

UNITED NATIONS
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION

REPORT
COOPERATION ON DAM SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA
ONLINE MEETING
June 15, 2020

This report has been issued without formal editing by the Secretariat of Environmental Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

An online meeting on cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia was held on June 15, 2020. The meeting was hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The meeting was held within the framework of the 3rd phase of the project “Building capacity for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia”, implemented by UNECE. The project, carried out under the auspices of the Working Group on Water and Energy Resources of the United Nations Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), aims to improve national legislation and state regulation in the field of dam safety in the participating countries and strengthen regional cooperation in this area.

TARGET

The meeting aimed to take stock activities under the project, brainstorm on the ways forward under the pandemic and develop further the cooperation between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the field of safe management of dams and other hydraulic installations.

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was attended by representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Together with UNECE and OSCE staff, 12 people took part in the meeting, a list of which is in Appendix 1 to this report.

PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Batyr Hajiyev, UNECE Economic Affairs Officer, made a short presentation on the objectives of the meeting. It was mentioned that the meeting planned to take place in Tashkent in April of this year, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was agreed to hold online discussions. The regional meeting will take place as soon as the situation permits. The program of the meeting is presented in Appendix 2.

Mr. Erkin Orolbaev, UNECE consultant, presented an overview of the stages of development of a regional agreement on dam safety cooperation in Central Asia within the framework of the earlier phases of the project. Participants were informed about several disagreements on the text of the agreement. Representatives of the countries expressed support to resume the work to complete the document. In particular, official letters have been received from the Foreign Ministries of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, confirmation is expected from the water management department of Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Abdybai Jailoobaev, Deputy Director of the State Agency for Water Resources under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and Mr. Zafar Irisboev, Deputy Head of the State Vodkhoz nadzor of the Ministry water management of the Republic of Uzbekistan reported about the implementation of the interstate agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the joint use of the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) reservoir. Both sides noted the positive dynamics of cooperation on the object. Countries established a joint commission that has been mandated to implement the agreement. It is worth mentioning that the cost of maintenance of the reservoir is shared between the countries

Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, Head of the Operation Control Department, informed about the prospects for cooperation on dam safety between the State Inspection "Gosvodkhoz nadzor" under the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Service for State Supervision in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures under the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. Mr. Talipov informed that the draft programme of cooperation between the countries was developed and submitted to Tajikistan officials for consideration. It was noted that the draft programme of bilateral cooperation between the national dam safety agencies of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan has been long under consideration of Tajikistan

Further Batyr Hajiyev briefed about the Central Asian Platform on Dam Safety proposed to be established within the SPECA Working Party. It was mentioned that the 23rd session of the Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment (October 2, 2019, Tashkent, Uzbekistan) emphasized the importance of issues

related to the safety of dams in the region and considered to include this topic as a priority of activities of the Group and recommended to establish a Central Asian Platform on Dam Safety within the Working Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SOLUTIONS

The meeting participants adopted the following recommendations:

1. Countries expressed their interest in resuming the work on the draft regional agreement on cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia. National Project Coordinators of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to assist in obtaining a response to the previously sent letter from the UNECE expressing the position of countries on this issue.
2. Participants requested UNECE to assist in finalizing the work on the agreement by, among others, preparing a work plan and submit it to national coordinators for their consideration by July 15, 2020
3. Participants took note the progress on the implementation of the interstate agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the joint use of the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) reservoir and expressed gratitude to the UNECE for its readiness to promote cooperation between the countries. National coordinators of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan were requested to submit proposals with specific areas for assistance if deemed interested.
4. The National Project Coordinator of the Republic of Tajikistan shall submit comments on the draft program for the development of this cooperation by July 15 of this year.
5. Take note of the information on the establishment of the Central Asian Platform on Dam Safety within the SPECA Working Group. Encourage national focal points to discuss and agree on the draft Terms of Reference for the platform at the national level for submission and approval at the regional meeting on dam safety

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Online Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia
June 15, 2020**

	KAZAKHSTAN	KAZAKHSTAN	
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**Online Meeting
On Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia
June 15, 2020**

10: 00-12: 00 time in Geneva / 13: 00-15: 00 time in Tashkent and Dushanbe / 14: 00-16: 00 time in Nursultan and Bishkek

PROGRAM

Opening of the meeting <i>Moderator: Mr. Batyr Khadzhiyev, UNECE</i>	
10 * .00-10.20	Adoption of the agenda. Introductory information about the purpose of the meeting. <i>Mr. Batyr Hajiyeu, UNECE</i>
10.20-10.40	On the resumption of work on the preparation of a draft regional agreement on cooperation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia. A brief overview of the history of the issue and the main provisions of the draft agreement. <i>Mr. Erkin Orolbaev, Consultant</i> <i>Discussion</i>
10.40-11.00	Communication on the implementation of the interstate agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the joint use of the Orto-Tokoy (Kasansay) reservoir). <i>A brief overview of the current situation. Mr. Abdybay Dzhhalobaev, Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Nozimjon Ernazarov, Uzbekistan</i> <i>Discussion on the possibility of assistance from the UNECE</i>
11.00-11.20	Prospects for cooperation on dam safety between the State Inspection "Gosvodkhoz nadzor" under the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Service for State Supervision in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures under the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. <i>A brief overview of the current situation. Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, Consultant</i> <i>Discussion on the possibility of assistance from the UNECE</i>
11.20-11.40	On the establishment of the Central Asian Platform on Dam Safety within the SPECA Working Group. <i>Mr. Batyr Khadzhiyev, UNECE</i>
11.40-12.00	Development and approval of decisions and recommendations of the meeting.
12.00	Closing the meeting