

Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

February 2015

1. The 3rd meeting of the Asian Water High Level Round Table (AWHoT)

Water Corporation K-Water of South Korea initiated contribution to scientific and technological process of the 7th World Water Forum in the form of special report Insight into Asian Water. For this purpose there was created the Asian Water High Level Round Table. During 2014, two AWHoT meetings were held – the 1st one in Singapore in June and 2nd in Korea in November.

The third meeting of AWHoT was held on 25-27 February 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal - at the invitation from Secretariat of the Commission on Water and Energy of the Government of Nepal. The meeting was attended by officials from 12 countries and several international agencies (ADB, KOICA, APWF, Deltares, ICMOD, GWP SEA) in total of 30 persons. From Central Asia participated representative of Ministry of agriculture and water resources of Uzbekistan Birodar Burhononov and Regional Coordinator of GWP CACENA Vadim Sokolov. The meeting goal was to finalize the materials of the future report Insight into Asian Water, which is expected to present at the 7th WWF in April 2015.

Special Report Insight into Asian Water will consist of two parts: 1) the country review of problems and prospects; 2) common regional issues, including five priority themes for Asia:

1. Water infrastructure and financing (team leader ADB);
2. Water supply and sanitation (team leader Singapore);
3. The nexus of water and energy (team leader Nepal);
4. Transboundary cooperation - Mekong River basin (team leader Vietnam - MRC);
5. The water ecosystems - the Aral Sea basin (team leader Uzbekistan).

The official part of the meeting on 26th February was started with a welcome addresses to participants from the CEO of K-water Mr. Choi Gyewoon, as well as from the Secretary of the Commission on Water and Energy of the Government of Nepal, Mr. Ishwori Prasad Paudyal. Also welcome speech was done by Mrs. Radha Kumari Gyawali, Minister of Energy of Nepal.

The first session of the meeting was organized in the form of group discussions on five priority themes (mentioned above). The Aral Sea problem was discussed within the small group including Mr. Birodar Burhononov (MAWR of Uzbekistan), Vadim Sokolov (GWP CACENA), Philippe Gourbville - Director Polytechnic Laboratory of Nice, France, Mr. Tjitte Nauta - International Adviser of Deltares, the Netherlands, Mr. Park - a representative of K-Water.

During this session, Vadim Sokolov made a presentation on the Aral Sea, prepared jointly with the EC IFAS (which was consulted also with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan). The group proposed to write a special paper for inclusion in the consolidated publication of AWHoT for the 7th World Water Forum on the basis of the above presentation with more detailed proposals on how to address the problems of the Aral basin - from the perspective of common issues for the whole Asian region. In particular, it was proposed to show the need to stop the over exploitation of human and natural potentials for economic goals at the expense of social and environmental processes. To highlight not only damage from the negative consequences of the Aral crisis, but also the positive benefits that have been created in the region due to the use of water - on the basis of which there should be built further developments in the region.

The results of the group discussion of the Aral Sea issues were presented at the plenary session. The AWHoT asked the delegates from Uzbekistan to deliver to the authorities of Uzbekistan (MAWR and MFA) request to

submit the Aral Sea paper up the end of March 2015 - for the consolidated report Insight into Asian Water for 7th World Water Forum.

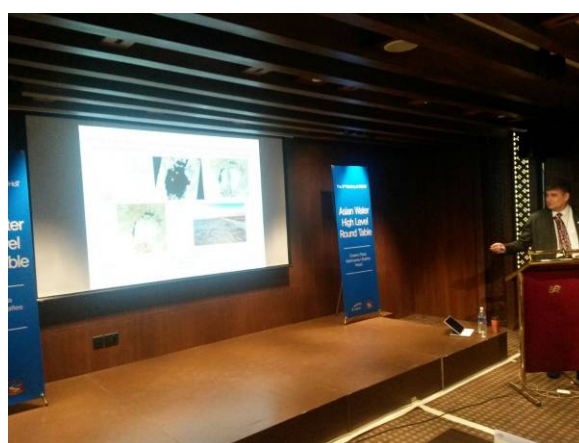
During the third session of the AWHoT heard brief presentations of country reviews. Total for inclusion in the consolidated report for the AWHoT 7th WWF prepared country papers from 11 countries (Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, South Korea). Review of Uzbekistan was prepared MAWR Uzbekistan together with the EC IFAS and SIC ICWC and agreed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

At the fourth session the AWHoT participants were acknowledged with the K-Water Smart Water Initiative. Director of the K-Water Institute, Mr. Byung Man Choi presented the experience of Korea with high tech tools for water management and how this experience can be distributed in the Asian regional context.

During the final session, participants were informed about the next - 4th meeting of AWHoT, which will be held in the framework of the 7th World Water Forum in Gyeongju, Korea on 15th April. During this meeting, it is assumed the official inauguration of the regional report «Insight into Asian Water». It is also planned to establish Asian Water Council, which will include senior officials from water agencies of the countries - members of AWHoT. The main purpose of the AWC will - to promote mutual commitment on water issues in Asia and ways to solve them on the basis of consensus - beyond the 7th World Water Forum.



Opening of the 3rd meeting of AWHoT



Presentation of the Aral Sea issues to the AWHoT members by Vadim Sokolov



Meeting of two GWP regions – Vadim Sokolov (GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator) and Hla Baw (GWP SEA Chair)

2. Workshop on Water and Green Growth

GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator, Vadim Sokolov took part in the Workshop on Water and Green Growth in Asia and the Pacific, which was conducted by the UN ESCAP in collaboration with K-Water on 23 - 25 February 2015 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.

The objective of the Workshop was to promote policy consultations for participants from member countries on applying green growth approaches in water resource management. This includes improved understanding for policy options necessary to integrate and synergize water resource management for sustainable economic growth. The outcomes of the workshop will be provided as inputs to the water and green growth thematic and regional processes of the 7th World Water Forum to be held from 12 to 17 April in Daegu and Gyeongbuk, the Republic of Korea.

GWP CACENA submitted to the workshop participants the case study from the Aral Sea basin on the topic Water and Environment, which was prepared in cooperation with SIC ICWC. Also, it was good opportunity for inter-regional communications with partners from other GWP regions across Asia and Pacific concerning better preparations towards the 7th WWF.

More information about workshop: <http://www.unescap.org/events/workshop-water-and-green-growth>



Participants of the Workshop on Water and Green Growth, UN ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand, 23-25 February 2015



GWP representatives at the Workshop in the UN ESCAP HQ in Bangkok: (from left) Pahrian Siregar (GWP-SEA), Kusum Athokorala (Sri Lanka Water Partnership), Vadim Sokolov (GWP CACENA), Mohd Nor (Malaysian Water Partnership)

3. The Working Seminar "Goris Smart City Profile -Research Mission"

The Working Seminar "Goris Smart City Profile -Research Mission" organized by local authority of Goris City, the Ministry of Urban Planning, UNDP, UNECE and REC Caucasus, was held on 10-11 February 201 in the Goris City.

Foreign specialists presented main concepts of smart city. The national experts and citizens discussed the smart city indicators. CWP-Armenia participated in those discussions and also presented its ideas for the pilot projects to develop Goris in the way of smart city.



During Discussion

Participants

4. Developing the concept of National Strategy Program for 2015-2025

CWP-Armenia as a partner of the Association For Sustainable Human Development participates in the project "Facilitating dialogue between government and NGOs within implementation of "PostRio+20" process". CWP-Armenia is responsible for section "Sustainable development of water resources".

5. WACDEP CACENA in Armenia

The UNDP representative and coordinator of IHP GEF visited the treatment plant in the Parakar village to become familiar with outcomes of the demonstration project in order to duplicate its in other communities in Armenia.

CWP-Armenia is negotiating on purchasing the materials for additional treatment of sewage.

6. The meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Water Policy Dialogue of Georgia under the EU Water Initiative

This meeting was organized by CWP-Georgia according to Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Georgia and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and was held on 23 February 2015 at the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Environmental and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in Tbilisi.

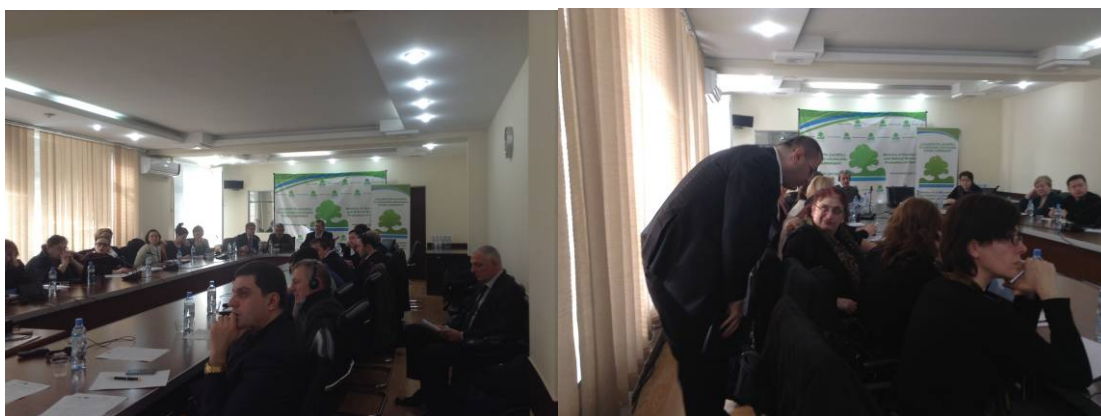
CWP-Georgia is coordinating NPD from 2010 till now. At the meeting experts presented six draft subordinate acts for new water law:

- "On the identification of water bodies and their borders"
- "On the consideration and approval of the procedure of the river basin management plans"
- "On defining basin-territorial entities for integrated management of river basins"
- "Basin management consulting-coordination board composition and proceedings"
- "On planning and the fulfillment of the water resources monitoring";

- “On calculation of maximum admissible discharge of pollutant substances in surface waters”

The Steering Committee members will continue this work. The Ministry of Environmental Protection of Georgia informed participants about situation with approval of new water law, ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health, and signing the bilateral agreement on the Kura between Azerbaijan and Georgia. Information on international water projects in Georgia was presented too.

This meeting was attended by representatives of UNECE, OECD, ministries, private and non-profit organizations, as well the project manager of the Water Agency of Armenia (total: 28). Mr. Teymuraz Murgulia, the First Deputy Minister of Environmental and Natural Protection of Georgia, presided over this meeting.



7. Meeting with NGOs

On 24 February 2015 in Tbilisi, CWP-Georgia organized the meeting with NGOs at the Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia aiming to inform about activity of the Steering Committee of National Water Dialogue of Georgia under the EU Water Initiative. The experts who presented six draft subordinate acts for new water law were invited (total: 21 participants).



8. The Meeting on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus

The Meeting on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus organized by CWP-Georgia jointly with UNECE and the Ministry of Environmental and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia was held on 24 February 2015 at the Forest Department in Tbilisi.

Meeting the growing water demand without compromising sustainability is a rising challenge in the context of growing population and under the pressure of climate change impacts. It is therefore crucial to better understand the interactions between water, food, energy and water-related ecosystems in river basins, in order to strengthen synergies and policy coherence between water, agriculture, energy and land management sectors.

The assessment of these interdependencies is even more relevant in transboundary basins, where identifying intersectoral synergies and mutually beneficial solutions can help reducing trade-offs and potential conflicts, not only across sectors, but also across borders, and support the decision-making process to enhance sustainability.

Recognizing this, the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) have included in the Work Programme 2013-2015 an assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in selected transboundary basins and established the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus to overview and guide its preparation.

The developed methodology was piloted on the Alazani/Ganikh Basin, with an intersectoral basin workshop as the key step (Kachreti, 25-27 November 2013).

The current draft assessment (available upon request) has been circulated for comments to the Ministries, and was discussed in this meeting.

The feedback will be taken into account in revising the assessment and in finalizing a summary assessment to be published as part of UNECE's nexus stock-taking report for the 7th Meeting of the Parties (Budapest, 17-20 November 2015).

Representatives of UNECE, ministries, local administration of Alazansky basin, experts, NGOs (total: 19) took part in the meeting.



9. Lesson for rural population in Mongolia



On 1- 4 February 2015 CWP-Mongolia organized the lesson "Water is unusual world" for rural population. About 1500 people from 15 small towns participated. The aim was to improve understanding of water safety and security and that a good quality of water is healthy and useful for users.

10. International Symposium "Renewable energy of Mongolia"



On 11 February CWP-Mongolia among other 160 attendees took part in the International Symposium "Renewable energy of Mongolia" aiming to collaboration on water & energy nexus.

11. Steering Committee meeting of Mongolian Water & Sewage Utility Union



On 21 February 2015 CWP-Mongolia representative took part in the Steering Committee meeting of Mongolian Water & Sewage Utility Union as a SC Member. The meeting considered development of water partnership and possibility for rural water agencies to join to GWP network (total: 12 participants).

12. Seminar by Prof.Kensuke Fukushi

On 13 February 2015 the following issues were considered at the Seminar:

- Development of Joint Crediting Mechanism;
- JCM;
- projects for Sustainable Low carbon Development in Asia-Pacific region
- lesson on 3E initiative;
- Energy, Environment & Ecosystems nexus.

Participants discussed cooperation between the Academy of Sciences and CWP-Mongolia as well they highlighted water problem in Mongolia and need to develop the water and energy projects (total: 15 participants).



13. The Mongolian National TV interview "Water & technology"



On 28 February 2015, Prof. Basandorj appeared on television. He presented the drinking and wastewater technology.

14. The meeting on consideration of Strategy on development of land reclamation and irrigation in the Republic of Tajikistan

This meeting organized by the Agency on land reclamation and irrigation at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and supported by EU was held on 4 February 2015. The aim was to discuss the draft strategy on development of land reclamation and irrigation in the Republic of Tajikistan prepared by the working group. Representatives of international organizations, government, science, public organizations and various stakeholders took part in discussion to develop the final version of the Strategy. CWP-Tajikistan jointly with the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan presented their vision of the Strategy.





15. The meeting of CWP-Tajikistan partners

The CWP-Tajikistan partners meeting was held on 21 February 2015. The following issues were considered: results of CWP-Tajikistan activity in 2014; further activity; GWP CACENA Regional Plan for 2015; the work plan of CWP-Tajikistan for 2015; consideration of applications of new potential partners of GWP. Representatives of governmental organization, NGOs, scientific and educational organizations as well as various stakeholders and CWP-Tajikistan partners (total: 30) took part in the meeting. Prof. Pulatov Ya.E., CWP-Tajikistan Chairman, called on participants to be more active and fruitful in 2015 when the world water public will celebrate the results of the International Decade 2005-2015 "Water for Life". Participants noted that the main issues are assessment of existing situation and defining the main priorities of water sector of Tajikistan, improving of water potential and IWRM knowledge.





16. The Conference of Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan

The Conference devoted to activity for 2014 and the urgent tasks for 2015 of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan and its deputies was held on 12 February 2015 in Tashkent at the Legislative Assembly Oliy Mazhlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. At the Conference the Awarding Ceremony of journalists - winners of the Republican Competition "Water is Life" announced by CWP-Uzbekistan was held too.

More than 157 people from various organizations took part in this event.



Mr. Boriy Alikhanov, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Oliy Mazhlis of Uzbekistan and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, noted a positive role of CP-Uzbekistan in developing the water legislation.

Partners of CWP-Uzbekistan proposed ways to strengthen the legislation base, taking into account new technologies in water resources management and use. They also proposed to provide benefits for water users implementing the water saving technologies, as well as to control water use and to implement a water accounting mechanism in the Republic.

Those proposals of CWP-Uzbekistan partners were approved and included to the Work Plan for 2015 of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan.

At the end of the Conference the Awarding Ceremony for journalists was held. The Conference was covered in mass media.



Mr. Abduraimov M.F., CWP-Uzbekistan Chairman, presents a prize to Ms. Shulepina Natalia, journalist.



Mr. Abduraimov M.F., CWP-Uzbekistan Chairman, presents a prize to Mr. Avalibaev Ikrom, journalist

Member Countries of GWP CACENA:

Azerbaijan
Armenia
Georgia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan
Mongolia