



**WORKSHOP ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN, 13-15 OCTOBER 2010**

Hotel Kazzhol
127/1 Gogol street, Almaty, Kazakhstan

PROGRAMME

The workshop is jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Ministry of Environment Protection (MEP) of Kazakhstan, the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) hosted by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), within the framework of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention). It is part of the preparations of the second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, currently being developed under the Convention upon request by the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, October 2007) for the Seventh Ministerial Conference that will be held from 21 to 23 September 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan..

DAY 1 – Wednesday, 13 October 2010

9:30–10:15 Opening session

Chairperson: Mr. Alexander Bragin, Ministry of Environment Protection of Kazakhstan

Welcome address and opening speeches

Mr. Alexander Bragin, Director of the Department for Implementation of International Environmental Standards, Ministry of Environment Protection of Kazakhstan

Mr. Karri Eloheimo, Project Manager/FinWaterWei, Finnish Environment Institute

Mr. Boris Minarik, Director, International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)

Mr. Talaybek Makeyev, Director, CAREC

10:15 - 12:30 Session 1: Water quantity issues and water allocations

Chairperson: Ms. Natalia Alexeeva, UNDP

Situation with water allocation in Kazakhstan: Aral Sea, Chu-Talas and other examples

Mr. Amirkhan Kenshimov, UNDP, Kazakhstan

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee break

Water quantity issues in transboundary water cooperation of the Russian Federation in Central Asia

Ms. Olga Romanova, Deputy Director of Division of Water Resources and Water Management/Head of Water Resources and Water Quality Department, Federal Water Agency, Russian Federation

Water Resources in Afghanistan: Panj-Amu & Harirod- Murghab River Basins

Mr. Sultan Mahmood Mahmoodi, Ministry of Energy and Water, Afghanistan

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30- 14:45: Session 2: water quality aspects, including impacts of hazardous waste storage, water reuse practices, monitoring and assessment of water quality and effects on human health

Chairperson: Mr. Alexandr Nikolayenko, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

‘Water Quality in Central Asia’ Project

Ms. Yekaterina Strikileva, CAREC

Monitoring and assessment of the water resources quality in the Republic of Uzbekistan

Mr. Muhammadi Mamanazarov, Head of the Main Department for the Control of Land and Water Resources of the State Committee for Nature Protection, Uzbekistan

Water quality in the Russian part of the Irtysh Basin

Mr. Sergey Kostarev, member of the Irtysh River Basin Board/Chairman, NGO, “Ecological Committee”

14:45- 16:00 Session 3: climate change and its impact on water resources

Chairperson: Mr. Sergey Lazarev, UNESCO

The current knowledge about climate change and its impact on water resources in Tajikistan

Mr. Anvar Kamolidinov, Tajikistan

Impact of climate change on water resources in Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Kydykbek Beishekeev, Acting Deputy Chairman, State Committee for Water Management and Reclamation, Kyrgyzstan

Climate Change Impact on the Water Resources of Uzbekistan

Ms. Natalya Agaltseva, Head of Transboundary Monitoring Department, Uzhydromet, Uzbekistan

16:00 – 16:20 Coffee break

16:20- 18:00 Session 4: Legal and institutional aspects of transboundary water cooperation

Chairperson: Mr. Alexander Peytchev, OSCE

Current instruments of transboundary water cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin and perspectives for improvement with the support of the Third Aral Sea Basin Programme

Mr. Kurbangeldy Ballyev, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (Representative of Turkmenistan)

Transboundary water cooperation of Mongolia with the Russian Federation and China

Mr. Dorjsuren Dechinlkhundev, Secretary General, National Water Committee of Mongolia

Cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with co-riparian countries in Central Asian: challenges and solutions

Mr. Alireza Najafi, Head of Transboundary Water Research & Studying Center, Ministry of Energy, Islamic Republic of Iran

Statement of Afghanistan

Mr. Enayatullah Nabil, Director-General of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan

19:00 Reception for all participants of the workshop
Hotel Kazzhol

DAY 2 – Thursday, 14 October 2010

9.30- 18.00 Session 5: The second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Central Asia

This session will identify developments regarding the status of transboundary water resources since the first UNECE Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwater (2007) in the shared sub-basins and aquifers in Central Asia (see <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub76.htm>).

After an introduction in plenary on the objectives and working arrangements of session 5, participants will be split into three working groups that will discuss in detail the assessment of all transboundary water bodies.

In the two working groups on surface waters, for each transboundary basin there will be a short introductory presentation by a representative of one riparian country illustrating the basin characteristics, the main pressures and problems, the current status and trends including the transboundary impacts and the measures taken or needed, followed by discussion and inputs by representative of other riparian countries.

In the groundwater group, presentations are made by country representatives, and afterwards time is reserved for bilateral or trilateral discussions, as appropriate. Datasheets partly filled already by UNECE for each basin will provide the background for the discussions. The information gathered during the discussion will be used for the preparation of the second assessment of transboundary waters under the UNECE Water Convention.

Chairperson: Mr. Boris Minarik, IWAC

Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwater – Central Asia
Mr. Boris Minarik, IWAC

The assessment of Ramsar sites within the second Assessment of transboundary waters: cases from Central Asia
Ms. Tatiana Minaeva, Wetlands International

Transboundary groundwaters in the second assessment: assessment methodology and preliminary results of a UNESCO inventory of transboundary aquifers in Central Asia
Mr. Neno Kukuric, IGRAC & UNESCO - ISARM

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11.00- 18:00 Parallel working groups (see separate programme sheet)

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

DAY 3 – Friday, 15 October 2010

9.30- 11.00: Session 6: Land degradation, desertification and water-related ecosystems.
--

Chairperson: Ms. Jenniver Sehring, Political Adviser to the EUSR for Central Asia, Council of the European Union

Water Resources of transboundary river Ili
Mr. Zhakup Dostai, Institute of Geography, Kazakhstan

Project on "Development of an integrated management plan of Ili-Balkhash basin"
Mr. Iskandar Mirhashimov, CAREC

Development of a climate-resilient network of wetland protected areas for the Central Asia region
Ms. Tatiana Minaeva, Wetlands International

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Session 6: Workshop conclusions: main messages for the second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters for Central Asia and recommendations on the way forward

Chairpersons: Mr. Alexander Bragin, MEP Kazakhstan and Francesca Bernardini, UNECE

This session will discuss the main messages for the sub-region to be brought to the attention of the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” through the second Assessment. It will exchange views on the recommendations on the way forward: what are the key issues to improve the management of transboundary basins in the Central Asia region?

How and up to what level the involvement of the international community can facilitate action?

The necessary steps for finalizing the assessments of transboundary basins and aquifers will also be agreed upon.

13:00 Closing of the workshop