

GWP CACENA in November 2008

The 7th Regional Conference of the GWP CACENA partners held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 24-27 December 2008 was a key milestone on the regional network progress. The meeting was opened by First Deputy Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of Tajikistan Mr. Kamol Nuraliev and GWP Network Officer Mr. Bjorn Guterstam. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Nino Chkhobadze – GWP CACENA Chair. About 70 participants attended the conference.

During the first day – 24 November – two special sessions were held: 1) in the morning on Water Supply and Sanitation – there was discussion of the progress on observation the problems in CACENA countries; 2) in afternoon – joint discussion with Executive Committee of International Fund for the Aral Sea Saving the CACENA sub-regional perspective document preparations towards 5WWF within the Asia-Pacific regional process.

The second day was fully addressed to GWP CACENA stakeholders meeting. Regional Secretariat presented report about activities in 2008. The partners agreed on Work Plan, Calendar of activities and Budget for 2009 and specified executors for each work program activity. As in the past almost 50 % of efforts should be addressed to organizational capacity development for supporting IWRM planning process at national level. A number of regional seminars and national workshops (in every country) will be organized in order to disseminate IWRM experience more widely. Specific focus will be addressed also to WSS issues. It is important that training should be combined with policy dialogues and campaign on raising awareness. The Government of Finland will continue support to the CACENA activities in 2009.

The third day – joint workshop with the Helsinki University of Technology - Water and Development Group (TKK WDG www.water.tkk.fi/global) to discuss outcomes of the specific project addressed to IWRM issues. During workshop with involvement young professionals from Tajikistan and Finland discussed a platform needed for:

- Gaining knowledge about IWRM concept and water related development goals.
- Promoting and encouraging long-term synergy among outstanding regional and Finnish young water professionals.
- Identifying and examining the existing and potential water related development challenges along the region.
- Sharing ideas and transferring knowledge.
- Discussing the expectations of the young water leaders related to the implementation of IWRM, achieving sustainable development and water related development goals.
- Developing future water scenarios and mechanisms to improve IWRM implementation capability at the local and regional level.
- Identification of feasible modes of future involvement of young professionals and universities in the possible future GWP activities.

During workshop there was presented the main outcome of the joint activities in the form of book “Central Asian Waters. Social, Economic, Environmental and Governance Puzzle” (eds. Muhammad Mizanur Rahman and Olli Varis) that was published in 2008 (the publication is available electronically at www.water.tkk.fi/global/publications).

The last day – on 27th November the all participant visited the biggest Hydropower station in Central Asia – Nurek, with dam of 300 meters high and reservoir with capacity of 10,5 Billion cub. m of water, located on the Vakhsh river in 70 km from Dushanbe city.



Nurek Hydropower station on the Vakhsh river in Tajikistan