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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MEETING ON DAM SAFETY COOPERATION  
IN CENTRAL ASIA**

**Almaty, Kazakhstan, 19-20 November 2013**

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

1. The Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 19-20 November 2013. The meeting was organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS), with the support of the Eurasian Development Bank and the Russian Federation. Organizational support for the meeting was provided by the Executive Board of IFAS (EB IFAS) in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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

2. The meeting reviewed main results of previous efforts focused on dam safety in Central Asia, and discussed proposals on priority directions of further cooperation to ensure the safety of hydraulic structures at the national and regional levels. In addition, the aim of the event was to share relevant experiences among the participants.

### **2. Participants**

3. The meeting was attended by 18 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan; the IFAS was represented by 3 participants. There were also representatives of the UNESCAP, the World Bank, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), and the Eurasian Development Bank. Together with the staff of the UNECE secretariat, consultants and representatives of other organizations the meeting was attended by 39 people. The list of participants is shown in Annex 1 to this report.

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

4. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Medet Ospanov, Director of the EB IFAS in Kazakhstan. He noted the importance of dam safety in Central Asia and stressed the significance of contribution made thereto by the “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” Project.

5. Mr. Serik Bekmaganbetov, Advisor, SCO and Transboundary Rivers Office, Pan-Asian Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, spoke on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He expressed gratitude to the UNECE for their support and assistance in addressing issues of such a high importance for Central Asia and wished all the participants of the meeting productive work, interesting discussions and implementation of the conceived plans.

6. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE, in his address briefly summarized the results of activities since the last meeting, and expressed hope for a productive future work in ensuring dam safety in the region.

7. Mr. Nikolay Pomoschnikov, Head of Sub-Regional Office of UN ESCAP in North and Central Asia in his welcoming word informed the meeting of the preparedness of his office to facilitate cooperation on dam safety and wished everyone success.

8. Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, representative of the Executive Committee of IFAS welcomed the participants and noted that the new EC IFAS will make every effort to facilitate implementation of the ASBP-3 in general, and of the program component on dam safety in particular.

9. Mr. Tulegen Sarsembekov, Deputy Chief of the Technical Assistance Office, Analytical Department of the Eurasian Development Bank, in his address assured the meeting of the bank's unchanged intentions to support the activities to ensure the safety of hydraulic structures in the region.

#### **4. Election of Chairs**

10. Messrs. Medet Ospanov, Director of the Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan; Iskender Dzholdoshaliev, the Head of the Technical Policy and Investment Office, Department of Water Resources of Kyrgyzstan; Akbarhodzha Nabiyeu, Director of the Tajikgiprovodkhoz Institute of the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of Tajikistan, and Nazimzhon Ernazarov, Head of the State Inspectorate for Control and Supervision of the technical condition and safety of the largest and most important water facilities under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Gosvodkhoz nadzor) alternately chaired the sessions of the meeting.

#### **5. Adoption of the Agenda**

11. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of Chairs and adoption of the agenda of the Meeting.
3. Summary of activities which followed the second phase of the "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation" Project.
4. Overview of activities related to dam safety in Central Asia.
5. Development of cooperation in Central Asia to ensure the safety of dams.
6. International experience and perspectives to support cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia by international organizations and financial institutions.
7. Plans for future activities to ensure dam safety in Central Asia.
8. Formulation of recommendations of the Meeting.
9. Miscellaneous.
10. Closing of the Meeting.

12. The full program of the Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia is found in Annex 2.

### **B. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**

13. Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser informed the meeting about the activities implemented after the second phase of the "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation" Project.

14. In respect to the agenda item "Overview of activities related to Dam Safety in Central Asia" national project coordinators from each Central Asian country, i.e. Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan; Mr. Iskender Djoldoshaliev, Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Akbarhodzha Nabiyeu, Tajikistan, and Mr. Nazimzhon Ernazarov, Uzbekistan, made presentations of the work on dam safety in Central Asia in the past two years. They also briefed the meeting about progress achieved in the development of the Draft Regional Cooperation Agreement on Dam Safety, and identified priority lines of action for each country to ensure

the safety of hydraulic structures. Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, the Plenipotentiary Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan in EC IFAS, outlined the plans of the EC IFAS activities with respect to dam safety.

15. Mr. Yuri Steklov, consultant, gave an overview of the progress in the development of the Draft Regional Cooperation Agreement on Dam Safety in Central Asia. He proposed to discuss the various possibilities of its further development. The majority of the participants were in favor of continuing work on the Draft Regional Agreement. Representatives of EC IFAS expressed their readiness to continue working on harmonization of the Draft Agreement with the support of the UNECE.

16. The progress in development of cooperation in Central Asia to ensure the safety of Hydraulic Structures was reflected in reports of Mr. Iskender Djoldoshaliev; Mr. Oleg Makarov, Kyrgyzstan, and Mr. Vladimir Scherbyna, consultant, who all reported on the cooperation achieved in ensuring safety of Hydraulic Structures on the Chu and Talas rivers between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. In particular, they reported results of work aimed to establish a system of automated safety monitoring at Kirov dam. Mr. Medet Ospanov and Mr. Tursun Ibraev, Kazakhstan, reported on the establishment of a training center on dam safety in Taraz, and its planned activities.

17. Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE, informed the meeting about the progress of the Eurasian Development Bank Project on facilitating dam safety cooperation in Central Asia, which provides for support of the Regional meeting on dam safety and development of a Methodological guide on the safety of hydraulic structures. The status of development of the Methodological guide on the safety of hydraulic structures was accounted for by Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, Uzbekistan and Mr. Alexander Yurchenko, consultant.

18. During the session on international experience, Mr. Jürgen Fleitz, expert from Oficina Técnica de Estudios y Control de Obras, SA, shared the experience of ensuring dam safety in Spain, and Mr. Sahib Hassanzadeh and Mr. Arif Akhundov shared the experience of improving dam safety in Azerbaijan.

19. During the session on the perspectives to support cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia by international organizations and financial institutions, Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov informed the meeting of the intention of the UN ESCAP to implement a project on improving safety of small hydraulic structures in Central Asia, and elaborated on the plans of the project. Mr. Shukhrat Talipov stated the intentions of the EC IFAS to facilitate projects related to the safety of Hydraulic Structures under the ASBP-3. Mr. Boris Minarik, Slovakia, spoke about state regulation of dam and other large hydraulic structures safety in Slovakia, and suggested several possible areas of cooperation between Slovakia and Central Asian countries in this regard. Mr. Volker Frobarth, Programme Director, Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme, GIZ, shared the agency's plans to promote cooperation on dam safety in the region.

20. When reviewing the list of possible areas of cooperation to ensure dam safety in Central Asia, countries expressed their wishes as to the priorities of individual lines of action, and proposed several new directions. In particular, they proposed to develop standard regulatory and technical documents on dam safety.

### **C. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

21. The meeting adopted the following decisions and recommendations on the agenda:

1. Take note of the progress reports on dam safety in Central Asia presented by the national coordinators. Request UN ECE to support the work on priority lines of action to ensure dam safety, which were identified in the reports.
2. Take note of the willingness of countries to continue working on the Draft Regional Cooperation Agreement on Dam Safety in Central Asia. Support with gratitude the intention of EC IFAS to continue work on the Draft Agreement. Ask the EC IFAS to explore the possibility of setting up a working group on dam safety in Central Asia under the auspices of IFAS before the end of 2013, and to inform the UNECE accordingly. Request the UN ECE and UN ESCAP to support the work of this group, if established.
3. Request the UN ECE and the UN ESCAP to assist in the identification of international and donor support for the implementation of ASBP-3.
4. Gratefully acknowledge the important role of UN ECE in promoting cooperation on dam safety on Chu and Talas Rivers between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Request the UN ECE to inform the Governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on the results of work aimed to establish a system of automated safety monitoring at Kirov dam, and about the need for co-financing by the countries to complete these works.
5. Recommend the main authors of the Methodological guide on hydraulic structures safety to refine the text in accordance with the comments obtained from the national coordinators, and suggestions and remarks voiced at the meeting before November 30, 2013. Request the National Coordinators to submit comments to the further edited version before December 15, 2013.
6. Express appreciation to the UN ESCAP for their intention to conduct training courses on safety of small hydraulic structures in Central Asia in the first half of 2014.
7. Express appreciation to the representatives of Spain and Azerbaijan for the opportunity to learn from the experiences in ensuring dam safety in these countries.
8. Gratefully acknowledge the suggestions of representatives of Slovakia and GIZ on dam safety cooperation with the Central Asian countries.
9. Express appreciation to the Russian Federation and the Eurasian Bank for their support in organizing the meeting and developing the Methodological guide on hydraulic structures safety.
10. Express gratitude to the EB IFAS for the excellent organization of the meeting.

## СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ

Региональное совещание по сотрудничеству по безопасности плотин в Центральной Азии  
19-20 ноября 2013 года, Алматы, Казахстан

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
Almaty, Kazakhstan, November 19-20, 2013

	КАЗАХСТАН	KAZAKHSTAN	Contacts
1.	<b>Бекмаганбетов Серик</b> Советник Управления ШОС и трансграничных рек Департамента общеазиатского сотрудничества МИД Республики Казахстан	<b>Bekmagambetov Serik</b> Adviser of the SCO and the transboundary rivers of the DPAC Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Tel.+7 ( 717 2) 72 01 15 Fax. +7 (7172) 72 01 16 E-mail: <a href="mailto:s.bekmaganbetov@mfa.kz">s.bekmaganbetov@mfa.kz</a> Mob. +7 777 255 88 39
2.	<b>Абдраимов Едил</b> Главный эксперт Департамента предупреждения ЧС	<b>Abdraimov Edil</b> Chief Expert of the warning in cases of emergency	Tel.+7 ( 717 2) 60 21 04 Fax. +7 (7172) 94 48 32 E-mail: <a href="mailto:abdraimov@emer.kz">abdraimov@emer.kz</a> Mob. +7 701 749 17 53
3.	<b>Кульжанбеков Ердос</b> Руководитель управления эксплуатации и развития гидротехнических сооружений КВР МООС РК	<b>Kulzhanbekov Erdos</b> The head of the operation and management of hydraulic structures CWR the Ministry of Environment of the Republic Kazakhstan	Tel.+7 ( 717 2) 74 98 60 Fax. +7 (7172) 74 98 60 E-mail: <a href="mailto:591924@mail.ru">591924@mail.ru</a> Mob. +7 777 255 88 39
4.	<b>Ибраев Турсун Турмаханович</b> Ведущий научный сотрудник Международного учебного центра по безопасности гидротехнических сооружений	<b>Ibraev Tursun</b> Lead researcher at the International Training Centre on dam safety	Tel. +7 (7262) 42 55 40 Fax +7 (7262) 42 55 40 E-mail: <a href="mailto:tursun_ibraev@mail.ru">tursun_ibraev@mail.ru</a> Mob. +77057000288
	КЫРГЫЗСТАН	KYRGYZSTAN	
5.	<b>Джолдошалиев Искендер Алымкулович</b> Начальник отдела технической политики и инвестиций Департамента водного хозяйства	<b>Iskender Djoldoshaliev</b> Head of division, Water Management Department	Tel. (+996312) 561637 Fax. (+996312)549094 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Iskender1957@mail.ru">Iskender1957@mail.ru</a>
6.	<b>Макаров Олег Степанович</b> Директор ПКТИ Водоавтоматика и метрология	<b>Oleg Makarov</b> Director, Research institute Vodoavtomatika i metrologia"	Tel. (+996312) 541159 E-m: <a href="mailto:pkti@elcat.kg">pkti@elcat.kg</a>
7.	<b>Байызбеков Жолдошбек Калчороевич</b> Ведущий инженер гидротехнической службы ОАО «Электрические станции»	<b>Djoldoshbek Baiyzbekov</b> Chief specialist, JSC "Electricity stations"	Tel. (+996312) 670874
	ТАДЖИКИСТАН	TAJIKISTAN	
8.	<b>Набиев Акбарходжа Озорович</b> Директор института «Таджикгипроводхоз» Министерства мелиорации и водного хозяйства	<b>Akbarkhoja Nabiev</b> Director, Design Institute "Tadjikgiprovodkhoz", Ministry of Amelioration and Water Management	E-mail: <a href="mailto:nabievvtj@mail.ru">nabievvtj@mail.ru</a> ; <a href="mailto:nabievakbar@mail.ru">nabievakbar@mail.ru</a> Mob. (+992 93) 4888831

9.	<b>Холматов Далер Абдухалоквич</b> Ведущий инженер в ГУП "Таджикгипроводхоз"	<b>Daler Kholmatov</b> Chief specialist Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources	Tel. (+992)900005590 E-mail: <a href="mailto:doro-1@mail.ru">doro-1@mail.ru</a>
10.	<b>Петров Георгий Николаевич</b> Заведующий лабораторией гидроэнергетики Института водных проблем, гидроэнергетики и экологии АН	<b>Georgiy Petrov</b> Head of Laboratory, Water Problems Institute, Academy of Sciences	Tel: (+99237) 2245231 Mob: (+99291) 8620536 Email: <a href="mailto:geomar@bk.ru">geomar@bk.ru</a>
<b>УЗБЕКИСТАН</b>		<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	
11.	<b>Хошимов Валижон</b> Начальник отдела Договорно- правового управления МИД РУ	<b>Valijon Khoshimov</b> Head of the Department of Treaty and Law Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan	Tel. +(8371) 233 64 75 Fax +(8371) 239 15 17 E-mail: <a href="mailto:v-nadzor@sks.uz">v-nadzor@sks.uz</a>
12.	<b>Эрназаров Назимжон</b> Нач. Инспекции «Госводхознадзор», координатор проекта ЕЭК ООН «Безопасность плотин в ЦА» от Узбекистана	<b>Nazimjon Ernazarov</b> Head of Inspection "Gosvodkhoz nadzor", coordinator of the UNECE "Dam Safety in Central Asia" from Uzbekistan	Tel. +(8371) 226 71 66 Fax +(8371) 226 62 63 E-mail: <a href="mailto:v-nadzor@sks.uz">v-nadzor@sks.uz</a>
13.	<b>Ирисбоев Зафар</b> Старший специалист Госинспекция «Госводхознадзор»	<b>Zafar Irisboev</b> Senior specialist of the State Inspectorate "Gosvodkhoz nadzor"	Tel. +(8371) 226 57 18 Fax +(8371) 226 62 63 E-mail: <a href="mailto:v-nadzor@sks.uz">v-nadzor@sks.uz</a>
14.	<b>Фозилов Алломжон</b> Начальник Управления эксплуатации ирригационных систем Минсельводхоза	<b>Allomjon Fozilov</b> Head of the operation of irrigation systems the Ministry of Agriculture Water Management	Tel. +(8371) 241 49 40 Fax +(8371) 241 49 40 E-mail: <a href="mailto:a.fozilov@qsv.uz">a.fozilov@qsv.uz</a>
<b>АЗЕРБАЙДЖАН</b>		<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	
15.	<b>Гасанзаде Сахиб</b> Заведующий сектором гидротехнических сооружений Государственного агентства водных ресурсов при МЧС	<b>Sahib Hasanzade</b> Head of the Sector of hydraulic structures of the State Agency for Water Resources in Emergencies	E-mail: <a href="mailto:sahib540@mail.ru">sahib540@mail.ru</a>
16.	<b>Ахундов Ариф</b> Сотрудник Государственного агентства водных ресурсов при МЧС	<b>Arif Akhundov</b> An employee of the State Agency for Water Resources in Emergencies	E-mail: <a href="mailto:sahib540@mail.ru">sahib540@mail.ru</a>
<b>ЭКСПЕРТЫ</b>		<b>EXPERTS</b>	
17.	<b>Стеклов Юрий Николаевич</b> Консультант	<b>Yuri Steklov</b> Consultant	Tel. (+662) 9679536 E-mail: <a href="mailto:yuri.steklov@gmail.com">yuri.steklov@gmail.com</a> Mob. (+668) 40332465
18.	<b>Щербина Владимир Иванович</b> Консультант	<b>Vladimir Sherbina</b> Consultant	Tel: (+7495) 4927612 Email: <a href="mailto:oidcniies@niies.ru">oidcniies@niies.ru</a>
19.	<b>Юрченко Александр Николаевич</b> Консультант	<b>Alexander Yurchenko</b> Consultant	E-mail: <a href="mailto:alexu_niies@mail.ru">alexu_niies@mail.ru</a>
20.	<b>Юрген Флейц</b> Эксперт, Oficina Técnica de Estudios y Control de Obras, S.A.	<b>Jürgen Fleitz</b> Expert, Oficina Técnica de Estudios y Control de Obras, S.A.	Tel: 91 6232307 Fax.: 91 535.37.42 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jfleitz@ofiteco.com">jfleitz@ofiteco.com</a>
21.	<b>Борис Минарик</b> Приглашенный эксперт, Словакия	<b>Boris Minarik</b> Invited expert, Slovakia	E-mail: <a href="mailto:boris.minarik0@gmail.com">boris.minarik0@gmail.com</a> Mob: 421904608509

22.	<b>Ампайя Харакунарак</b> Приглашенный эксперт, Таиланд	<b>Ampai Harakunarak</b> Invited expert, Thailand	E-mail: <a href="mailto:Aharakunarak@gmail.com">Aharakunarak@gmail.com</a>
23.	<b>Оролбаев Эркин Эргешевич</b> Консультант	<b>Erkin Orolbaev</b> Consultant	Tel: (+996312)660452 E-mail: <a href="mailto:erkin.orolbaev@gmail.com">erkin.orolbaev@gmail.com</a> Mob: (+996) 707 303 903
	<b>МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>	
	<b>Европейская Экономическая Комиссия ООН</b>	<b>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</b>	
24.	<b>Либерт Бу</b> Региональный советник Отдел по окружающей среде	<b>Bo Libert</b> Regional Adviser Environment Division	Tel. (+4122) 9172396 Fax (+4122) 9170621 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Bo.libert@unece.org">Bo.libert@unece.org</a> Mob. (+4179) 4446026/4180
25.	<b>Ибатуллин Сагит Рахматуллаевич</b> Заместитель Председателя Комитета по соблюдению Водной Конвенции ЕЭК ООН	<b>Saghit Ibatullin</b> Deputy Chairman of the Compliance Committee, the UNECE Water Convention	E-mail: <a href="mailto:Saghit@inbox.ru">Saghit@inbox.ru</a> , Mob.+7 701 5310225
	<b>ЭСКАТО ООН</b>	<b>UNESCAP</b>	
26.	<b>Помощников Николай Николаевич</b> Глава субрегионального офиса ЭСКАТО в Северной и Центральной Азии	<b>Nikolay Pomoshchnikov</b> Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia	Tel: +7 727 3384401 Fax: +7 727 3384417 Mobile: +7 7058641177 Email: <a href="mailto:pomoshchnikov@un.org">pomoshchnikov@un.org</a>
27.	<b>Салмах Закама</b> сотрудник ЭСКАТО	<b>Salmah Zakama</b> ESCAP representative	Email: <a href="mailto:zakama8@un.org">zakama8@un.org</a>
	<b>Региональный Центр ООН по превентивной дипломатии для Центральной Азии</b>	<b>United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia</b>	
28.	<b>Аня Ханиш</b> Стажер Регионального Центра ООН по превентивной дипломатии для Центральной Азии	<b>Anja Hanish</b> International Fellow and UN Intern with the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	Tel. +(993) 12 481 612 Mob. (993) 638 586 99 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hanish@un.org">hanish@un.org</a>
	<b>МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ ФОНД СПАСЕНИЯ АРАЛА</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA</b>	
29.	<b>Баялимов Даулетияр Аймаганбетович</b> Член Исполкома МФСА Полномочный представитель от Республики Казахстан	<b>Bayalimov Dauletiyar</b> Representative of Kazakhstan in the Executive Committee of IFAS	Tel. E-mail: Mob. +(998 90) 954 16 45
30.	<b>Казак Мавлон Хакимович</b> Член Исполкома МФСА Полномочный представитель от Республики Таджикистан	<b>Mavlon Kazakov</b> Representative of Tajikistan in the Executive Committee of IFAS	E-mail: <a href="mailto:mavlon_kazakov@mail.ru">mavlon_kazakov@mail.ru</a>
31.	<b>Боев Санои Шидиевич</b> Член Исполкома МФСА Полномочный представитель от Республики Таджикистан	<b>Sanoi Boev</b> Representative of Tajikistan in the Executive Committee of IFAS	E-mail: <a href="mailto:sanoi@mail.ru">sanoi@mail.ru</a>
32.	<b>Талипов Шухрат Ганиевич</b> Член Исполкома МФСА Полномочный представитель от Республики Узбекистан	<b>Shukhrat Talipov</b> Representative of Uzbekistan in the Executive Committee of IFAS	Tel. +(99871) 230 44 90 Fax +(99871) 281 54 74 E-mail: <a href="mailto:v-nadzor@sks.uz">v-nadzor@sks.uz</a> Mob. +(99871) 321 50 54



33.	<b>Оспанов Медет Оспанович</b> Директор, Исполнительная Дирекция МФСА в Республике Казахстан	<b>Medet Ospanov</b> Director, Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 2507717 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mospanov@inbox.ru">mospanov@inbox.ru</a> Mob. (+7701) 7138219
	<b>ГЕРМАНСКОЕ ОБЩЕСТВО ПО МЕЖДУНАРОДНОМУ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВУ</b>	<b>GIZ</b>	
34.	<b>Фолькер Фробарт</b> Директор программы «Трансграничное управление водными ресурсами в Центральной Азии», Германское общество по международному сотрудничеству (GIZ) GmbH	<b>Volker Frobarth</b> Programme Director Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	E: <a href="mailto:volker.frobarth@giz.de">volker.frobarth@giz.de</a>
	<b>ЕВРАЗИЙСКИЙ БАНК РАЗВИТИЯ</b>	<b>EURASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK</b>	
35.	<b>Сарсембеков Тулеген Таджибаевич</b> Заместитель начальника отдела технического содействия Аналитического управления	<b>Tulegen Sarsembekov</b> Deputy Head, Technical Assistance Division, Strategy and Research Department	Tel:(+7727)2321144 Fax: E-mail:info@eabr.org Mob.(+7701)7970905
36.	<b>Стерликова Юлия Михайловна</b> Главный специалист	<b>Yulia Sterlikova</b> Chief specialist	E-mail:info@eabr.org
	<b>ВСЕМИРНЫЙ БАНК</b>	<b>WORLD BANK</b>	
37.	<b>Манон Кассара</b> Представитель всемирного банка	<b>Manon Cassara</b> Representative of World Bank	E-mail: <a href="mailto:mccassara@worldbank.org">mccassara@worldbank.org</a>
	<b>СМИ</b>	<b>MASS MEDIA</b>	
38.	<b>Напольская</b> Телеканал “Хабар”	<b>Napolskaya</b> Habar TV	Tel. (+7727) 2700109
39.	<b>Турсьбекова Айгуль</b> Казахстанская правда	<b>Aigul Tursybekova</b> Kazakhstanskaya Pravda	Tel. (+7727) 2700109
	<b>ОРГАНИЗАТОРЫ ИД МФСА</b>	<b>ORGANIZERS ED IFAS</b>	
	<b>Нурбатыров Досжан Абдрешович</b> Начальник административного отдела	<b>Doszhan Nurbatyrrov</b> Chief of department	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 2507717 Mob. (+7 777) 2177656
	<b>Байдильдаева Сулушаш Рахимжановна</b> Главный бухгалтер	<b>Sulushash Baidildayeva</b> Chief accountant	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 2507717 Mob. (+7 702) 3377788
	<b>Абдугапиров Илашбек Абдугапирович</b> Эксперт	<b>Pashbek Abdugapirov</b> Expert	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 2507717 Mob. (+7 705) 265 52 60
	<b>Аманжолов Ергали Есеркепович</b> Референт	<b>Ergali Amanzholov</b> Referent	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 2507717 Mob. (+7701) 5310215
	<b>Ченгельбаева Алма Мухамедовна</b> Референт	<b>Chengelbaeva Alma</b> Referent	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 2507717 Mob. (+7701) 7466860

	<b>Литвиненко Аида Владимировна</b> Референт	<b>Aida Litvinenko</b> Referent	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 2507717 Mob. (+777) 3594488
	<b>Асылбекова Зарина Асылхановна</b> Референт	<b>Zarina Assylbekova</b> Referent	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 2507717 E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@ifas.kz">info@ifas.kz</a> Mob. (+7775) 777 27 12
	<b>Абишев Хамит Жайлаубаевич</b> Специалист по информационному обеспечению	<b>Hamit Abishev</b> PR specialist	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 2507717 Mob. (+7707) 1457545
	<b>Меирманов Елдос</b> Консультант	<b>Eldos Meirmanov</b> Consultant	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 2507717 Mob. (+7701) 4903988

**Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
19-20 November 2013, in Almaty, Kazakhstan**

*The meeting was held in the conference room Baiterek, Kazzhol hotel  
Venue: 127/1Gogol street, Almaty*

**PROGRAM**

<b>Tuesday, November 19, 2013</b>	
9.00 – 9.30	Registration of participants
9.30 – 9.50	<b>Opening of the Meeting.</b> <i>Chairman - Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan</i>  Welcoming remarks on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan Welcoming remarks on behalf of UN ECE Welcoming remarks on behalf of UN ESCAP Welcoming remarks on behalf of IFAS Welcoming remarks on behalf of the EADB
09.50 – 10.00	<b>Adoption of the agenda and election of the Chairs of the meeting</b> Introduction of participants and presentation of workshop program
10.00-10.30	Summary of activities which followed the second phase of the “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” Project. <i>Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser</i>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.00	<b>Overview of activities related to Dam Safety in Central Asia.</b> <i>Chairman - Mr. Iskender Djoldoshaliev, Kyrgyzstan.</i>  <i>National coordinators:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <i>Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan;</i></li><li>– <i>Mr. Iskender Djoldoshaliev, Kyrgyzstan;</i></li><li>– <i>Mr. Akbarkhoja Nabiev, Tajikistan;</i></li><li>– <i>Mr. Nazimjon Ernazarov, Uzbekistan;</i></li> <li>– <i>Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, Plenipotentiary Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the EC IFAS</i></li></ul>

12.00 – 12.30	Overview of the progress in development of the Draft Regional Cooperation Agreement on Dam Safety in Central Asia. <i>Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant</i>
12.30-13.00	Discussion
13.00-14.00	Lunch
	<b>Development of cooperation in Central Asia to ensure the safety of dams.</b> <i>Chairman - Representative of Tajikistan</i>
14.00 – 14.10	Introduction. <i>Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE</i>
14.10 – 14.30	Cooperation to ensure the safety of hydraulic structures on the Chu and Talas rivers between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. <i>Mr. Iskender Djoldoshaliev, Mr. Oleg Makarov, Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Vladimir Sherbina, Consultant</i>
14.30 – 15.30	On the establishment of a training center for dam safety and planning of its activities. <i>Mr. Medet Ospanov, Mr. Tursun Ibraev, Kazakhstan</i>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-16.10	On the progress of the Eurasian Development Bank project to support the development of cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia. <i>Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE</i>
16.10-16.30	Development of a methodological guide for the safety of hydraulic structures. <i>Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, Uzbekistan, Mr. Alexander Yurchenko, consultant.</i>
16.30-18.00	Discussion
<b>Wednesday, November 20, 2013</b>	
	<b>International experience and perspectives to support cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia by international organizations and financial institutions</b> <i>Chairman - Mr. Nazimjon Ernazarov, Uzbekistan</i>
9.30 – 9.40	Introduction. <i>Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE</i>

9.40 – 10.00	Dam safety management in Spain. <i>Mr. Jürgen Fleitz, Oficina Técnica de Estudios y Control de Obras, S.A.</i>
10.00 – 10.20	Dam safety management in Azerbaijan. <i>Mr. Sahib Hasanzade; Mr. Arif Akhundov</i>
10.20-10.30	Discussion
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00 -11.15	The project of UN ESCAP Subregional Office for the safety assessment of small hydraulic structures. <i>Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, UN ESCAP</i>
11.15 -11.30	Support for cooperation on dam safety in the region under the ASBP-3. <i>Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, Representative of EC IFAS</i>
11.30 -11.45	Proposals of Slovakia on cooperation with the countries of Central Asia in the field of dam safety. <i>Mr. Boris Minarik, expert</i>
11.45 -12.00	Proposals of GIZ on cooperation with the countries of Central Asia in the field of dam safety. <i>Mr. Volker Frobarth, Programme Director, Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme, GIZ</i>
12.00 -12.45	<b>Discussion of plans for future activities to ensure dam safety in Central Asia.</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant</i>
	<b>Development of recommendations of the meeting.</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE</i>
12.45 -13.15	Consideration and adoption of decisions, recommendations and the report of the meeting. Closing of the Meeting.
13.15-14.00	Lunch

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