each of you – patriotic children of our Motherland, highly qualified specialists and constructors and esteemed partners – will go down in the new history of Tajikistan as one of the greatest.

I would also like to offer the gratitude of the Tajik Government and people to heads and specialists of all foreign companies for their good cooperation and close collaboration with engineers and workers from Tajikistan.

The State and the Government of our country attach a high priority to the construction of Roghun Hydropower Plant.

I would like to emphasize that through present one of the important facilities of the plant – its third spillway tunnel with radial repair, emergency and main gates was constructed, which was one of the main recommendations of the international experts to ensure safe operation of the plant during the potential water-abundant seasons and right now we witnessed its commissioning.

This tunnel with 15 meters of diameter and 1.8 km of length has capacity of 3,500 m³ of water per second and its cost amounted to 2.8 billion Somoni.

Alongside other tunnels, this is the first one constructed during the independence period.

I have to emphasize that we attach a priority importance to financing of the Roghun HPP.

The heads of the plant, contractors and other companies affiliated with the construction of this facility are obliged to ensure targeted and effective spending of allocated resources and avoid squandering.

I would like to highlight once again that this vitally important facility is constructed in line with international safety standards with the use of the latest technologies, and in the nearest future it will not only illuminate the houses of residents of Tajikistan but also will serve the countries of the region.

It is worth mentioning that the construction of the Roghun HPP entered into its very crucial phase and large-scale activities need to be undertaken. It is

important to make efforts every day and undertake many measures to implement these activities.

Therefore, the Tajik Government needs to channel its efforts to sustainable and planned implementation of the Roghun HPP project.

Along with this, everybody starting from managers to regular workers of the companies involved in construction of the plant should fully understand their responsibility to expedite and expand activities on construction of this facility of the century.

Ensuring energy security is among the strategic objectives of the Government and it will mobilize all resources and capacity it has to achieve this objective. Implementation of a series of important projects on energy confirms this statement and they will promote improvement of public living standards.

12 public investment projects with the total amount of 16 billion Somoni aimed at developing the energy sector and supported by the Government of Tajikistan are under implementation at present and 7.6 billion Somoni has been absorbed within these projects so far.

In addition to this, recently we signed a number of agreements with development partners to reconstruct existing assets of Nurek, Kayrakkum and Sarband.

In other words, alongside the creation of new energy facilities, we have been implementing reconstruction and rehabilitation of existing power plants in an expedited manner.

The resources allocated for implementation of the project “Kayrakkum Hydropower Plant Reconstruction” with the view of adaptation to climate change amount to TJS 200m, and the cost of the first phase of rehabilitation of Norak Hydropower Plant is USD 350m and Sarband Hydropower Plant is more than US \$ 136 million, which in total amount to TJS 7.2bn.

Construction and reconstruction of hydropower plants, heat and power plants, creation of electricity transmission lines and substations, as well as reform of the energy sector during the recent years made it possible to improvement the public energy supply and operation of energy infrastructure significantly, increase export of power to neighboring countries in summer.

It is also worth mentioning that development of the energy sector is the key for sustainable economic growth of Tajikistan and particularly for achievement of our fourth national objective – expedited industrialization of the country.

During Tajikistan’s independence, the energy infrastructure went through radical changes and the implementation of a number of investment projects

provided an opportunity to create unified energy grid in the country and ensure adequate supply of economic areas of the national economy and the population through local generation.

In this period, with the construction of Sangtuda-1 and Sangtuda-2 hydropower plants, Dushanbe-2 Thermal Power Plant and launch of the first unit of Roghun HPP and a number of small HPPs, new assets with the capacity of 1,900MW became functional.

After construction of the electricity transmission lines of South-North, Roghun-Dushanbe, Lolazor-Khatlon, Geran-Rumi, Tajikistan-Afghanistan, Khujand-Ayni, Ayni-Rudaki, Kayrakkum-Asht, Kayrakkum – Soughd with the total length of more than 1,100 km, four 500 KW and ten 220 KW substations and other energy assets the operation of the unified energy grid improved significantly.

In these milestone moments, I would like to outline with a pride and inspiration that construction of the Roghun HPP – the life-changing facility was the dream of our population for many years and it became possible thanks to the strong will, thorough support and patriotic input of the noble people of Tajikistan.

I would like to state with a strong confidence that thanks to cohesive efforts of our optimistic people and courageous input of patriotically minded citizens we will implement all of our good desires and dreams and creative plans in the nearest future.

The day is not far off when free and sovereign Tajikistan will become a powerful and progressive nation and beloved Homeland of Tajiks will be turned into more safe and prosperous state.

Once again, my heartfelt congratulations to the glorious people of Tajikistan, our compatriots living overseas, and all of you, dedicated workers and creators of the Roghun HPP on the occasion of the Grand National Holiday – the 28th Anniversary of the State Independence and on another achievement – launch of the second unit of this largest hydropower plant. I wish you welfare, good luck and new achievements.

May the independence and sovereignty of the new Tajik State last forever!

Long live the brave constructors, engineers and specialists of the Roghun HPP!

Long live the proud Tajik people, patriotic people, people-creators, people-peacemakers, people-civilizers!

Roghun is a vital facility, space of strive and aspiration and object of dedicated deed of the glorious people of Tajikistan!

Roghun is a prosperous future of the Tajik people, glory and dignity of each person of Homeland and a guarantor of progressive image and reputation of free and sovereign state of the Tajiks.

May your path be bright and happy, my beloved Tajikistan!

I wish you to be always healthy and succeed in your good deeds, dear compatriots!

FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARAL SEA BASIN PROGRAM (ASBP-4)

Representatives of EC-IFAS, members of the Regional Working Group on Development of ASBP-4 from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, representatives of executive bodies of ICWC, as well as a consultant of the regional program “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia”, Central Asia Nexus Dialogue project participated in the event.

I. The meeting considered the officially submitted project proposals for ASBP-4 from each country, and following the discussions within the framework of the Regional Working Group, a list of regional project proposals for inclusion in the draft ASBP-4 was agreed upon:

For the first “Integrated use of water resources” area include:

1.1. Promotion of optimal operation regime of hydraulic facilities for conservation and restoration of aquatic ecosystems in the Syrdarya delta.

1.2. Modernization and reconstruction of existing hydraulic facilities designed for irrigation to ensure rational use of water resources in the Aral Sea basin.

(Note: including all projects proposed by countries on modernization and reconstruction).

1.3. Ensuring safety of dams and large hydraulic structures in Central Asia: development of capacity and regional cooperation.

(Note: exclude from the text of the project proposal issues related to the development and conclusion of an interstate agreement)

1.4. Assessment of an impact of reservoir siltation in Central Asia on efficiency of flow regulation and improvement of methods for research and forecasting of the siltation process.

1.5. Reclamation of irrigated land in the Amudarya and Syrdarya River basins.

(Note: the project includes proposals of the NEXUS project and country project proposals on this direction)

1.6. Automation of water control and monitoring systems in the Syrdarya River basin; development of national water information systems as a base for

further development of the regional information system.

1.7. Improvement of water accounting and monitoring systems in the Amudarya and Syrdarya River basins.

1.8. Modernization of pumping stations to lower water tables in the city of Kanibadam and B.Gafurov district as a result of an impact of the Bakhri Tochik reservoir.

1.9. Reconstruction and improvement of technical conditions of interstate irrigation and drainage infrastructure.

1.10. Rehabilitation and development of small local water bodies in the Amudarya delta.

1.11. Adoption of best practices for better crop irrigation scheduling.

1.12. Promotion of water-saving technologies and water reuse in sectors.

1.13. Capacity building and better equipping of regional and national water management organizations.

1.14. Water and education: building the solicitous attitudes towards water in the Central Asian countries.

For the second “Environmental” area, include:

2.1. Joint actions on climate change adaptation, including measures for adaptation of the most vulnerable sectors, such as irrigation and agriculture, drinking water, energy, biodiversity, forest, pasture and mountain ecosystems.

2.1.1. Development of a regional plan on climate change adaptation.

2.1.2. Dissemination of the best climate-smart agricultural practices.

2.2. Glaciological study and monitoring of glaciers in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan.

2.3. Regional Program for Biodiversity Protection in Central Asia

2.4. Ecosystem preservation and restoration in the Amudarya and Syrdarya River basins.

2.5. Systematic afforestation in Prearalie and the dried bed of the Aral Sea.

2.6. Integrated solid waste management.

2.7. Development of the environment and water monitoring system in Prearalie and the dried seabed.

2.8. Environmentally sustainable land management and rural livelihoods, including prevention of desertification, land degradation and salinization.

2.9. Development of ecological innovations and technologies in Preralie.

2.10. Improvement of river and lake water quality based on international standards, elimination and prevention of pollution, including industrial wastes.

2.11. Reduction of risks of floods, mudflows and droughts in the Aral Sea basin.

2.12. Development of transboundary eco-corridors and regional networks of protected areas for biodiversity conservation.

For the third “Socio-economic” area, include:

3.1. Ensuring access to drinking water and sanitation for the population in the Aral Sea basin;

3.2. Improvement of health care;

3.3. Improvement of irrigated land and pasture productivity;

3.4. Development of eco-tourism and touristic capacities;

3.5. Development of renewable energy and improvement of energy efficiency;

3.6. Development of agricultural production and agro-business.

For the fourth “Improvement of institutional and legal mechanisms” area, include:

4.1. Improvement of institutional and legal frameworks of IFAS

(Note: include the development of the mutually acceptable mechanism for water and energy cooperation into the list of tasks)

4.2. Improvement of water management institutions in the Central Asian states.

II. Propose EC-IFAS and the experts to finalize project proposals according to the agreed list in paragraph I of this Protocol and to send the finalized version to members of RWG by October 1, 2019 in due course;

III. Members of RWG are to submit their suggestions on country project proposals by 1 November 2019;

IV. Propose EC-IFAS to send the RWG members the country project proposals as soon as they are available;

V. Propose to hold the third meeting of RWG in the second ten-day of

November 2019 in Ashgabat.

FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON IMPROVEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF IFAS

The second meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Improvement of Institutional and Legal Framework of IFAS was held on July 31, 2019.

Representatives of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, members of the Regional Working Group from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, representatives of ICWC executive bodies, as well as a consultant of the regional program “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia”, Central Asia Nexus Dialogue project participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, proposals formally submitted by the countries on the improvement of institutional and legal framework of IFAS were presented, and as a result of discussions the following stages were agreed upon:

1. Preparation of country proposals on the improvement of institutional and legal framework of IFAS according to the below items.

1.1. Tasks of IFAS considering existing agreements, new realities, and demands of founder-states.

1.2. Identification of problems in performance of functions and tasks by structural divisions of IFAS.

1.3. Preparation of recommendations for improving institutional framework of IFAS.

1.4. Preparation of recommendations for improving financial support to the organizational management structure of IFAS.

1.5. Development of proposals to improve legal framework with the view to elaborate an efficient and sustainable institutional cooperation mechanism.

2. Propose EC-IFAS to submit a formal request to the RWG members to prepare country project proposals according to the list in Item 1 of given Final Document;

3. The RWG members are to submit country proposals to EC-IFAS until 1 November 2019.

4. Propose EC-IFAS to submit to RWG members the country proposals as soon as they are available;

5. Propose to hold the third meeting of RWG in the second ten-day of November 2019 in Ashgabat.

PARTICIPATION OF CENTRAL ASIAN DELEGATION IN THE 3RD WORLD IRRIGATION FORUM AND 70TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

The 3rd World Irrigation Forum (WIF3) and the 70th meeting of the International Executive Council of the International Committee on Irrigation and Drainage were hosted in Bali, Indonesia during 1-7 September 2019. The events were organized by ICID and the Indonesian National Committee of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (INACID) under the theme “Development for Water, Food and Nutrition Security in a Competitive Environment”.

The Uzbek delegation was headed by the Minister of Water Management of Uzbekistan Mr. Sh.Khamraev. The delegation was comprised of representatives of the GEF Agency of IFAS and the SIC ICWC of Central Asia, the National Water Resource Management project in Uzbekistan funded by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development.

Kyrgyz and Tajik delegations headed by the heads of national irrigation and water management agencies took part in the event as well.

Delegations and representatives of more than 50 countries, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions and development agencies, international and regional research institutes, as well as irrigation and water experts and scientists took part in the events. According to the Organizing Committee, 1,417 participants took part in the events, including 791 national representatives from Indonesia and 626 representatives of international organizations and National Committees on Irrigation and Drainage from the ICID member-states.

The events were organized in the form of plenary and parallel sessions, including 8 plenary sessions, 11 supporting events and 10 parallel sessions, as well as 29 meetings of various Working Groups and Permanent Committees of ICID.

In his welcome speech at the opening plenary session of the 70th meeting of the International Executive Council (IEC) on 4th of September, the Minister of Water Management of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Khamraev highlighted achievements of Uzbekistan, including in the water sector. He

especially underlined positive changes resulting from the reforms initiated by the President of Uzbekistan Mr. Mirziyoyev. He noted that following the new political course of the country, Uzbekistan has been actively promoting irrigation and drainage issues, implementing large-scale work to improve water use efficiency, intensifying water cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin.



The participants were informed about measures taken in Uzbekistan to develop water management infrastructure, improve water management and use, and reclaim irrigated land. It was noted that thanks to understanding of social significance of irrigation based on wise state policy in the water sector, Uzbekistan has managed not only to keep its irrigation potential in the years of independence but also to dynamically develop it. The Government actively promotes water-saving irrigation technologies; projects are implemented to rehabilitate and renovate irrigation systems and pumping stations. Those measures resulted in a decrease in annual water withdrawals from 64 to 52 billion m³ as compared to that in the 1980s.

The Minister also highlighted initiatives and decisive measures put forward by the President of Uzbekistan for the improvement of environmental, water, and socio-economic conditions in Prearalie (the Aral Sea region). Those are aimed at improving living standards and well-being of local population, conserving and developing biodiversity, and reducing negative impacts of the Aral crisis.

While noting the invaluable role of water as an irreplaceable natural resource, he stressed the need to combine efforts at the national, regional and

global levels for conservation and rational use of water resources, ensuring water and food security. It was also proposed to support an initiative of the President of Uzbekistan on declaring Prearalie as the zone of ecological innovations and technology.

Representatives of Uzbekistan actively participated in the meetings of ICID Working Groups and Permanent Committees (4-6 September 2019), such as:

1st meeting of the Working Group to define ICID's contribution to the 9th World Water Forum to be held in March 2021 in Senegal.

12th meeting of the Working Group on Water and Crops. It discussed the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 for measures at the on-farm level.

1st meeting of the Working Group on Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-Economic Transformation (it was co-chaired by Mr. Sh. Mukhamedjanov, SIC ICWC). It discussed the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 for these countries. The group includes participants from Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Russia, Nigeria, Sudan, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, and Japan.

26th meeting of the ICID Asian Regional Working Group. This session discussed the status of action in the Asian region and the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 for Asia. Representatives of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in this event from Central Asia.

4th meeting of the ICID Working Group on Environment. The meeting discussed the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 for this WG (environmental impacts of irrigation and drainage systems).

30th meeting of the ICID Permanent Committee on the Strategy and Organization. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 based on the analysis of the ICID Action Plan for 2017-2021.

4th meeting of the ICID Working Group on Water Saving in Irrigated Areas. This session discussed the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 on water saving.

39th meeting of the ICID Permanent Committee for Technical Activities. All members of the ICID International Executive Board attended the meeting. The agenda included 14 items, summing up the meetings of all ICID Working Groups and Committees over the past two days and the outcomes of all meetings.



Representatives of Uzbekistan provided detailed information on measures taken by the Uzbek Government not only in irrigation and drainage but also for the improvement of environmental and socio-economic conditions in Prearalie. Particularly, during the meeting of the Working Group on Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-Economic Transformation, Uzbekistan's contribution was presented with regard to resolution of the Aral Sea drying up problem and the social-economic development in Prearalie as part of initiatives of the Uzbek President voiced at the IFAS Summit in August 2018, the state programs on Karakalpakstan development , and the Uzbekistan's contribution to the IFAS programs (presentation by V.I.Sokolov, head of the GEF Agency of IFAS).

During other supporting events and parallel sessions, issues and problems related to irrigation and drainage, agricultural water use, development of irrigation infrastructure, climate change impact on water resources and agricultural production were addressed.

Particularly, it was noted that adequate funding is needed to maintain irrigation infrastructure in order to ensure reliable water supply and maximize returns of other agricultural inputs. In the context of the improvement of water efficiency and productivity, the importance of applying the nexus approach to balance water use for domestic, agricultural, energy, as well as for natural environment and aquatic ecosystems was stressed.



Experts and scientists once again recalled and called for more active measures to adapt water and agriculture to climate change. In this context, given the growing negative effects of climate change on water resources, especially those associated with increased droughts and reduced river runoff in arid zones, the need was underlined to apply water-saving irrigation technologies, improve technical conditions of canals and irrigation network in order to minimize water losses and improve water controllability.

For better water management and use, the participants focused on the importance of information and communication technologies, including geoinformation system (GIS), remote sensing, special software for water use planning and assessment of technical conditions of irrigation infrastructure, automated water control and monitoring systems, etc.

Birodor Burkhonjonov (Coordinator of component, National Water Resources Management Project in Uzbekistan funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) presented the TOMCHI mobile application developed by the project. The mobile application, designed as a virtual farmer field school, provides access to full information on locally applied water-saving technologies, relevant legislation and best practices; it also provides cost estimates for relevant projects; feedback mechanism and a platform linking users with local producers and service providers of affordable water-saving technologies.

During final plenary sessions, moderators of parallel sessions and Working Group leaders reported on outputs and informed participants on the main conclusions of group work.

As part of the Forum, the 2019 World Irrigation and Drainage Prize was presented to Prof. Chandra Madramootoo from the McGill University, Canada for his sustained, long standing and highly committed work in the irrigation and drainage sector through education, research, international project planning and implementation (the prize was in form of a cash award and a commemorative souvenir).

Plenary sessions of the 70th meeting of ICID's IEC also addressed organizational and technical issues related to the activities of ICID and National Committees, as well as elections for the leadership positions in ICID for 2019-2022, and, based on proposals from participating countries, experts were presented for various ICID technical committees.



Felix Reinders, ICID President nominated Mr. Khamraev, Minister of Water Management of Uzbekistan for the position of ICID Vice-President for

2019-2022. While nominating Mr. Khamraev, achievements of Uzbekistan in the development of irrigation and reclamation of irrigated land, large-scale work on promotion of water-saving technologies, as well as extensive practical experience and knowledge of Mr. Khamraev in the field of irrigation and drainage and transboundary water issues were taken into account.

Given the achievements and measures taken in Uzbekistan in irrigation and drainage, as well as inputs by Sh.R.Khamraev, delegates and representatives of NCIDs of members-states, as well as members of IEC unanimously approved Mr. Khamraev for the position of the ICID Vice-President for 2019-2022.

Prof. Dr. Hesham Mostafa Mohamed Ali (Egypt) and Dr. Mochammad Amron (Indonesia) were approved for the positions of Vice Presidents for the 2019-2022 term. ICID managing body includes 9 Vice-Presidents (three of whom rotate annually).

The President and Secretary-General of ICID congratulated Mr. Khamraev with the election and wished him successful work with ICID.

During the final plenary session of the ICID meeting, the President Felix Reinders said that proceeding from applications received from the ICID member states, it was decided to hold the 71st regular meeting of the International Executive Council in October 2020 in Sydney, Australia, as well as the 4th World Irrigation Forum and 73rd ICID meeting in 2022 in Beijing, China.

V.I. Sokolov

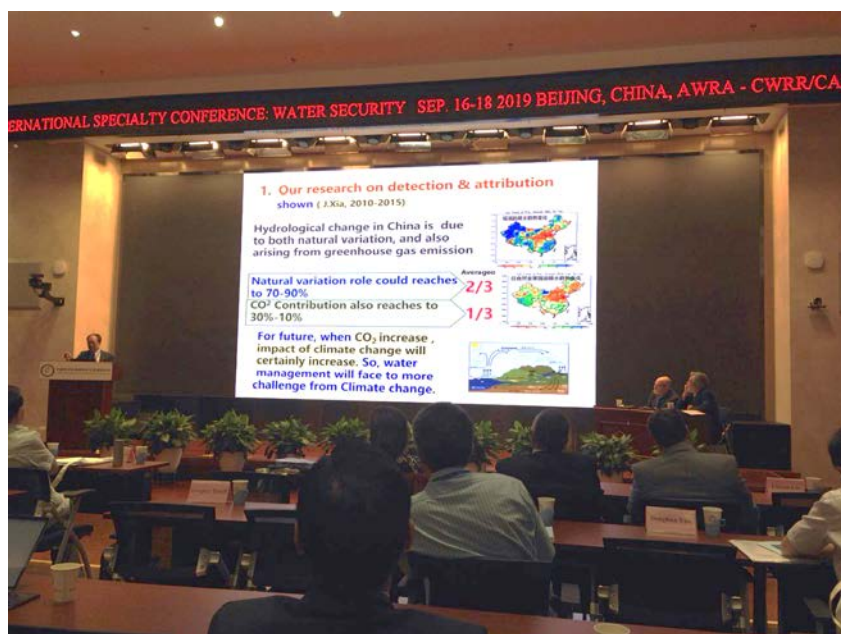
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “WATER SECURITY: NEW TECHNOLOGIES, STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS”

On 16-18 September 2019, Beijing hosted the International Conference “Water Security: New Technologies, Strategies, Policies and Institutions”.

The Conference was organized by the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

SIC ICWC and the Center for Water Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) organized a special session on water in Central Asia, where representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and regional organizations participated. The participants discussed potentials of joint research projects between Central Asia and China.

The participants also were presented the water diversion project from the Yangtze River to the north in the basin of the Huang He and Hai Rivers. Particularly, a section of the central canal that stretches from the Danjiangkou reservoir on the Hanshui River to Beijing was demonstrated.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS, AND CENTRAL ASIA NETWORK OF WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS “SCIENCE AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR WATER SECURITY”

The International Conference of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Network of Water Management Organizations on “Science and Innovative Technologies for Water Security” was held on 23-24 September 2019 in the city of Yekaterinburg.

The main topics addressed at the Conference included:

- Water security of transboundary water bodies in the context of growing water scarcity;
- Innovation-based water sector development strategy;
- New innovative approaches/ideas to efficient and effective water management;
- Role of science and education for ecologically safe environment and innovative water development.

The opening remarks and welcome speeches were delivered by:

Prof. N. Prokhorova, Director of RosNIIVH

Prof. D. Kozlov, President of EECCA NWO



Session 1: Water Security of Transboundary Water Bodies in the Context of Growing Water Scarcity

Prof. V. Dukhovniy (Director of SIC ICWC/NWO EECCA Secretariat) – About the project of re-distribution of the Siberian rivers’ flow to the Aral Sea Basin

Prof. D. Kozlov (President of EECCA NWO/Russia) – Safety and operability of hydraulic facilities located along watercourses of big cities (case-study of Moscow agglomeration)

M. Makhramov (Head of BWO Amu Darya) – Improving water resources management in the Amu Darya Basin in the context of growing water scarcity

A. Shalikovskiy (Eastern branch of FBGU RosNIIVKH, Russia) – Impact of flow transfer on hydrological regime of the Argun River and Dalainor Lake

D. Ziganshina (Deputy Director of SIC ICWC) – Water diplomacy, law and science serving to the benefit of water security

I. Dairov (Regional Mountain Center of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan) – Adaptation of Central Asian mountains to climate change

Prof. N. Kipshakbaev (Kazakh branch of SIC ICWC, Republic of Kazakhstan) – Sustainable development of Kazakhstan through water security

J-F. Donzier (International Network of Basin Organizations) –

International Network of Basin Organizations



Session 2: Innovation-Based Water Sector Development Strategy

S.A. Bekmaganbetov (representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan in EC IFAS) - Relevance of establishing the International Water and Energy Consortium of Central Asia as a sustainable regional mechanism for integrated water-energy use

S. Belyaev (RosNII VH, Russia) – Concept of the State policy on mitigating impacts of non-point pollution sources on surface water

K.V. Krutikova (RosNII VH, Russia) – Progress achieved in the integrated water resources management

L.F. Camilo (St. Thomas University, Columbia) – Strategies for adaptation to climate change for sustainable management of water resources of small islands

H.S. Makhkamov (BWO Syrdarya) – Experience and Prospects of Automation of Hydraulic Facilities in the Syrdarya River basin

Session 3: New Innovative Approaches/Ideas to Efficient and Effective Water Management

Prof. V.A. Dukhovny (SIC ICWC / Secretariat EECCA NWO) – Results of application of RS-based methods in water management in Central Asia

I. Djurayev (representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan in EC IFAS) – Prearalie – the zone of environmental innovations and technology

O. Kazantseva (Eco-TIRAS, Moldova) – Approaches to assessment of hydropower impacts on river ecosystem services (Dniester River case-study)

Yu.V. Krolevetskaya (Far East branch of FBGU RosNIIVKH, Russia) – Information-analytical support of water right licensing (Amur BWA case-study)

I. Nerov (Far East branch of FBGU RosNIIVKH, Russia) – Information system for hydrological modeling in the Amur River Basin

K.A. Kurganovich (Eastern branch of FBGU RosNIIVKH, Russia) – RS-based spatial-temporal analysis of intensity of land use in the territories of the Zabaikal Krai subjected to flooding using the deep learning algorithms

Session 4: Role of Science and Education for Ecologically Safe Environment and Innovative Water Development

Prof. S. Ibatullin (International Training Center for the Safety of Hydraulic Structures, Kazakhstan) – Forming the common water education space in Central Asia

N. Mamataliev (Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named by Scryabin, Kyrgyzstan) – Preparation of water professionals for Kyrgyzstan sectoral institutions in the context of IWRM

A. Fazylov (Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology at the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan) – Status and prospects of training system for the water sector

J.-F. Donzier (International Network of Basin Organizations) – Integrated Water Resource Management



RESOLUTION EECCA NWO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “SCIENCE AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR WATER SECURITY”

Participants of the Conference of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Network of Water-Management Organizations (EECCA NWO) gathered together in Yekaterinburg on 23-24 September 2019 to address topical matters related to water security and innovation-based water development and to sum up the results of the year and discuss future tasks of the Network.

The participants have presented detailed reports and exchanged opinions in the following key areas:

- Water security of transboundary water bodies in the context of growing water scarcity;
- Innovation-based water sector development strategy;
- New innovative approaches/ideas to efficient and effective water management;
- Role of science and education for ecologically safe environment and in innovative water development.

Based on the results of discussion, the Conference participants believe that it is necessary:

1. To stress that current water security issues with relation to transboundary waters, especially in the context of their growing scarcity, call the scientific community to search for innovative approaches to solve these issues, including the development of new technological solutions and relevant amendments to laws and regulations in the EECCA countries.

2. To elaborate a long-term water sector development strategy, based on IWRM concept, on better governance, on innovation development and the region's country experience, with account of contemporary challenges.

3. To wider involve science in the development and improvement of the water sector of all EECCA countries,

4. To create integrated information systems to support effective and innovative decisions, based on GIS, remote sensing, databases, and knowledge bases,

5. The role of science and education in the development of the water sector can be increased, first of all, by: improving public curriculum standards; optimizing proportion of lecture, practical and laboratory hours (increase practical work to 30-40%); creating favorable conditions for master and PhD students for their research on the base of water sector's organizations; organizing targeted assessments of training and job needs for the water sector; involving employers in the development and implementation of the public education policies, development and implementation of visiting professorship programs; developing investment projects in the water sector, while taking into account educational aspects in order to increase capacities of young professionals. Establishment of international relevant resource centers at higher educational institutions in CA countries.

6. To focus on achievement of ecologically safe environment and innovation-based development of the water sector by integrating education, science and practices, when developing the initiative on the independent think tank and thinking on subject matter and work directions of the think tank.

7. To pool together efforts of research, water-management and educational institutions for development and application of innovative approaches to effective and efficient water use and to solution of water supply problems, taking into account relevant country experiences.

8. To intensify activity in the area of transboundary water at the regional level based on the strengthening of existing transboundary organizations or international commissions, when they exist, and the support to the creation of new ones, when necessary.

9. Given the current problems of water security (climate change impact, demographic pressure, etc.), to reopen a discussion on a need and applicability in the long-term (2030-2050) of the Chinese experience in inter-basin 'south-north' water transfer and proceed to studies of the transfer of Siberian river flow to Central Asia.

10. To facilitate the elaboration of periodically up-dated River Management Plans, based on a common vision of the future negotiated with all categories of interested stakeholders.

11. To deal with an intersectoral approach involving administrations, all categories of water users and the civil society, based on the information systems and to spray information at all levels, on the appropriate supports, to increase the level of mutual knowledge in the basins.

12. To design the right mechanism to favor the sharing of results with all actors.

13. To note with satisfaction effective and fruitful activity of EECCA NWO over more than decade. With the support of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Government of the Russian Federation, the Scientific-Information Center of ICWC and the International Network of Basin Organizations, this activity contributed to regular exchange of ideas, information and best practices in various water-related aspects and maintained professional unity and mutual understanding between experts and countries in the region

The following can be highlighted in the Network's activity 2018-2019:

- Organization of the conference for water-management organizations in the EECCA countries - "Water for Land Reclamation, Economic Sectors and Natural Environment in the context of Climate Change" (6-7 November 2018, Tashkent, Uzbekistan);
- Participation of EECCA NWO members in the 17th European "EUROPE-INBO" Conference on implementation of European Water Directives (17-20 June 2019, Lahti, Finland);
- Participation of EECCA NWO members in the 3rd World Irrigation Forum and the 70th meeting of the International Executive Council of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) (1-7 September 2019, Bali, Indonesia);
- Participation of EECCA NWO members in the International Conference on Water Security: New Technologies, Strategies, Policies and Institutions organized by Center for Water Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences and American Water Resources Association (16-18 September 2019, Beijing, China);
- Production of the Network's information and scientific publications, including EECCA NWO collections of scientific papers "Water for Land Reclamation, Economic Sectors and Natural Environment in the context of Climate Change" (volumes 1 and 2) and "Science and Innovations for Water Security";
- Publication of "Selected treaties on transboundary waters signed by states in Europe and Asia (1992-2019)";
- Preparation and publication of 2018 Water Yearbook "Water in Central Asia and around the Globe", which covered key water-related events and developments in 2018;
- Preparation and publication of weekly digest "Water economy, irrigation and ecology in Central Asia", which gives regional highlights in water economy, land reclamation, ecology and energy;

- Further development of the Central Asian knowledge portal - CAWater-Info (cawater-info.net) – as a component of the system of unified tools for IWRM, adapted to specifics of water management in river basins with different degrees of water stress in arid and semi-arid zones of EECCA countries;
- Further development of the e-Atlas of water-management and environmental organizations in EECCA countries.

14. EECCA NWO members plan to take part in the following events:

- 11th World General Assembly of INBO and Marrakech International Summit on Water Security: tapping the benefits of innovative and participative basin management (30 September – 3 October 2019, Marrakech, Morocco)
- International Applied Science Conference “Development of agricultural reclamation and water management system on the base of digital technologies” (23-24 October 2019, Moscow, Russia),
- Next Europe INBO annual meeting in Malta in spring 2020,
- Next World Water Forum to be held in Dakar Senegal in 2021,

15. To strengthen efforts of the Network in the following key areas:

- further development of information space on water management, land reclamation, and nature conservation, including exchange of best practices, experience and knowledge in the area of management;
- organization of training workshops, study-tours and webinars to share experience and information on research, technical and technological base developments and innovation application in water sectors of the EECCA countries, as well as implementation of joint projects;
- development and maintenance of a single integrated water information system among the EECCA countries;
- attraction of basin organizations to the Network.
- Follow-up of the implementation, process and results of the EUWI+ for Eastern Partnership project in 6 countries of Eastern Europe and Caucasus.

16. To appreciate an invaluable contribution of UNECE, the Russian Government, SIC ICWC and the International Network of Basin Organizations to EECCA NWO in part of sharing of knowledge and development of the Knowledge base on water, economy and irrigated agriculture and underline the need for continuation of this work.

17. To hold the next Network's conference on "Transboundary Cooperation Lessons in EECCA Countries" in 2020 in Tajikistan.

18. To thank:

- UNECE for continued support of the Network, including organization of this Conference;
- Government of the Russian Federation for long-time assistance to the Network's activity;
- FGBU "Russian Research Institute for Multipurpose Water Use and Protection" for organization of the International Scientific-Practical Symposium and the Exhibition "Clean Water of Russian 2019) and for the provided opportunity to hold the EECCA NWO Conference as part of this forum;
- SIC ICWC for preparation and organization of the Conference.

Yekaterinburg

24 September 2019

23rd SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

Tashkent, October 2, 2019

Organized by: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

The United Nations Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) was launched in 1998.

The objective of the Program is to facilitate regional economic cooperation in Central Asia and the integration of the participating countries in the world economy. The member countries of the Program are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The SPECA Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment is a subsidiary body within the governing structure of SPECA. В соответствии с общими целями Программы и решениями ее Совета управляющих, the WG shall: provide a platform for supporting progress on strategic issues related to water, energy and environment, and towards achieving the respective SDGs with a focus on the SDG 6 and SDG 7; provide information and share best practice experiences with regard to the implementation of these SDGs; promote compliance with relevant international legal documents on environment.

At the twenty-second session (9 October 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan,) the WEE WG requested to explore opportunities to develop a new SPECA Strategy on water, energy and environment mainstreaming SDGs and reflecting new development challenges in the SPECA region. To this end, it was decided that each country should appoint three focal points to represent water, energy and environment, and to review and approve the Terms of Reference of the Group.

Welcome speeches were delivered by:

Vadim Sokolov, Director, GEF IFAS Agency – on behalf of the hosting country, the Republic of Uzbekistan

Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE – on behalf of the WG Secretariat

– Ivan Prokopenko, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Uzbekistan – from the party funding WG

activities,

Batyr Hajiyev and Viktor Badaker (UNECE), as well as Mr. Arun Jacob from ESCAP (via Skipe) reported on activities of the Working Group in the area of water, energy and environment in 2018-2019.

Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Consultant, made a presentation on the Terms of Reference of the SPECA Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment and strengthening its mandate. The SPECA is undergoing reform to better serve participating countries by providing a platform for promoting cooperation in the SPECA sub-region and achieving sustainable development. Following this, the WG on WEE initiated a process of revising its Terms of Reference.

The Working Group agreed upon its draft Terms of Reference, which then will be submitted to the Governing Council for adoption.

Regional and development partner organizations provided an overview of their ongoing and planned activities in the area of water, energy and environment and partnership opportunities.

Particularly, the following presentations were provided:

- Updates on the development of the Regional Environment Program for Sustainable Development and the Aral Sea Basin Program 4 - Batyr Mammedov, ICSD, Serik Bekmaganbet, EC IFAS
- Results of the work of ICWC bodies in addressing issues of water supply in Central Asia - Prof. V.A. Dukhovniy, Director, SIC ICWC
- CAREC efforts and approaches to promote regional cooperation in the field of water resources, energy and environmental protection - Ekaterina Strikeleva, Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre
- Overview of recent OECD activities in the region - Matthew Griffith, Senior Program Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD
- GIZ contribution to regional water management and environmental governance in Central Asia - Paluaniyaz Pirniyazov, Deputy Programme Manager, Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Program, GIZ
- Activities of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia – Nadir Khudayberganov, Representative of UNRCCA in Uzbekistan
- Presentation of the SPECA Water, Energy and Environment Strategy Concept – Bo Libert, UNECE Consultant

Ms. Annukka Lipponen, UNECE, reported on the potential opportunities

for regional projects in support of SPECA work. This information was supplemented by Mr. Matthew Griffiths from OECD.

Following the discussions, a draft SPECA Strategy Concept on Water, Energy and Environment was agreed upon. The new SPECA Strategy on Water, Energy and Environment aims to support participating countries in: i) addressing regional and transboundary water, energy and linked environmental issues, ii) facilitating the achievement of related national development objectives and SDGs, iii) promoting intersectoral analysis of energy and water issues, vi) improving water, energy and environment sector cooperation nationally and between countries, v) considering emerging challenges such as the Belt and Road Initiative, and emerging problems related to the environment such as sand and dust storms and climate change.

Establishment of the Central Asian Dam Safety Platform

The project “Capacity Building for Cooperation on Dam Safety in Central Asia”, supported by UNECE, is implemented under the auspices of the SPECA Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment. The project aims to improve national legislation and regulation in the field of dam safety in the countries and strengthen regional cooperation in this area.

Brief information on the progress under the project and the need for the establishment of the Platform – Shuhrat Talipov, Head of hydrotechnical installation department, “UzbekHydroEnergy” JSC, Uzbekistan.

The Working Group decides to establish a Central Asian Platform for Dam Safety within the framework of the WG.

23rd SESSION OF THE SPECA WORKING GROUP ON WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT: DECISIONS

1. Terms of Reference of the WG

The Working Group discussed and endorsed the revised Terms of Reference of the Group. The Group notes its relevance to the needs of member states to effectively and collectively address water, energy and environmental challenges in the region and attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Group requests the ESCAP/UNECE Secretariat to submit the Terms of Reference to the Governing Council for consideration and approval.

2. Draft Concept of the SPECA Strategy on Water, Energy and Environment

a. The Working Group discussed the draft Concept and endorsed it as a basis for development of the Strategy. The Group further concluded that comments provided by the members of the group during the meeting shall be submitted to the Secretariat in writing within a time period of 30 days after the meeting. The comments submitted should be taken into account during the development of the Strategy.

b. The Working Group recommends the following priority areas³ for inclusion in the Strategy: identify economic, investment and policy development opportunities in the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus to coherently achieve SDGs 6 and 7 targets (e.g. in application of renewable energy technologies, agro-sector resilience measures); capacity building for sustainable management of natural resources (water, energy, agro/forestry sectors) at national and regional level; feasibility study of water-energy consortium; improved availability of information and exchange of experience on inter-sectoral solutions;

c. It was agreed that a separate task force with officially nominated representatives of sectors and countries should be set up to develop the Strategy.

d. The Working Group requested ESCAP and UNECE to raise funds for the development of the Strategy.

3. Cooperation with UN agencies

Country participants noted the need to explore opportunities for utilizing expertise and mandates of various UN agencies active in the area water, energy and environment with the aim to develop a coherent approach in support of national priorities and to better address regional and transboundary challenges;

4. Partnership with regional and development organizations

The Group acknowledges the need to develop cooperation with regional and development organizations in order to find synergies with efforts made by the Working Group.

5. Establishment of the Central Asian Platform for Dam Safety

The Working Group emphasizes the importance and relevance of issues related to dam safety in the region and considers this topic as a priority in its work. With the aim of improving coordination of activities in this area in the

region the Working Group decides to establish a Central Asian Platform for Dam Safety within the framework of the WG. The Working Group requests the Secretariat to develop the Terms of Reference of the Platform and upon its endorsement by the national project coordinators submit it to the SPECA Governing Council for approval.

STATE AGENCY FOR WATER RESOURCES ESTABLISHED AT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The State Agency for Water Resources at the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic was established. Relevant decision was signed by Mr. Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev, Premier Minister of the Republic.

The decision was endorsed in line with the provisions of the Water Code of the Kyrgyz Republic regarding the establishment of a state water management body.

The State Agency for Water Resources will be entrusted with implementation of the state water policy, coordination of water management, use and protection.

In addition, to properly fulfill the functions provided for in the Water Code, the State Agency for Water Resources is entrusted with specific functions of state water bodies, such as monitoring of water resources, analysis of the regime and conditions of groundwater, provision of rural water supply and sanitation, as well as irrigation and drainage issues.

Mr. Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev has noted that currently water management is fragmented, i.e. different agencies deliver management functions without proper coordination of water-related actions.

“No unified monitoring of water use and protection is carried out; the right of public ownership to water is violated as uncontrolled water intake from surface sources takes place. Consequently, this results in violation of water user's rights. Despite the fact that our country is water abundant, availability of drinking and irrigation water in the republican regions remains low. Water shortage affects life and health of population and natural environment. The established Agency will enable the implementation of a unified water policy at the national, interstate, and international levels. Water planning and management functions will be fulfilled following the integrated water resources management principles. Operation and maintenance of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, coordination of activities of state bodies and unified monitoring of all water bodies will be ensured appropriately”, underlined Mr. Abylgaziev.

It is expected that the establishment of the State Agency for Water Resources will allow adopting a Unified Water Information System, introducing water permits and water fees, maintaining the Water User Inventory, ensuring balanced long-term planning in various sectors based on information, modeling river runoff taking into account climate change, which will contribute to increased adaptation capacity.

Moreover, measures will be taken to reduce climate-related risks, and state coordination will be carried out to ensure safety of existing facilities and construction of new ones, as well as plan and improve conditions of collector and drainage network.

The State Agency for Water Resources will continue the work of the Department of Water Management and Land Reclamation in building and strengthening capacities of Water User Associations as the main users of on-farm irrigation systems. Besides, the Agency will pursue a unified policy with regard to Water User Associations and Rural Public Associations of Drinking Water Users as independent legal entities by regulating their activities through the adoption of regulatory legal acts.

It should be underlined that the establishment of the State Agency for Water Resources at the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic will not entail additional financial expenditure from the Republican budget.

Source: Official website of the Government
of the Kyrgyz Republic²

² <http://www.gov.kg/?p=135913&lang=ru> (in Russian)

UZBEKISTAN ESTABLISHED THE AGENCY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER SECTOR PROJECTS

According to the Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan, the President of Uzbekistan signed a decree to improve the water management system³. The document provides for the establishment of an Agency for Implementation of Water Sector Projects at the Ministry of Water Management of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Agency will deal with projects on water management improvement.

The document envisages a step-by-step adoption of the mechanisms for water users to cover a share of water supply expenses born by water-management organizations starting from 2020. The share of budget funds in the total amount of expenditures on construction, reconstruction and modernization of water facilities will be gradually reduced.

The decree also provides for the promotion of at least 10 scientific innovations in the water sector, reduction of electricity consumption by hydraulic facilities by at least 10%, automation of water control and monitoring system at 300 water facilities and hydroschemes, and reduction of the share of saline land down to 45%.

Since the 1st of November, water managers will be obliged to submit quarterly reports on the status of water management to the Kengash (Council) of People's Deputies of the relevant district.

Source: gazeta.uz⁴

³ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-4486 “On measures to further improve the water management system” of 9 October 2019

⁴ <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2019/10/10/agency/> (in Russian)

Editorial Board:

V.A.Dukhovniy

D.R.Ziganshina

I.F.Beglov

Editorial Office:

Karasu-4, B-11 A, Tashkent,
100187, Republic of Uzbekistan,
SIC ICWC

Our web-site:

sic.icwc-aral.uz