



## **REPORT**

### **Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) The 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Project Working Group (PWG) on Water and Energy Resources Almaty, Kazakhstan, 17 November 2006**

#### **Organization and background**

1. The 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Project Working Group (PWG) on Water and Energy Resources was held on 17 November 2006 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Forty participants attended the PWG session including delegations of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
2. The PWG was co-chaired by Mr. Akylbek Tumenbaev, Deputy Director, Kyrgyz State Energy and Gas Inspection, Kyrgyzstan, and H.E. Mr. Timur K. Kamalov, Minister, State Inspection, State Water Control Uzbekistan, and the rapporteur of the PWG was Mr. Rustem Majidov, Head Department of Energy Development, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Tajikistan. The PWG was also attended by representatives of UNDESA, UNDP as well as the European Commission, EurAsEC and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS).
3. The PWG adopted the following agenda:
  1. Opening of the session.
  2. Election of officers.
  3. Adoption of the agenda.
  4. Review of the implementation of the cooperation strategy to promote the rational and efficient use of water and energy resources in Central Asia.
  5. Review of the relevant decisions of the first session of the SPECA Governing Council:
    - a. Organization of the Project Working Groups;
    - b. Integrated SPECA Energy System and Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency.
  6. Review of the SPECA Workplan 2005-2007: Water and energy sector plans and strategies to accelerate implementation.
  7. Synergies and collaboration with other international programmes and initiatives on water and energy resources in SPECA countries.
  8. Other matters.
  9. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

1. The PWG made the following conclusions and recommendations for the consideration of the Coordinating Committee and the Governing Council of SPECA:

### **Agenda item 4: Review of the implementation of the cooperation strategy to promote the rational and efficient use of water and energy resources in Central Asia.**

2. Noting that the Cooperation Strategy to Promote the Rational and Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia (Cooperation Strategy), approved in 2003, presents an overall framework for mutually beneficial inter-State cooperation and re-confirming its principles and purpose to develop a coordinated regional policy providing for the equitable and rational use of water and energy resources with due regard for the social, economic and environmental interest of the countries of the region, the PWG stressed the need to develop strategies to further conceptualize and accelerate the implementation of the Plan of action contained therein.

**Strategy 1:** Identify activities that would be required to accelerate the implementation of the Cooperation Strategy both in the water and energy sectors for the short and medium term including prioritization of activities.

**Strategy 2:** Subject to the approval of the proposals on the Coordinated SPECA Energy System and Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation by the Governing Council, necessary steps are to be taken to initiate the implementation of these proposals. Necessary consultations could also be initiated to seek collaboration with relevant stakeholders towards developing linkages and synergies with other initiatives including the Trans-Asian Energy System (TAES) and the Common Energy Market. It would also be desirable to develop linkages and complementarities with country level activities/projects supported by United Nations, European Commission or other multi-lateral funding agencies.

3. PWG took note of the report of the Director General of Department of Water Resources of Kyrgyzstan and the Deputy Chair of the National Water Resources Committee of Kazakhstan on important achievements in the establishment of the Chu-Talas River Commission. PWG considered this achievement as an illustrative example for replication to promote cooperation on management in other bilateral river basins in the subregion. The PWG also noted similar initiatives that have been taking place in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The PWG encouraged other international organizations to provide further assistance to realize the vision of development of the Chu-Talas River basin and noted the reconfirmation of support extended in this initiative by UNECE and UNESCAP.

### **Agenda item 5: Review of the relevant decisions of the first session of the SPECA Governing Council.**

4. The PWG noted the decisions related to the PWG of the Governing Council held in Baku, Azerbaijan in June 2006, including the chairmanship of the PWGs. It also noted the

interest of the Government of Afghanistan in co-chairing the PWG on Water and Energy Resources, a decision on which would be taken by the Governing Council.

5. With respect to the decisions of the Governing Council requesting the PWG to consider the two proposals (a) Coordinated SPECA Energy System; and (b) Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation, the PWG reviewed the outcome of the Workshop on Energy for Sustainable Development in Central Asia: Policy options for enhancing energy security and energy efficiency and the role of the private sector, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 15 to 17 November 2006, which made an in-depth assessment of the two proposals. Main recommendations of the Workshop include supporting the two proposals as to their merits and feasibility. The conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop are attached as Annex A.
6. In endorsing the outcome of the Workshop, together with the recommendations on the two proposals that have good potential to be initiated as strategic projects, the PWG felt that high level consultations, preferably at the heads of energy agencies level, may be needed to secure political commitment by the participating member countries. It recommended that such a high level meeting could be a planned activity in 2007 workplan of the PWG.
7. It also welcomed the offer of Kazakhstan to host a regional center for promoting sustainable energy including energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy security.

**Agenda item 6: Review of the SPECA Workplan 2005-2007: Water and energy sector plans and strategies to accelerate implementation.**

8. The PWG reviewed the implementation status of the Workplan 2005-2007, and five priority activities that were agreed upon during the last PWG session.
9. PWG was pleased to learn of the completion of Phase I of the “Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia” as contained in the concluding document of the Third Expert Meeting, held in Almaty on 15-16 November 2006, as shown in Annex B. It also noted the plan to continue this project to build on the achievements so far made in the five countries of Central Asia. The PWG particularly took note of key policy recommendations of the Third Expert Meeting and agreed to submit these key policy recommendations to the Governing Council for consideration for further action:
  - To bring to the attention of the Governing Council the Model law on dam safety and a draft of the Regional agreement on cooperation on dam safety, prepared under the regional project on dam safety, and request the Council to take an appropriate action in order to encourage the Governments of the interested countries to give the highest priority to the consideration of those documents, as well as the development of technical cooperation on dam safety in the region.
10. Further to reviewing the Workplan, a presentation was made by the Scientific Information Center-Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC-ICWC) on the Central Asia Regional Water Information Base (CAREWIB) project, one of the priority items of the SPECA PWG Water and Energy Resources work programme. The PWG was informed that as the CAREWIB project is entering into a new phase,

there are now opportunities to give points of views on the web portal and the information system that could be reflected in the next project phase.

11. As noted above, the Workshop on Energy for Sustainable Development was also organized as an initial event towards the implementation of the project on capacity building for improving energy efficiency and conservation in SPECA countries. In that respect, the PWG stressed the need for seeking funding for the full implementation of the project.
12. The PWG requested the secretariat to develop activities in support of the two endorsed proposals as well as follow-up activities on water resources related strategies including Dam Safety project.

**Agenda item 7: Synergies and collaboration with other international programmes and initiatives on water and energy resources in SPECA countries.**

13. The PWG noted with appreciation, briefings from participating international organizations including the European Commission, EurAsEC, UNDP and IFAS on their activities and initiatives related to water and energy resources development and management. It also noted with appreciation their offer to collaborate with SPECA initiatives.
14. The PWG also noted that in realizing the potential for large scale energy and water resources infrastructure development, national efforts need to be supplemented by international cooperation and assistance. In that respect it called for technical and financial assistance from the United Nations system, development partners, multi- and bi-lateral funding agencies and donor community in the implementation of the Cooperation Strategy.

**Agenda item 8: Other matters**

15. PWG noted the information provided by the Technical Director of IFAS Executive Committee Secretariat on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum and encouraged the five countries to participate in the Asia-Pacific Water Forum Summit, planned to be held in Japan in October 2007. PWG also expressed its interest in participating in activities to prepare for the Summit and called on UNESCAP to mobilize resources to enable representatives of PWG to participate in these activities, especially those to be carried out by UNESCAP under its capacity as the Leader of Key Result Area on Monitoring.
16. PWG was informed by UNESCAP of the request of the United Nations Secretary-General for UNESCAP to organize regional and subregional high-level meetings in 2008 in order to undertake a review of national policies and identify the institutional changes needed to attain the Millennium Development Goals on sanitation. PWG expressed its readiness to support UNESCAP in this undertaking.

**Agenda item 9: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations, the PWG adopted the Report**

17. The PWG expressed its appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan as well as to the host institution, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea for their support and contribution in organizing the PWG.

18. The PWG adopted its report on 17 November 2006.

Akylbek Tumenbaev  
Kyrgyz State Energy and Gas Inspection, Kyrgyzstan and  
Chairman of the PWG on Water and Energy Resources  
17 November 2006

## Annex A

### **Workshop on Energy for Sustainable Development in Central Asia: Policy options for enhancing energy security and energy efficiency and the role of the private sector**

15-17 November 2006, Almaty, Kazakhstan

## **REPORT**

### **I. Background and Organization**

1. The Workshop on Energy for Sustainable Development in Central Asia: Policy options for enhancing energy security and energy efficiency and the role of the private sector was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 15 to 17 November 2006. The Workshop was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Europe in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea hosted the Workshop.
2. The Workshop was participated by 30 participants including Government officials/experts of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan as well as representatives of the European Commission, EurAsEC, Eurasian Development Bank, UNDP (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan).

### **II. Conclusions and Recommendations**

The participants of the Workshop made the following conclusions and recommendations for consideration of the Project Working Group (PWG) on Water and Energy Resources:

1. In developing and managing energy and water infrastructure or services, greater attention is to be paid in honouring the commitments made towards achieving the goals of Agenda 21 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as the Millennium Development Goals, by integrating three pillars of sustainable development in water and energy sector development policies. In that respect, the Workshop noted that Green Growth could serve as an approach for promoting sustainable energy infrastructure development.
2. The Workshop felt that there is a need for strong policies to promote renewable energy such as solar, wind and small hydro-power as alternative resources in support of sustainable development, in particular for remote and isolated areas. Such policies could include appropriate legal framework, economic incentives, and setting possible targets. In that respect, it noted with appreciation the information related to the availability of funding support from international technical cooperation programmes including the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
3. Noting that SPECA subregion as whole has abundant natural resources, including fossil fuel reserves, water resources and hydropower but these resources are not endowed equally in all member countries, there is an urgent need for optimum development and utilization of these valuable resources for the mutual benefit for all through widening

access within SPECA and energy export to the international market. In that context, further collaborate strategies to address issues or barriers are called for. It also noted that some countries of the SPECA region have large reserves of uranium resources that could be used for energy generation.

4. Recalling that the Cooperation Strategy to Promote the Rational and Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia (Cooperation Strategy), approved in 2003, presents an overall framework for mutually beneficial inter-State cooperation and re-confirming its principles and purpose to develop a coordinated regional policy providing for the equitable and rational use of water and energy resources with due regard for the social, economic and environmental interest of the countries of the region, there is a need to develop strategies to further conceptualize and accelerate the implementation of the Plan of action contained therein.
5. Noting the unique situation in Central Asia, where water and energy resources are closely inter-linked and play a complementary role, the Workshop recommended that policies in these sectors need to be coherent and harmonized to the extent possible taking into account the adoption and ratification of the relevant international agreements and conventions.

**A. A coordinated SPECA energy system:**

6. Acknowledging that as the economies in SPECA countries accelerate further, energy demand grows in tandem but that current energy infrastructure is not adequate to meet this demand, there is a greater need for developing and optimally utilizing energy resources, both fossil and hydroelectricity, for the socio-economic development of the subregion as a whole.
7. Also acknowledging that SPECA region has surplus energy, both fossil and hydroelectricity that could be developed and exported to the potential energy market in Asia and the scope for further strengthening the energy trade with Europe, and that currently some exports are taking place, SPECA as a region could immensely benefit if it could collectively develop its energy resources and transmission infrastructure to serve as sustainable and reliable energy supply hub to Europe and Asia. A well coordinated SPECA energy system could also serve as a bridge or corridor between the energy systems in Europe and Asia. In that context, synergies and linkages could be developed with the larger initiative of UNESCAP towards the establishment of the Trans-Asian Energy System (TAES).
8. At the same time, the Workshop noted that there are a number of challenges, such as political will, economic incentives and infrastructure bottle neck, that need to be addressed to implement such a coordinated energy system.
9. In light of the above, the Workshop was of the view that the proposed coordinated SPECA energy system has good merits and could be a feasible option with the strategic partnership of all stakeholders, including the governments, international development partners, funding agencies/banks and the private sector. In that context, it appreciated the offer of EurAsEC in developing cooperation and synergies between its initiative on Common Energy Market and the proposed Coordinated SPECA Energy System.

10. Options and strategies to initiate a coordinated SPECA energy system could include:
  - a) With a vision “By 2030, SPECA energy system developed as sustainable and dependable sources of energy supplies to international market”, could be achieved through (i) establishing an inter-country collaborative mechanism on promotion of energy cooperation and trade; and (ii) developing programmes and projects to initiate activities based on techno-economic feasibility studies, which could be implemented and guided by the PWG, a strategic study group with partnerships with other stakeholders, including the private sector;
  - b) Further development of the concept and implementation plan and methods are to be participatory and collaborative to contribute to the socio-economic development of SPECA countries, while contributing to the enhancement of energy security of Asia and Europe.

## **B. Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

11. Noting that energy intensity of the economies in the SPECA region is high, and that some pilot projects in the region yielded positive results and indicated huge potential for energy savings, the Workshop noted that attention must be paid to the demand side management by further promoting energy efficiency and conservation at the national and regional levels. This initiative could also contribute to the realization of the Millennium Development Goal 7: Environmental Sustainability. Therefore, it recommended that the proposed Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation has good merits and could be a feasible option with the strategic partnership of all stakeholders, including the local governments, national energy centres, international development partners, agencies, and energy service companies (ESCOs).
12. Options and strategies to operationalize the Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation could include:
  - a) The Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation, with an objective “Energy efficiency and conservation integrated in the energy sector development policies and strategies of SPECA member countries” could develop follow-up strategies in supporting the implementation of the Baku Declaration, adopted at the Baku Symposium on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development, held in March 2006. The Declaration calls for a collaborative initiative to demonstrate public-private partnership to promote energy efficiency and energy conservation.
  - b) The Initiative, guided by the PWG, could include the following components: (i) strengthening legislative support; (ii) strengthening stakeholders involvement; (iii) setting effective minimum performance standards; (iv) strengthening institutional support; (v) providing R,D&D supports; (vi) disseminating best practices; and (vii) enhancing public awareness. In addition, efforts need to be made in setting up energy conservation fund and technical assistance activities to share know-how and experiences in the diffusion of energy efficiency technologies.

## **C. Restructuring and privatization of the power sector**

13. Acknowledging that SPECA countries are carrying out power sector reforms in order to meet increasing electricity demands and reduce government financial burden, the

Workshop noted that there is still a need to create such market conditions that enable investment promotion of energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources.

14. Noting that SPECA countries are undertaking power sector restructuring and privatization, the Workshop noted that there is a need to pay attention to specific situation of each country, where government should determine the priorities, objectives and methodologies of reform that might apply to their special needs and economic and political realities.
15. Noting that different level of power sector reform implementation might create barriers for transboundary energy cooperation, the workshop emphasized on the importance of establishing an appropriate mechanism for cooperation among SPECA countries to promote energy security and create Central Asian common electricity market.
16. In noting that the security of heat energy supply would continue to be a critical concern for the Central Asian countries, this issue should be addressed in the form of an activity under SPECA Workplan.

#### **D. International Cooperation and Synergies**

17. In realizing the potential for large scale energy resources infrastructure development projects, the Workshop noted the importance of improved coordination and international cooperation and assistance to support national efforts. In that respect the Workshop called for technical and financial assistance from the United Nations system, development partners, multi- and bi-lateral funding agencies and donor community.
18. The Workshop welcomed the proposal made by the Government of Kazakhstan to create a regional center for promoting sustainable energy including energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy security. Countries and organizations interested in supporting the creation of such regional center could express their interest through the SPECA Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources and the Governing Council.
19. The Workshop noted with appreciation the information shared by several organizations, which have initiated or planning to initiate activities/projects on sustainable energy development and encouraged them to extend their cooperation and synergies with the above two proposed projects.

### **III. Acknowledgement**

20. The Workshop expressed its appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan and the host organization, IFAS, for organizing this Workshop.

### **IV. Adoption of the Report**

21. The Workshop adopted its report on 17 November 2006.

## Annex B

### **REPORT OF THE THIRD EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON THE PROMOTION OF DAM SAFETY COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA**

**Almaty, Kazakhstan, 15-16 November 2006**

#### **A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

1. The Third Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 15-16 November 2006. The Meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in close collaboration with the Executive Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EB IFAS).

2. The Meeting was held within the framework of the project “Capacity building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia” that is being implemented by UNECE and UNESCAP. The project, implemented under the supervision of the Project Working Group for Rational Use of Energy and Water Resources in Central Asia in the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs), aims to strengthen national capacities with regard to dam safety and to improve regional cooperation in this area. The project is also a contribution to the implementation of the Aral Sea Basin Programme 2 (ASBP-2) implemented by IFAS.

##### **1. Objectives of the Meeting**

3. The main objective of the Meeting was to facilitate cooperation between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the development of model national legislation on dam safety and of a draft regional agreement on cooperation in emergency situations involving hydrotechnical installations. The event’s other objective was the exchange of relevant experiences between the participants.

##### **2. Attendance**

4. The Meeting was attended by 22 experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; IFAS was represented by 6 participants. Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEc) was represented at the meeting as well. Staff members of the UNESCAP and UNECE secretariats and a consultant brought the total number of participants to 36. The list of participants is provided in Annex 1.

##### **3. Opening of the Meeting**

5. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Almabek Nurushev, Director of the Executive Board of IFAS in the Republic of Kazakhstan. On behalf of the host country, he welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of cooperation on dam safety for all the countries of Central Asia. He noted the timeliness of the Meeting and underlined that promoting safe exploitation of dams and other hydrotechnical installations is a priority of IFAS. He expressed gratitude to UNECE and UNESCAP for their cooperation with IFAS in this area.

6. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Advisor of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of the UNECE secretariat, had expressed his gratitude to all the members of expert group for successful work with the documents of the project, proving the highest interest of member countries in concerned results. He informed the participants of the possibility to extend the activities for Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia in framework of project continuation for another three years and suggested to the meeting to discuss the main lines of anticipated activities.

7. Mr. Le Huu Ti of the Environment and Sustainable Development Division of the UNESCAP secretariat greeted the meeting participants. He noted with satisfaction the successfulness of the project and growing interest to its results. This is being proved particularly by the attendance of representatives of Korea Water Resources Corporation.

8. Mr. Risto Kuusiniemi, Dam Safety Expert, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Finland. He noted with satisfaction the successfulness of the project and expressed his hope that its results would undoubtedly facilitate the strengthening of cooperation between the countries in Central Asia on dam safety.

#### **4. Election of Officers**

9. Mr. Amirkhan Kenshimov, Deputy Chairman, Committee on Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture; Alexey Zyrianov, Deputy Director, Center of Operation and Repair of JSC "Electricity stations", Mr. Ismoil Nachmidinov, Head of the Management Department, the Ministry of Melioration and Water Management in Tajikistan; Mr. Guvanch Khaimedov, Main Engineer, Ministry of Water Management in Turkmenistan; and Mr. Timur Kamalov, Chairman of the State Inspectorate "Gostekhvodnadzor" of Uzbekistan each chaired one of the Meeting's sessions.

#### **5. Approval of the Agenda**

10. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Advisor of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of the UNECE secretariat outlined the objectives of the Meeting. He then presented its agenda and work programme.

11. The following agenda was approved:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Approval of the Meeting agenda
4. Results of discussion and modification of draft model national law "On the safety of hydrotechnical installations".
5. Preparation of publication on the legal aspects of the safe exploitation of dams in Central Asia.
6. Results of discussion and revision of the draft regional agreement on hydrotechnical installations safety cooperation
7. Development of Meeting recommendations

8. Other issues
9. Closing of the meeting

The full programme of the Third Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia appears in Annex 2.

## **B. PROCEEDINGS**

12. Under agenda item 4, representatives of the participating countries made presentations about the progress of discussion, revision and adaptation of draft model national law “On the safety of hydrotechnical installations”, which was developed under the framework of the project.

13. Mr. Alexander Mironenkov, Adviser of the Secretary General of the EurAsEc, Integration Committee in his talk proposed to utilize the existing EurAsEc mechanisms in order to provide support to the stakeholder countries in adoption of the model national law “On the safety of hydrotechnical installations”, and to facilitate the negotiation process in reference to the regional agreement on hydrotechnical installations safety cooperation.

14. Mr. Dmitrii Radkevich, consultant, presented the suggestions received from the participating countries of modifications and revision of draft model national law “On the safety of hydrotechnical installations”. The modifications and revisions were introduced to the model law on the basis of suggestions received in course of the discussion.

15. Under agenda item 5, Mr. Yuri Steklov, consultant, presented the proposed content of publication on the legal aspects of the safe exploitation of dams in Central Asia, which was based on the national reports on dam safety. Upon approval of the proposed content, the participants had inserted a number of clarifications and modifications to the second revision of the publication.

16. Under agenda item 6, Mr. Dmitrii Radkevich, consultant, presented the suggestions received from the countries regarding the regional agreement on hydrotechnical installations safety cooperation. The revisions were introduced to the draft regional agreement on the basis of suggestions received in course of the discussion.

17. The lecturers stressed the high interest of Central Asian countries in developing regional agreement on hydrotechnical installations safety cooperation the draft of which had been discussed at the meeting. In this regard, the proposed opportunities to utilize the EurAsEc and the IFAS mechanisms for possible facilitation of negotiation process for finalizing the agreement were welcomed with appreciation.

18. Mr. Dong-Hoon Shin the representative of Water Resources Corporation, Republic of Korea, made presentation of activities of his organization and shared findings on technical condition of Papan and Nayman hydraulic installations in Kyrgyzstan, acquired during the visit of these constructions on November 30, 2006.

19. Mr. Turdybaev Bakhodyr, the representative of Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC-ICWC) made presentation of Water and Environmental Portal for the Central Asia Region. The participants paid great interest to the

presentation and discussed recommendation to establish a site dedicated to the dam safety in Central Asia at the web-portal.

20. Under agenda item 7, the meeting participants discussed in detail possible lines of future activities aimed at promotion of dam safety cooperation in Central Asia, proposed by Mr. Yuri Steklov, and approved the following conclusions and recommendations.

### **C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

21. The Participants adopted resolutions on discussed issues and recommended taking the following actions:

#### **I. In reference to the draft model national law “On the safety of hydrotechnical installations”**

- a. The work aimed at formulation of the draft model national law “On the safety of hydrotechnical installations” shall be deemed completed.
- b. The stakeholder countries shall speed up the work on development of national legislation on the safety of hydrotechnical installations, based on adopted draft model national law “On the safety of hydrotechnical installations”.
- c. To welcome the proposal of IFAS to submit the model law for the consideration of Executive Board of IFAS with the aim to adopt the same as the fundamental document for the stakeholder countries in order to develop relevant national legislations on the safety of hydrotechnical installations.
- d. To accept with gratitude the offer of the EurAsEc Integration Committee to forward the model national law “On the safety of hydrotechnical installations” for the consideration and possible approval to the EurAsEc Inter-parliamentary Assembly.

#### **II. In reference to the draft model national law “On the safety of hydrotechnical installations”**

- a. The work aimed at formulation of the draft regional agreement on hydrotechnical installations safety cooperation shall be deemed completed.
- b. In response to the address of UNECE (see item IY d), a Working Group on further development of the Agreement shall be established comprised of two representatives of each country, and a Representative of IFAS, who shall be nominated by the countries.
- c. To welcome the proposal of IFAS to submit the draft regional agreement on hydrotechnical installations safety cooperation for the consideration of Executive Board of IFAS with the aim to initiate the process of its negotiation at the regional level.
- d. To accept with gratitude the offer of the EurAsEc Integration Committee to forward the draft regional agreement on hydrotechnical installations safety cooperation model national law for the information of the High-Level Group for Developing a

Harmonized Mechanism of Water and Energy Management in Syrdarya and Amudarya river basins, created under the EurAsEc.

### **III. In reference to the publication on the legal aspects of the safe exploitation of dams in Central Asia**

- a. To agree with the structure, proposed by the second revision of the publication on the legal aspects of the safe exploitation of dams in Central Asia, and to adopt it as basis for further work.
- b. To establish a temporary Working Group for finalization of publication with following members: A. P. Kholmatov – head of the Group, national experts, consultants: Yu. N. Steklov and E. E. Orolbayev. To address the heads of the delegations of each country to confirm the nominations of the national experts before December 1, 2006.
- c. To make provisions for the final meeting of the group in the beginning of 2007.
- d. To address all the participants of the meeting with request to provide photographic materials for possible incorporation into the publication.
- e. To address the SIC-ICWC with request to provide map of Central Asia, indicating the main hydrotechnical installations of the region for incorporation into the publication.
- f. The Group shall complete the work on Russian text of the Publication before February 1, 2007.

### **IV. In reference to the promotion of cooperation**

- a. To approve the proposed lines of cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia, providing for:
  - continuation of activities in area of harmonization of legislative framework on dam safety in Central Asia;
  - approximation of technical normative acts on safe exploitation of dams and other hydrotechnical installations;
  - development of regional agreement on hydrotechnical installations safety cooperation;
  - unification of dam and other hydrotechnical installations condition monitoring methods; and
  - rendering endeavors to improve the technical condition of dams and other hydrotechnical installations.
- b. To make a report at upcoming session of SPECA Project Working Group on Water and Energy Reserves (Energy PWG), which shall take place on 17 November 2006 in Almaty, about the results of the project aimed at promotion of cooperation in dam safety.

c. To address the Energy PWG with request to draw attention of SPECA governing bodies to the model national law “On the safety of hydrotechnical installations” and to the draft regional agreement on hydrotechnical installations safety cooperation, developed within the framework of the project, and to also request them to extend their assistance to help the respective Governments to assign top priority to consideration of these instruments and also to the issues concerning the technical cooperation in dam safety.

d. To address UNECE with request to prepare and mail out letters to the Governments of Central Asian countries, and to the governing bodies of IFAS and EurAsEc with brief summary of the results of the project and proposals on promotion of cooperation on dam safety.

e. In reference to cooperation with the International Commission on Large Dams (ICLD):

- to make note of the entry of Tajikistan into ICLD and to ask Tajikistan delegation to share information on the procedure of entry into ICLD amongst the Central Asian countries;
- to pronounce advisable for the representatives of the Central Asian countries to attend the session of Executive Committee of ICLD to be held in Saint-Petersburg in June 2007;
- to support if possible the attendance of Central Asian delegates in the session of Executive Committee of ICLD by means of donor funding;
- to seek for an opportunity to make a report on cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia at the session of Executive Committee of ICLD.

#### **Y. In reference to continuation of project activities**

a. to address UNECE with request to prepare project proposal on the basis of developed lines of cooperation in respect to dam safety in Central Asia, listed in item IY a.

b. to ask UNECE and UNESCAP to address the potential donors with request to support the activities on dam safety in Central Asia within the framework of a new phase of the project.

c. to address SIC-ICWC with proposal to open a web-site on dam safety in Central Asia at the Water and Environmental Portal of Central Asia.

#### **YI. In reference to adoption of a concluding statement**

To adopt the concluding statement of the Third Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia. The Concluding Statement please see in Appendix 3.

List of participants  
 THIRD EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON THE PROMOTION  
 OF DAM SAFETY COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA  
 15-16 November 2006, Almaty, Kazakhstan

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## *PROGRAM and SCHEDULE*

### **Third Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia 15-16 November 2006, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**Wednesday, November 15, 2006**

- 09.00 - 09.15 Registration of Participants
- 09.15 – 09.25 **Opening of the Expert Meeting.**  
*(Chairman – Mr. Almabek Nurushev, Executive Board of Directors of the IFAS in the Republic of Kazakhstan)*  
Greetings on behalf of the UNECE.  
*Mr. Bo Libert, the regional advisor, UNECE.*  
Greetings on behalf of the UNESCAP.  
*Ti Le Huu, Environment and Sustainable Development Division*  
Greetings on behalf of the Government of Finland.  
*Mr. Risto Kuusiniemi, Institute of Environment, Finland.*

- 09.25 - 09.30 Presenting the program and schedule of the Meeting.  
*Mr. Bo Libert - the regional advisor, UNECE.*

**Session 1. Harmonizing the national legislations in respect to the dam safety. Results of discussion and continued development of the draft model national law on “Safety of Hydrotechnical Installations” and prospects of its adoption. (Chairman – Mr. Kenshimov A. K., Kazakhstan)**

- 09.30 - 10.30 Results of the discussion of the Draft Version of referred Law on the National level and possibilities of introducing the same to the consideration of national legislative bodies.  
*Mr. Sarsembekov T. T., Kazakhstan*  
*Mr. Zyryanov A. G., Kyrgyzstan*  
*Mr. Abdulloyev N., Tajikistan*  
*Mr. Ballyev K. B., Turkmenistan.*  
*Mr. Kamalov Ye. K., Uzbekistan*
- 10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00-11.30 Draft Model National Law on “Hydrotechnical Installations”, amended with received remarks; possible assistance to stakeholder countries in terms of adaptation of the Draft Version of the Law.  
*Mr. Dmitriy B. Radkevich, consultant*  
*Mr. Bo Libert, the regional advisor, UNECE.*  
*Mr. Alexander Mironenkov, Representative of Integration Committee, Secretariat of EurAsEC*
- 11.30-12.30 Consultation
- 12.30-13.30 Lunch break

**Session 2. Preparation of publication on the legal aspects**

## of the safe exploitation of dams in Central Asia.

*(Chairman – Mr. Zyryanov A. G., Kyrgyzstan)*

- 13.30-14.00 Suggested content of the Publication  
*Mr. Yuri N. Steklov, Consultant*
- 14.00 - 15.30 Consultation
- 15.30-16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00 -18.00 Consultations with delegations on follow-up revision of Summary Report

**Thursday, November 16, 2006**

### Session 3. Promotion of cooperation in emergency situations with Water Facilities

*(Chairman – Mr. Nachmidinov, Tajikistan)*

- 09.00- 09.30 Draft Regional Agreement on Hydrotechnical Installations Safety Cooperation, amended with received remarks.  
*Mr. Dmitriy B. Radkevich, consultant*
- 09.30-10.30 Prospects of adopting a Regional Agreement and suggestions on further actions in pursuing this goal.  
*Talks by Representatives of IFAS and participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan*
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00-12.00 Continuing the consultation, developing conclusions.  
*Mr. Dmitriy B. Radkevich, consultant*
- 12.00-12.15 Presentation of the Water Resources Corporation, Republic of Korea – potential to facilitate the project  
*Mr. Dong-Hoon Shin, Water Resources Corporation, Republic of Korea*
- 12.15-12.30 Possibilities of Internet-resources utilization for promoting the cooperation in area of Dam Safety in Central Asia  
  
*Turdybaev Bakhodyr, SIC ICWC, CAREWIB project*
- 12.30-13.30 Lunch break

### Session 4. Recommendations on Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia, including introduction of suggestions for the project's further development.

*(Chairman – Mr. Khanmedov G., Turkmenistan)*

- 13.30-14.30 *Talks by Representatives of IFAS, and participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Representative of the Environment Institute, Finland.*
- 14.30-15.00 Setting forth the conclusions of consultation:  
*Mr. Yuri N. Steklov, Consultant;*  
*Mr. Bo Libert, the regional advisor, UNECE.*

15.00 - 15.30 Coffee break

**Session 5. Development and adoption of the Meeting's Recommendations.**  
*(Chairman – Mr. Kamalov Ye. K., Uzbekistan)*

15.30 -16.30 Consultation

16.30- 17.00 Adopting the Meeting's Recommendations. Closing the Meeting.

## CONCLUDING STATEMENT

### Third Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia 15-16 November 2006, Almaty, Kazakhstan

The participants of the Meeting have with a great satisfaction noted the significant progress, achieved in course of implementation of the project on the *Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia: building potential and regional cooperation*, and would like to express their deepest gratitude to the Government of Finland for the funding of this project.

The participating countries started to pay priority attention to the regulatory and legislative issues in respect to the Safety of Dams and other major Water Facilities. The activities promoting approximation of National Legislations governing this field were initiated based on adaptation of Draft Law on Safety of Water Facilities, proposed within the framework of this Project. Certain efforts in this direction had been undertaken by Tajikistan, upon consideration of the model law at different levels of Government, decision was made to initiate the creation of national law on hydrotechnical installations safety. In Turkmenistan, work had been started to formulate the national law on hydrotechnical installations safety. Kyrgyzstan had developed a Charter of the Commission on Dam Safety, which being a Governmental Regulatory Body in area of Dam Safety shall perform monitoring of dam safety and the dams operators. In Kazakhstan it was proposed to amend the Water Code with clauses relevant to the regulatory and legislative affairs in terms of Dam Safety. Uzbekistan is still in the process of carrying out their work on implementation of all articles of Law on Safety of Water Facilities which they have adopted in 1999.

It was also remarked that special attention in all regulatory and legislative documents of Central Asian countries is now particularly drawn to the issues of improvement of technical condition and raising the level of safety of trans-boundary river dams, which pertain interstate significance, since these are of major influence to the downstream country's water supply. For example, in Kyrgyzstan according to their Water Code, all trans-boundary dams of interstate significance shall be treated as highest priority objects – the Dams of Republican Importance.

The participants of the Meeting have also stressed that the large dams on trans-boundary rivers and reservoirs created by their means are of extreme importance for the economics and environmental safety of the countries in this region. At the same time, these dams may represent a significant threat to the downstream regions and countries, Emergency or collapse of such dams may cause catastrophic calamities, including significant numbers of human victims and material damage, mainly due to dam-break wave.

At the same time, in Central Asia there is a lack of special Intergovernmental Treaties governing the procedure of informing the countries on the safety situation of Interstate Significance Dams, as well as on emergency or dangerous situations of the dams and other large water facilities which may cause catastrophic consequences for the other countries. Although there are systems of inter-agency emergency or failure information for countries downstream of main trans-boundary rivers in the Region - Amu-Dariya and Syr-Darya – these systems do not cover all dams and water facilities, located in these river basins.

The participants of the Meeting had expressed their concern on insufficiency of large-scale emergency information systems within the region, and called upon all the countries to actively cooperate on promotion of Inter-Governmental Treaties in this sphere. In this connection, it had with a great satisfaction been remarked that within the framework of the project on the *Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia: building potential and regional cooperation*, a Proposed Regional Treaty on hydrotechnical installations safety in Central Asia, which could in due course be used as a foundation for both Regional and Basin-scale Agreements.

The participants of the Meeting had agreed that the successful first phase of the project on the *Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia: building potential and regional cooperation*, completed in 2006, had laid a solid base under the future development of cooperation in the field of Dam Safety on the Region. At the same time, the participants remarked, that in order to successfully proceed the implementation of initiated regulatory and institutional reforms, both in respect to development of Regional and Basin-scale Agreements on dam safety cooperation, more efforts shall be required on the side of each country, which efforts shall require coordination on regional level.

The participants of the Meeting had voiced their full support to further enhanced development of cooperation in area of Dam Safety in Central Asia and decided to address the Government of Finland and other potential donors with request to continue the financial support of such a successful undertaking as the project on the *Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia: building potential and regional cooperation*, proved to be.