

27 September 2011

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Report

**NATIONAL SEMINAR “STRENGTHENING
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION AND
ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE”**

**Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan
September 26-27, 2011**

This report has been issued without formal editing by the Environment Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

A. ORGANISATION OF THE SEMINAR

1. National seminar "Strengthening transboundary water cooperation and adaptation to climate change" was held on September 26-27, 2011, in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. The seminar was organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the State Committee of Water Management and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic.

2. The seminar was held within framework of the UNECE-GIZ Programme "Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia".

1. Objectives of workshop

3. The purpose of the national seminar was to raise awareness of the basic provisions of international water law among the specialists of the institutions and organizations in Kyrgyzstan which are engaged in monitoring, management and use of water resources, in the context of the requirements for adaptation of water resources to climate change. In addition, the purpose of the event was an exchange of relevant experiences among participants.

2. Participants

4. The national seminar was attended by 30 representatives from various ministries and agencies of Kyrgyzstan. Presentations were made by representatives of the UNECE secretariat and the International Sava River Basin Commission, as well as by the experts from the University of Dundee (United Kingdom) and the Republic of Moldova. In total, the seminar was attended by 41 participants. The list of participants is included in Annex 1 to this report.

3. Opening of the Seminar

5. On behalf of the host country, the participants were welcomed by Mr. Chyngyz Uzakbaev, the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of Kyrgyz Republic on Water Management and Melioration. He noted that the issue of water resources, also in the context of climate change, was extremely important for Kyrgyzstan. He highlighted the specifics of cooperation issues in this area in Central Asia and expressed appreciation of the UNECE support in organizing the seminar. Mr. Uzakbaev wished a successful and fruitful work to the participants.

6. Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, UNECE, addressed her welcoming remarks to participants. She noted that the seminar was held in the framework of the long-term cooperation of UNECE with Kyrgyzstan in the area of rational and efficient use of water resources. She wished the workshop participants fruitful discussions and assured that the UNECE will continue its efforts to strengthen cooperation in this field.

4. Program

7. The program of the national seminar "Strengthening transboundary water cooperation and adaptation to climate change" is included in Annex 2.

B. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

8. The participants have listened to 13 presentations in the following areas: climate change and its impact on water resources; international water law and the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; international water law and adaptation to climate change; institutional mechanisms for transboundary cooperation and their role in adaptation to climate change.

9. Participants have exchanged their views on the issues discussed during presentations.

10. Each participant has received a set of materials presented at the seminar.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.

(a) After hearing and discussing the reports and materials, the participants noted their obvious importance and usefulness in raising awareness on international water law and transboundary water cooperation in adaptation to the climate change. The significant element is the development of cooperation in this field with the countries in Central Asian region, as well as with other countries and international organisations.

(b) Acknowledging the workshop as an important element of information and education for the concerned ministries and departments of Kyrgyzstan, it was recommended to strengthen this area by conducting similar activities.

(c) Noting the rich content of the reports presented, as well as high competence of their authors, the participants requested from the UNECE Secretariat to consider a possibility to provide further support to Kyrgyzstan with information on the rational and efficient use of water resources, both at national and regional levels. It was recommended to the State Committee to present concrete proposals on the development of such support to the UNECE Secretariat.

(d) The participants have expressed their gratitude to UNECE and the staff of Research Institute “Vodavtomatika i metrologiya” for the excellent organisation of the workshop.

СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ

**Национального семинара
«Укрепление трансграничного водного сотрудничества и адаптация к изменению климата»
Иссык-Куль, Кыргызстан, 26-27 сентября 2011 г.**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**National seminar “Strengthening transboundary water cooperation and adaptation to climate change”
Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, September 26-27, 2011**

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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

State Committee on Water Management and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic

National seminar “Strengthening transboundary water cooperation and adaptation to climate change”¹

Issyk-Kul, health resort Avrora (<http://www.issyk-kul.org/avrora.htm>)

26-27 September 2011

25 September, Sunday, 14.00, departure from Bishkek by bus	
26 September 2011, Monday	
09.00 – 09.30	Opening session Opening remarks, <i>Mr. Chyngyz Uzakbaev, Deputy Head, State Committee on Water Management and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic</i> Opening remarks, <i>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Water Convention, UNECE</i> Opening remarks, <i>GIZ (tbc)</i>
09.30 – 10.30	Session 1: Climate change and its impacts on water resources Climate change impacts on water resources and adaptation needs, <i>Mr. Roman Corobov, consultant, the Republic of Moldova</i>
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 13.00	Session 2: International water law and the UNECE Water Convention International water law: key principles and provisions, <i>Mr. Sergei Vinogradov, University of Dundee/UNESCO Center for Water Science, Policy and Law</i> Principal obligations under the Water Convention, <i>Ms. Iulia Trombitaia, UNECE</i> Principal obligations under the Protocol on Water and Health, <i>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Co-Secretary to the Protocol, UNECE</i>
13.00 – 15.00	Lunch

¹ The national seminar takes place in the framework of UNECE-GIZ Programme “Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management in Central Asia”.

15.00 – 16.30	<p>Session 3: International water law and climate change adaptation</p> <p>International water law and climate change <i>Mr. Sergei Vinogradov, University of Dundee/UNESCO Center for Water Science, Policy and Law</i></p> <p>How the Water Convention and its Protocol help in climate change adaptation: the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change <i>Ms. Sonja Koeppel, UNECE</i></p> <p>Water and sanitation in extreme weather events <i>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE</i></p>
16.30 – 17.00	Coffee break
17.00 – 17.30	Discussion
27 сентября 2011 г., вторник	
09.30 – 11.15	<p>Session 4: Institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation in adaptation: theory and practical examples</p> <p>Joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation and their role in adaptation <i>Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE</i></p> <p>Programme of pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins under the UNECE Water Convention <i>Ms. Sonja Koeppel, UNECE</i></p> <p>Sava Basin <i>Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission</i></p>
11.15 – 11.45	Coffee break
11.45 – 13.30	<p>Dniester Basin <i>Mr. Roman Corobov, consultant, the Republic of Moldova</i></p> <p>Chu-Talas Basin climate change pilot project <i>Mr. Ryspek Apasov, National Manager of EU/UNDP IWRM project in Kyrgyzstan</i></p>
13.30 – 15.00	Lunch
15.00 – 16.30	<p>Session 4: Transboundary water cooperation of Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Project activities on transboundary water cooperation <i>Mr. Erkin Orolbayev, consultant</i></p> <p>Discussion on the opportunities to strengthen transboundary water cooperation, including in adaptation to climate change <i>(moderated by Mr. Chyngyz Uzakbaev and Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia)</i></p>

16.30 – 17.00	Coffee break
17.00 – 17.15	<p>Conclusions</p> <p>Concluding remarks, <i>Mr. Chyngyz Uzakbaev, Deputy Head, State Committee on Water Management and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic</i></p> <p>Concluding remarks, <i>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Water Convention, UNECE</i></p>
28 September 2011, Wednesday, 11.00, departure by bus to Bishkek	