

The application submitted by:

Applicants/implementers:

Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe,
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Working Group on PRTR in Tajikistan
5/1 Shamsi St., Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Project title:

Regional (Central Asian) Conference on the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR).

Venue: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Preparatory period: August 2008 – March 2009

Time: March 2009

Duration: Two days (working days, without timing for arrival and departure of participants)

Participants:

- Representatives of ministries and institutions from the countries of Central Asia
- Experts and specialists on the PRTR issues
- International experts
- Business structures, entrepreneurs
- Non-governmental organizations
- Other relevant experts

Working languages of the Conference: Russian, English

Requested amount: \$ 45 350,00

Total amount: \$ 50 250,00

Input of the organization: \$ 4 900,00

*The schedule of the Regional Conference will be presented separately later.
Comments to the budget will be presented upon a request from donors.*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

In June 2001, Tajikistan became a party of the UNECE “Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters” (Aarhus Convention, 1998); and in May 2006, in Kiev, at the International Conference “Environment for Europe”, Tajikistan joined “The Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers” referring to the Aarhus Convention. Tajikistan was among 36 countries of Europe and the CIS. Thus, Tajikistan acknowledged the relevance and importance of its participation in the efforts undertaken by the international community on improvement of public access to ecological information through the support of national registers of pollutant release and transfer.

After the signing of the PRTR, Tajikistan has set up the PRTR Working Group under the Tajik Government Working Group on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention (2001). The PRTR Working Group exists under the Nature Protection Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. At this stage, the PRTR Working Group focuses its efforts on the priorities of the National Register of Pollutants following well-known European patterns, and works closely with national experts, representatives of similar groups working on the issues of climate changes and implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Tajikistan.

Members of the PRTR Working Group conduct consultations with specialists and experts representing all organizations and institutions in Tajikistan interested in the implementation of this Protocol; they also hold meetings with inspectors of the Nature Protection Committee’s representatives in the country regions; they analyze reports and materials from industrial objects.

We are aware that industrial enterprises in Tajikistan present information about emissions in the environment and transfers of pollutants; however, these reports have not become systematic, and the country is missing annual reports, as it is stipulated in the Protocol on Registers. Moreover, very often, such information is very specific, and the public at large is not trained for receipt and understanding of these data. This is the evidence of the lack of experience in the approbation of these materials and presenting them to the wide audience in an acceptable, understandable form.

It is quite important that there is a common understanding that such registers must be available and understandable for public at large. For the time being, creation of PRTR is a challenging task. Tajikistan among many other countries is lacking experience in this sphere. The United States, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Croatia, the Netherlands have already created their national registers. For countries of Central Asia it is a new and complicated problem. Joining of the Central Asian States to the Protocol would mean their will to ensure access to information about emissions and pollutants; and Tajikistan has proven its desire to do so. However, to perform this task, Tajikistan and other countries of Central Asia need financial assistance from international organizations and developed countries that have experience in this field.

At present, there is a vital necessity to develop the National Register of Pollutants in Tajikistan. The absence of the National Register does not allow to properly conduct statistical registration of emissions in accordance with the main provisions of the Aarhus Convention. Relevant consultations at both national and regional (Central Asian) levels are needed to develop the National Register, which would allow to continue the measures on public awareness and about the Protocol and other information on PRTR, which were initiated in 2003 in Kiev and in 2005 in Kazakhstan.

It should be noted that in 2005 Kazakhstan hosted the first working conference on the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Borovoye village, 3-4 September 2005). The conference enabled the participants to familiarize themselves with the text of the Protocol, with the legislation and experience of the European Union in the sphere of registers of pollutants, with the situation in general, and with the ratification of the Protocol. They also learned about the benefits for the countries that have signed the Protocol, and about the benefits for the region.

That meeting confirmed that for the current implementation of the Protocol, the countries need to adopt the contemporary European legal requirements and introduce them in the system of the environmental management. For that, it is necessary to conduct a more clear and qualitative analysis of available options among statistical agencies, and to check the system of monitoring for evaluation of adequate timeframes for implementation of PRTR in Tajikistan, as well as in every country of Central Asia.

Measures on the further interaction, cooperation and exchange of experience in the sphere of public awareness among ministries and institutions directly involved in industrial activities – those who can make their input in collection, processing and submission of data on PRTR – are also very important.

For the time being, the PRTR Working Group under the Government's Nature Protection Committee needs consultative assistance from experts of Central Asia and the countries that have real experience gained after the signing and ratification of the Protocol. The experience shows that the registers of emissions and transfer of pollutants are effective means of decrease of pollution; they can be used as sources of information about the closest sources of pollution for the public. In this regard, it is necessary to establish exchange of information with specialists who have created such registers.

In 2005, Tajikistan was selected as a pilot country on the development of the National Profile for Capacities to Implement the Aarhus Convention. The project was designed and carried out with the support of UNITAR, EC UN. The development of the National Profile for Capacities to Implement the Aarhus Convention was initiated by both government and non-governmental organizations. The work on the Profile gave an opportunity to evaluate the existing capacities and opportunities to implement the main provisions of the Convention; it also revealed the priority directions, which the country has to follow in the future work.

At present, financial support is needed to hold the Regional Conference, which will serve as a next measure in the implementation of the final document adopted in Kazakhstan; it will also serve as a continuation of the dialogue in this direction. It should be noted that currently, the Protocol is opened for signing by all countries that are members of the United Nations regardless of their membership or non-membership in the Aarhus Convention. As we are aware, four of the five countries of Central Asia have signed the Convention, and only Tajikistan has joined the Protocol.

The Regional (Central Asian) Conference on PRTR in Dushanbe will also be conducive to active accession of other Central Asian countries to the Protocol. Besides that, the Conference would create new opportunities for acceleration of the ratification of the Protocol in Tajikistan. It should be noted that this meeting will be an essential input, creating appropriate conditions for the interested parties to ratify, confirm and adopt the Protocol, or to join it, and thus, to accelerate its coming into force.

In this regard, the initiators of this Project apply for a consultative and financial assistance to international organizations, among whom are the Convention Secretariat, UNITAR, EC UN, OSCE, UN GEF, and other interested parties.

Goal:

Promotion of the main provisions of the PRTR Protocol in Tajikistan and in the region of Central Asia through the regional (Central Asian) Conference on PRTR; acceleration of activities and establishment of cooperation among experts on the national, regional and international levels; consultative support to the PRTR Working Group in Tajikistan, and interaction among the National Working Groups in Central Asia; development of measures and proposals on the National PRTR Register in Tajikistan as a pilot one in Central Asia.

Tasks:

- Raising awareness among stakeholders in Tajikistan about Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, about the relevant international legislation and experience;
- Acquaintance with experience on the implementation and promotion of the main requirements of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register in Tajikistan;
- Exchange of experience on the implementation of the main provisions of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in the Aarhus Convention among participants from Central Asia;
- Consultations with experts from the UN European Economic Commission;
- Establishing working contacts and developing cooperation with representatives of international organizations involved in PRTR;
- Involvement of national and foreign NGOs, industrial associations and consulting companies in activities on the implementation of the main provisions of PRTR;
- Preparation of surveys on the main commitments of the Parties to the PRTR Protocol, and development of potential approaches to their implementation in Tajikistan;
- Analysis of the existing national legislation related to PRTR in Tajikistan, and compilation of a brief information report for participants of the Regional Conference;
- Research of opportunities for improvement of the national legislation and the institutional structure in the context of PRTR;
- Covering the outcomes of the Regional Conference in the mass media.

Expected outcomes:

1. Acceleration of activities of the PRTR Working Group in Tajikistan with the purpose to further promote the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in Tajikistan.
2. Definition of the main points and collection of concrete proposals concerning the creation of the National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register in Tajikistan;
3. Preparation of a project proposal on the National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, and support to dissemination of information on projects under implementation in this sphere.
4. Promotion of accession and ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in Central Asia;
5. Ratification of the Protocol in Tajikistan.

Plan of activities

	Activities	2008 -2009
1	Preparatory work for the Regional (Central Asian) Conference on PRTR	
1.1	Coordination of preparatory activities on the Regional (Central Asian) Conference on PRTR with international donor agencies	August 2008
1.2	Coordination of the preparatory activities with participants from the countries of Central Asia and Europe	September 2008
1.3	Discussion of the Conference Agenda	October 2008
1.4	Analysis of compliance of the Tajik national legislation with the main provisions of PRTR	November-December 2008 – February 2009
2	Regional Conference on PRTR	
2.1	Processing of the results of the meeting	March 2009
2.2	Dissemination of final materials	March 2009
2.3	Publication of final materials of the Conference	April 2009
2.4	Financial report	April 2009

B. Activities before the Regional Conference:

- Dissemination of information via e-mail on the Regional Conference on PRTR;
- Consultations with experts in the countries of Central Asia, Europe and international organizations;
- Preparation of the list of participants of the Regional Conference;
- Preparation of working materials (program/agenda, questionnaires, presentations, translation of materials, etc.)

C. Activities during the Regional Conference:

- Meeting and accommodation of participants;
- The Conference;
- Departure of participants;
- Processing of the results, and preparation of final documents of the Regional Conference.

D. Activities after the Regional Conference:

- Dissemination of final documents adopted by participants among all stakeholders, organizations and local decision-makers (competent organizations and institutions in the countries of Central Asia);
- Publication of analysis on the issues of PRTR in Tajikistan;
- Translation of the report on PRTR in Tajikistan (into Tajik language).

Budget (in US dollars)

#	Article of expenditures	NGO	Aarhus Center	Amount requested	Total amount
1	Travel expenses	0	0	18 800	18 000
	Turkmenistan – 3 persons			2400	
	Kyrgyz Republic – 5 persons			1800	
	Uzbekistan – 5 persons			600	
	Kazakhstan – 7 persons			3000	
	European countries – 10 persons			10000	
	Tajikistan – 10 persons			1000	
2	Accommodation (40 persons x \$100 x 4 days)	0	0	16 000	16 000
3	Per diem (40 persons x \$15 x 4 days)	0	0	2 400	2 400
4	Lunch (50 чел. x 10 долл. x 2 days)	0	0	1 000	1000
5	Dinner (50 чел. x 5 долл. x 2 days)	0	0	500	500
6	Coffee break (50 persons x \$2 x 2 times x 2 days), plus service	0	0	600	600
7	Rent of equipment	1 900	1 900	600	4 400
	Computers,	1000	1000	0	
	Printer and scanner,	800	500	0	
	LCD projector with a screen	100	400	200	
	Microphones	0	0	400	
8	Office supplies (flip-charts, toners, cartridges, paper, markers, etc.)	0	0	500	500
9	Communication, postal expenses (6 months x \$50)	0	0	300	300
10	Publication of the report on Tajikistan	0	0	500	500
11	Stationery (bags, banners, badges, pens, notebooks) (50 pieces x \$10)	0	0	500	500
12	Rent of premises	0	0	340	450
13	Rent of transport in Dushanbe (minibus, airport – hotel, and other points of destinations)	0	100	300	400
14	Work and honorarium for experts	0	1 000	2 000	3 000
	- preparation to the Conference	0	500	1 000	
	- preparation of the information report on PRTR in Tajikistan	0	500	1 000	
15	Translation services			1 000	1 000
	- translation from Russian into English, from English into Russian (simultaneous translation), (2 persons x \$25 x 8 hours x 2 days);	0	0	800	
	- translation of working reports and materials (written translation) (20 pages x \$10)	0	0	200	
16	Contingencies	0	0	500	500
	Total amount	1 900	3 000	45 350	50 250