

**Further development of regional cooperation among the countries of Central Asia in the management of information on the environment and water resources**

Almaty, 9-10 June 2014

**First day (9 June)**

**(09.30 Presentation of a newly published text book for Central Asia on the safety of hydraulic installations)**

**10.00 Opening of the meeting (Chair: Medet Ospanov, EB-IFAS)**

Opening statements max 5 minutes.

- Statement by UNECE
- Statements by Heads of national delegations
- Statement by the Chair of ICSD
- Statement by EC IFAS
- Statement by GIZ

**11.00 Coffee break**

**11.30 First session (Chair: Marton Krasznai, UNECE)**

Presentations maximum 15 minutes

**Strengths and weaknesses of national and regional management of environmental, water and hydro-meteorological information; opportunities for complementarity and synergy**

- Svetlana Shivareva, RHC: Survey on improving information service in the water sector of Central Asia” from 2011: updated findings and recommendations (max 15 minutes)
- Viktor Dukhovny, SIC ICWC: Regional Working Group Meeting on Information Management – conclusions and recommendations (max 15 minutes)
- Baurzhan Taldykbaev, SIC ICSD, Kazakhstan Branch, Information-Analytical Center on Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources: ICSD Activities Information Support: state of affairs and capacity building needs (max 15 minutes)

*Participants would be invited to discuss the effectiveness of information management in light of statements by RHC, SIC ICWC and SIC ICSD and identify needs for improvement. Interventions could propose and evaluate opportunities for complementarity, synergy and economy in the development of a single information space for environment and water in Central Asia.*

**13.00 Lunch break**

**14.30 Second session (Chair: Sylvie Motard, UNEP)**

Presentations maximum 10 minutes for the rest of the sessions

### **Information needs for environment protection and sustainable development**

- Djalil Buzrukov, SIC ICSD Tajikistan Branch
- Aizada Barieva, State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyzstan: The national perspective
- Alexey Kobzev, CAREC Viktor Novikov, Zoi Environmental Network: Integrating environmental data flows for regional information exchange and assessment: a vision of the EU FLERMONECA project
- Sylvie Motard, UNEP: The global environment knowledge management tool UNEP Live and its application at regional and sub-regional levels
- Bo Libert, UNECE: Selection of sustainability and environmental indicators

*A multi-level, inter-sector regional information space could be used as key part of national and regional decision support systems in the field of environment protection as well as for the measurement of environmental sustainability. Participants will be invited to define the scope and format of information required for effective decision support for governments and ICSD, as well as EC IFAS and the IFAS Board on environment related issues. Information needs for related scientific research and education, awareness raising and participation in international processes could also be discussed.*

#### **16.15 Coffee break**

#### **16.45 Third session (Chairman: Aleksander Nikolaenko)**

### **Information needs for integrated water resources management**

- Malika Babadzhanova, ICWC Secretariat: Information needs of ICWC
- Oleg Makarov, Vodavtomatika: Water monitoring in the Chu and Talas basin
- Medet Ospanov, EB-IFAS: Exchange of hydrological information for operational management of water resources on the country and basin levels
- Country representatives on national needs

*A multi-level, inter-sector regional information space integrating present databases and platforms could be used as key part of national and regional decision support systems in the field of integrated water resources management. Participants will be invited to define the scope and format of information required for effective decision support for governments, ICWC as well as EC IFAS and the IFAS Board on matters of integrated water resources management. Information needs for related scientific research and education, awareness raising and participation in international processes could also be discussed.*

**18.00** End of the meeting – social event

### **Second day (10 June)**

#### **09.30 Fourth session (Chairman: Sagit Ibatullin)**

### **Outlining the structure and scope of a unified regional information space**

- Manon Cassara, World Bank: New projects contributing to the regional information supply
- Cholpon Dordoyeva, GIZ: K-link. Linking, sharing and managing knowledge on climate change
- Paul Haener, International Office for Water: How to improve water data management for a better cooperation in transboundary water management?
- Paul Haener, International Office for Water: Support to national and transboundary data management on the Chu basin in the framework of the SDC/ IMoMO activities
- Iskander Beglov, SIC ICWC: Expansion of the regional information space
- Djalil Buzrukov, SIC ICSD Tajikistan Branch, Baurzhan Taldykbaev, SIC ICSD Kazakhstan Branch: Needs and opportunities for SIC ICSD

*Based on the discussions during the previous three sessions participants will be invited to outline the structure and scope of a unified regional information space, including among others:*

- *What is the contribution that can be made by open sources of information, national levels and joint data management and provision of information on the regional level?*
- *How can these sources of data and information optimally interact and complement each other?*

#### **11.00 Coffee break**

#### **11.30 Fifth session (Chairman: Nikolaj Denisov)**

#### **Fundamental principles, legal and institutional frameworks for a modern regional information space**

- Olga Suvorova, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, Kazakhstan: National level legal framework and institutions
- Adriana Gheorghe, European Environment Agency, and Rustam Arstanov, CAREC: Principles of a Shared Environmental Information System and conditions for their application in Central Asia
- Viktor Dukhovny, SIC ICWC: Legal aspects of the information framework for water resources management
- Makhmud Makhramov, BVO AmuDarya, Furkat Irmatov BVO SyrDarya: Framework and challenges for water information management in AmuDarya and SyrDarya (TBC)
- Sergei Myagkov, RCH: Framework and challenged for Hydromet exchange of information (TBC)
- Djalil Buzrukov, SIC ICSD Tajikistan Branch: The role of SIC ICSD

*Participants will be invited to discuss fundamental principles for and possible improvements in the legal basis and institutional frameworks to ensure effective information management and analysis to support a unified information space. They will be invited to address, among others, the following topics:*

#### **13.00 Lunch break**

#### **14.30 Sixth session (Chairman: Bo Libert)**

### **Next steps: Meeting the challenges**

- Introduction – Marton Krasznai, UNECE
- Representatives of national ministries and agencies
- SIC ICSD
- BVO-s
- SIC ICWC
- Donors and international organizations

*Representatives of member countries, regional organizations and institutions will be invited invited to share ideas and detail their needs with respect to technical upgrading (measuring and communication equipment, analytical tools, hardware and software for analysis and modeling), and capacity building.*

*Participants will discuss how to take full advantage of existing Central Asian information platforms, knowledge and expertise in the development of a unified regional information space.*

*Donors and implementing partners will be invited to share information on their on-going and planned programs and projects.*

**16.30** Coffee break

**18.00** End of the meeting