

Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For April 2015

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Contents

<u>Section 1: 7th World Water Forum in Korea</u>	1
<u>Section 2: Armenia</u>	31
<u>Section 3: Kazakhstan</u>	31
<u>Section 4: Kyrgyzstan</u>	32
<u>Section 5: Mongolia</u>	34
<u>Section 6: Tajikistan</u>	35
<u>Section 7: Uzbekistan</u>	38

Section 1: 7th World Water Forum in Korea

GWP CACENA at the 7th World Water Forum

From April 12 to 17, 2015 the 7th World Water Forum was held in the cities of Daegu and Gyeongju (Korea).

The Seventh World Water Forum was marked by a number of targeted initiatives:

- OECD and WWC on the basis of the High Level Panel on Financing Infrastructure encouraged decisive, political and business leaders to strengthen the financing of water infrastructure facilities to ensure water security. The analysis showed that the existing order and the amount of funding should be reviewed. The sources of funding for water infrastructure must include pension funds, insurance companies, water funds, climate funds and green bonds. Investments required today only in water and sanitation by 2050 were defined at 6.7 trillion USD. The appeal was signed by Benedito Braga and Angel Gurria.
- World Water Council and the Korean Government in the face of K-Water urged political leaders to develop and implement national "green growth" strategy to create jobs and ensure economic and social development based on green and clean technologies. Experience of France, Germany and the UK confirms the possibility to spread the Korea's experience in this area, as a mean to address climate change, job creation and water conservation issues. The statement emphasizes that the traditional model of economic and social development deeply affects the environmental aspects and interests of future generations. In the new paradigm of "green growth" water is the key to solve the needs for food, energy, natural conservation and social development.

At the same time, it is necessary to point out some problematic areas:

1. Conducting of the various Forum processes in two cities required one and a half hour trip, which reduced the effectiveness of the participants, their ability to communicate and limited opportunity to participate in the sessions located in another city.
2. The weak participation of such countries as Canada, Germany and many other former leader-participants comes into notice.
3. Ministerial Declaration did not reflect the fundamental approaches contained in the materials of the thematic and regional processes. In particular, Clause 2 still declares the right to water for conservation and sanitation and ignores the right to water for irrigation (food security) and Nature. Clause 4 contradicts the texts of the 1992 UNECE Water Convention and the 1997 UN Convention. Although the discussion materials of these conventions at the Forum clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of all their provisions and lack of contradictions between them, the Ministerial Declaration speaks of "the usefulness of some of the principles of the relevant international conventions", i.e., virtually rejects the role of international water law;
4. The desire to exceed the number of events of the preceding Water Forum impacted the quality of individual events and the formation of commonality perception of the Forum effectiveness.

THE COURSE OF EVENTS ATTENDED BY GWP CACENA PARTNERS

Day 1 (12 April 2015) - Opening ceremony: Daegu

On April 12, 2015 the opening of the Forum was held. The opening ceremony was attended by more than 3,000 people, including heads of six countries (Hungary, Korea, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ethiopia and Morocco), heads of international organizations and ministers of water and related areas.

Speakers noted the increasing importance of water resources for the economic development of countries and social welfare, environmental security and maintenance of world peace.

Chairman of the Korean National Forum Committee Mr. Lee Jung-moo noted that the Forum is one of the mechanisms for achieving the goals and an important platform to determine the future of water. "We need to develop detailed action plans and set clear performance periods" - said the speaker.

President of the World Water Council Mr. Benedito Braga drew attention to the fact that the Forum is not only the numerous sessions organized in Korea, but also a long preparatory process, which involved all stakeholders at all levels and in all countries. The Forum will also be continued and reflected in the work of other important events in 2015, including discussion of the sustainable development goals in September and climate change negotiations in November. The speaker noted that the water deserves new approaches, and we should look for them together, taking into account the specificity of countries and regions, exchanging ideas and effective solutions.

Daegu City Mayor and the province Governor welcomed the participants and spoke about their achievements and concrete actions to ensure water security, including significant improvement in water quality at catastrophic levels due to rapid industrialization. They also spoke about the measures taken to combat mudslides and other natural disasters. "The water is our history and our future, let's keep this in mind", - concluded the Governor.

President of Korea, Mrs. Park proudly noted that Korea is the second Asian country to host of the World Water Forum. As a host, Korea proposes strengthening the three aspects of joint action.

First, to catalyze efforts of the international community on the use of innovative technologies in combination with traditional approaches. To this end, Korea proposed to update the format of the Forum by including the process of science and technology as an additional process, as well as initiate the adoption of monitoring procedures for the Forum results in the future.

Second, to expand measures on international cooperation. Currently, 10% of funds allocated by Korea for international development is to address issues related to water. Also, the Global Green Growth Institute was established in Korea to provide assistance in the implementation of "green" approaches to development processes.

Third, to enter the era of reconciliation to eliminate conflicts. Madam President noted that this year marks 70 years since the division of Korea into North and South, and that, in her opinion, it is water issues that can and should soften relations between north and south. Participants supported President with applause.



Greeting to the Forum participants from the President of Korea, Ms. Park Kyn He (photo by V.Sokolov)

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that water problems cannot be considered in isolation from the global long term development plans. He reaffirmed the commitment of Turkmenistan to the implementation of the agreements in water sector for sustainable development reached at the UN Conference "Rio +20" and other international forums. The President supported the promotion of the idea of water diplomacy as a new political and diplomatic form of multilateral dialogue to address problems associated with the formation and restoration of water sources and their sensible and rational consumption. The President proposed to develop a document at the UN level, dedicated to water issues (for example, the UN Water Strategy). He noted the support of access to water as a fundamental human right as an obligation for all countries in the world. The President emphasized the importance of water resources for economic development and regional prosperity in Central Asia, and the need for a regional consensus on the basis of universally recognized norms of international law, mutual respect and consideration for the all riparian countries. He also informed the audience about Turkmenistan initiative to establish under the UN auspices in Ashgabat the Regional Centre for technologies related to climate change. During the presidency in ICSD, which goes to Turkmenistan in 2015, water issues will be a priority.



The President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow at the stand of Forum exhibition (photo V. Sokolov)

President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon noted that Tajikistan has initiated a number of UN General Assembly resolutions on water, two of which were announced at the previous World Water Forum in Kyoto and Istanbul. The President stressed the importance of developing infrastructure projects, the need to focus on the "green" economy and to consider the nexus "water - energy - food", in order to balance the interests of all sectors. The most important measure for achieving the water goals is sustainable funding; however poor infrastructure and limited financial resources do not allow Tajikistan to explore the available water resources in the interests of the country's economy. Among other pressing issues in Tajikistan and the region as a whole are water-related natural disasters and agricultural water supply. Given the seriousness of today's global challenges and threats, the President called for support for his initiative to declare the Second International Decade under the slogan "Water for Sustainable Development", to continue the implementation of the measures identified during the terminating International Decade "Water for Life" (2005-2015), as well as to develop new measures to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. In the conclusion of his speech, the President invited all interested parties to

participate in the High Level Conference on the results of decade implementation, which will take place on 9-11 June 2015 in Dushanbe.

President of Hungary Janos Ader gave examples of water-related emergencies around the world (Brazil, Chile, California, Korea and Syria) in order to demonstrate the importance of accelerating efforts of the international community. In particular, he suggested development of an international agreement on coordinated use of water resources. He noted the need to create more effective intergovernmental platform on water at the UN level.

President of Ethiopia Mulatu Teshome Wirtu shared achievements of the country on combating drought, poverty and climate change through the implementation of integrated water resources management.

Head of the Government of Morocco spoke about the three principles that form the basis of improving the water management in the country. The first is water demand management, and the second - use of non-conventional sources of water (desalination and wastewater treatment), and the third - protection of water resources and environment.

Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Angel Gurría highlighted the activities of the organization in promoting good governance and water management. He stressed the importance of investments (tariffs, taxes and transfers) in order to achieve effective results.



Attempt of a high-ranking persons to start ancient water clock invented in Korea in the fifteenth century – as an opening symbol of the 7th Forum(photo byV.Sokolov)

UN Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson stressed the importance of water as a basis for cooperation and emphasized various forms of water diplomacy, which is practiced in 148 countries that share river basins or lakes. Instead of seeing the lack of water as a problem, we should consider it as a chance to develop innovative forms of water diplomacy. Currently, the United Nations member states are working on the development and adoption of the 17 sustainable development goals, one of which is to ensure "the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." This goal is considering water issues in an integrated and holistic manner and includes three dimensions of sustainable development: economic - pointing to accessibility, social - emphasizing equitable access, and environmental - focusing on the reduction of pollution and protection of ecosystems. The speaker also noted the role of science and technology in the search for effective solutions to existing problems. "Let us show respect for our most valuable and main resource - water. We cannot continue to exploit and destroy it. It is time for us all to make peace with Nature", - concluded the UN Deputy Secretary General.

After the presentations, distinguished guests were invited to the stage to participate in a ceremony to start a

water clock, which should serve as the beginning of a new era of water. For this a mockup of the first automated water clock that was invented in 1434 by Korean scientist and astronomer Jung Yong-sil was built.

Then Mr. Abdu Mamanh from Nigeria was awarded the prize of King Hassan II for the implementation of integrated and innovative solutions for remote irrigation control. Deputy Minister of Energy, Water and Environment of Morocco, who presented the award, said that Mr. Mamanh is an example of social entrepreneurship that serves the community, and is the center of dynamic local economy.

Day 2 (13 April 2015)

Sessions within the ministerial and regional processes in Gyeongju

Ministerial Conference began at 8:30 am with a very brief plenary session that opened the ministerial process. The key was a greeting from the President of the National Committee of the Forum, Mr. Lee Jung-moo, who noted that the main document at the end of the forum should be the Ministerial Declaration. He urged all participants of the ministerial segment of the Forum - heads of government agencies responsible for water-related policies at different levels, as well as senior representatives of international organizations to contribute to this document.

From 9.10 to 12.30 eight ministerial level roundtables were conducted:

Topics	Moderators
1. Ensuring Safe and Enough Water and Sanitation for All	Algeria South Africa Sri Lanka
2. Integrated Water Resources Management	Japan Nigeria
3. Sustainable Water Management and Conservation of Ecosystems	Korea
4. Water-Food-Energy Nexus	China Pakistan
5. Financing for Strengthening Water Governance	Netherlands
6. Adaptation to Climate Change and Management of Water related Disaster Risks	Costa Rica Korea Netherlands
7. Culture, Education and Capacity Development in Water Sector	Hungary
8. Water for Peace and Co-Prosperity – Transboundary Water Cooperation	Tajikistan USA

Regional Coordinator of GWP CACENA Mr. Vadim Sokolov in the name of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan participated (representing Uzbekistan) in the **round table 2 - Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)**.

Roundtable was opened by Mr. Akihiro Ota - Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.

The main results of the preliminary consultations within the Forum preparatory process - the implementation of IWRM principles – were presented by Mr. Habu Ruben - Director of the Commission of Integrated Water Resources Management of Nigeria.

The discussion was moderated by Mr. Kenzo Hiroki - a member of the UNSG's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB).

The discussion was conducted on two issues:

Question 1 - What is the best practice of IWRM in your country?

On this issue, the representatives of the following countries presented: Brazil, Israel, Peru, the Russian Federation (Water Resources Agency –Mrs. Marina Silvestrova), Uzbekistan (Mr. Vadim Sokolov), Kazakhstan (Deputy Minister of Agriculture Mr. Nurlan Nasymbayev), Iran, Tunisia, Samoa, the Philippines and Qatar.

In his speech, Mr. Sokolov said that Uzbekistan is the only double-locked country on the continent that on 80% depends on its neighbors for the available water resources. Since 2003 Uzbekistan has been conducting the water sector reforms based on the IWRM principles. As a result of these reforms and the constant lack of access to water resources Uzbekistan has reduced the total water withdrawal from 64 km³ per year in 1990 to 51 km³ per year in the last five years.

Question 2 - What steps will be needed to promote IWRM at the global and national levels, as well as at the field level?

The representatives of the Advisory Board of the UN Secretary General on Water and Sanitation Judith Rees and Jordan Uzunov presented on this matter, as well as representatives of Cambodia, Brazil, Peru, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan (Mr. Vadim Sokolov), Iran, Tunisia, Samoa, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

In their speeches, many participants expressed the idea that IWRM should be the main tool to nexus of water for food and energy. Taking the floor in this debate, Mr. Vadim Sokolov on behalf of Uzbekistan made comment that when talking about water nexus, we should not forget about ecosystems, water to which has always been allocated based on leftover principle after satisfying the needs for drinking, irrigation, industry and energy. As a result, we now have such a global catastrophe as the Aral Sea desiccation. Central Asian countries are implementing the third Aral Sea Basin program where IWRM is the central component, and we call upon the international community to assist in the implementation of this program - to show an example of how to avoid such disasters in other parts of the world in the future.

Speaking of the Nexus one should bear in mind not only the linkage - water for energy, but also inverse - energy for water. In Uzbekistan, about 60% of agricultural land is irrigated with pumps; and irrigation is the largest consumer of electricity. Water saving should be a key component of the IWRM - as evidenced by the above figures on reduced total water consumption in Uzbekistan.



Ministerial roundtable meeting on IWRM (photo by V. Sokolov)

Adopted final Ministerial Declaration is concise and consists of only three pages of text. It confirms the political support to the national water policy, plans and actions, as well as efforts to promote cooperation at the global level in seven key areas:

1. Water is at the core of sustainable development; and IWRM is the main tool for finding the balance between the two main objectives of sustainable development - to provide food and energy security.
2. Commitments to the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation were reaffirmed.
3. Water is recognized as one of the major issues in tackling climate change.
4. It is necessary to enhance the contribution of each party to the transboundary cooperation. UN system plays the key role in promoting international water cooperation at the global level; and its relevant international Conventions can be useful to develop international cooperation.
5. IWRM considered being the main tool to reduce risks of water-related disasters and to protect Nature.
6. It is important to further deepen cooperation and partnership between developed and developing countries to address water management issues.
7. A critical role in the practical implementation of all known solutions of water-related problems is played by science and technology. Information and communication technologies are crucial. Particular attention should be given to education, capacity building and dissemination of knowledge.

Sessions within the regional process in Gyeongju

In the afternoon, from 14.40 to 16.10 in the International Exhibition Center of the city Gyeongju (HICO) **session "SMART Implementation of IWRM / Future IWRM in Asia-Pacific"** was held. The coordinator of the session was the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO).

The session was opened by Mr. Choi Byuong Seob - Vice-president of the K-Water Corporation, Korea. The key speaker was Mr. Basuke Hadimoeldjono - Minister of Public Works and Utilities of Indonesia.

Then three presentations took place:

"IWRM in the Citarum river basin" - Indonesia

"IWRM in Korea" - K-Water Corporation

"IWRM Indicators" - Vice-Secretary General, NARBO, Dr. Kentaro Kido.

After that, the panel discussion was held, attended by:

Ms. Dolores Hipolito - Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippines

Mr. Arun Shrestha, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD),

Mr. Vadim Sokolov - Regional Coordinator, GWP CACENA

Mr. Piriya Uraiwong - Mekong River Commission,

Mr. Ick Hwan Ko, Vice President, Yooshin Engineering Corporation, China

Ms. Priyanka Dissanayake- GWP South Asia, Sri Lanka

Mr. Guan Yiqing - Hohai UniversityUniversity of China.



In his speech, Mr. Sokolov presented the Central Asian experience of IWRM implementation, which shows that IWRM can provide a basis for improving water security. Partially, the progress has been achieved due to a good understanding by water professionals of the need to make better use of scarce water resources. Creation of the driving forces was important to provide mechanism for catalyzing changes and supporting the further development and improvement. Political support was also important, as officials learned the apparent benefits of IWRM reforms. This resulted in reduced water losses and increased labor productivity.

Closing remarks were delivered by the NARBO Chairman, Mr. Keizrul bin Abdullah, who noted that the main consumer of water in Asia is irrigated agriculture, which consumes about 70% of the total available water resources. The demand for water exceeds (especially in dry periods) the amount of technically available water in sources (rivers). In the face of population growth and the growth of socio-economic needs, it creates problems in ensuring the overall water security, and, in particular, for food and environmental components of this security. Solution to these problems is implementation of measures for water conservation and rational

water use within the implementation of IWRM principles.

The main conclusions of the session include:

- Knowledge Management for IWRM is important to ensure water security – huge experience, knowledge, databases and innovative technologies have been accumulated and a lot of networks for the dissemination of IWRM have been created worldwide.
- More concerted efforts are required to make this knowledge easily accessible, especially for practitioners.
- It is necessary to encourage people and organizations that generate this knowledge and experience.
- Information should be organized in the form of easily accessible information products.
- IWRM Implementation Strategy in the form of national and regional plans and strategies has to get precise contours of international goals among the strategic development goals.
- IWRM can only work if focus is not placed exclusively on water.

Day 3 (14 April 2015)

Sessions within the regional process in Gyeongju

Session R3.2AP. "Development of Cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin to Mitigate Consequences of the Environmental Catastrophe" Venue: Hotel Hyundai; Time: from 9.20 to 11.20.

Session was organized by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) in collaboration with the network of the Global Water Partnership of Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA).

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan, Acting Chairman of the Executive Committee of IFAS, Mr. Khamraev Sh.R. led the session as its chairman. Mr. Khamraev Sh.R. opened the meeting session and gave the floor to Mr. Thierry Umbehr - SDC Regional Adviser - who made a presentation on international assistance to IFAS for the implementation of the Aral Sea basin program.



Working moments of the session on Aral(photo by V. Sokolov)

Donors fully support the ASBP-3 Programs and are willing to work together with the IFAS and the Governments of IFAS member states in its implementation. The aim is to ensure a more effective and integrated management and share water resources for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Mr. Umbehr stressed that bringing donor coordination to a new level is necessary to ensure the most efficient use of available resources and attract additional funding. IFAS should play a key role in donor coordination through information exchange, research, monitoring and evaluation.

Second, the Executive Director of CAREC Mr. Iskander Abdullaev presented an overview of the Aral Sea problems and their solutions. The main consequences of the Aral Sea shrinkage, in addition to reduced volume and water surface, increased water salinity and changed nature of mineralization are the formation of a vast saline desert with area of nearly 5 million ha on the dried seabed and degradation and sharp decline in the diversity of the already rare flora and fauna.

On 28 April 2009 the Heads of Central Asian states signed joint statement where they stressed the important role of IFAS in coordinating actions and solving fundamental problems of cooperation between Central Asian countries and the donor community, including international financial institutions.

The statement confirmed that the Central Asian countries are interested in developing mutually acceptable mechanisms for integrated water resources management and environmental protection, taking into account the interests of all countries in the region.



Presentation of the Executive Director of CAREC Mr. Iskander Abdullaev (photo by V. Sokolov)

At the end of the block session Mr. Khamraev Sh.R. made a presentation on IFAS activities during the presidency of Uzbekistan.

He noted that the Heads of the Central Asian countries, recognizing the current situation, created the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS). Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are IFAS founder-states. The aim of the IFAS and its member agencies is to strengthen integration and cooperation for the effective use of water resources, with a view to achieving sustainable development and adaptation to climate change in the region.

Following the Decision of the State Heads dated 28 April 2009, the Executive Committee of IFAS (EC IFAS) prepared a draft of the ASBP-3, which was approved by the Fund Board in 2011. During the presidency of Uzbekistan about 300 national and regional projects have been implemented within the framework of the ASBP-3, totaling over \$8.5 billion USD.



Acting Chairman of the Executive Committee of IFAS, Mr. Khamraev Sh.R. (photo by V. Sokolov)

Following people spoke within an open discussion:

Mr. Nasymbayev N. - Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan –on Kazakhstan's contribution to IFAS activities

Mr. Kazakov M. - representative of Tajikistan in EC IFAS -on Tajikistan's contribution to IFAS activities

Mr. Akmuradov M. - representative of Turkmenistan in EC IFAS –on Turkmenistan's contribution to IFAS activities

Mr. Sheraliev N. - Director of the Agency GEF - on Uzbekistan's contribution to IFAS activities

Madame Olivia la O'Castillo - member of the Advisory Board of the UN Secretary General on Water and Sanitation, President of Sustainable Development Solutions for Asia and the Pacific - urged the international community to provide all possible assistance to the Aral Sea basin countries in the implementation of the ASBP-3.



Ms. Natalya Alexeeva, GWPO Network Officer (photo by V. Sokolov)

Mr. William Rex - Leading Specialist of the World Bank on Water Resources - confirmed the intention of the Bank to assist in the implementation of the IFAS Aral Sea Basin Program.

Mr. Seppo Rekolainen - Finnish Environment Institute - confirmed the intention of Finland to support the least economically developed countries of Central Asia - Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan - in strengthening the water sector.

Ms. Natalia Alexeeva - GWPO Network Officer - presented a brief overview of the network activities in the region.

Mr. Vladimir Mamaev - UNDP Regional Coordinator - confirmed the UN's intention to continue supporting the ASBP-3, all the more so the UNDP regional office moved from Bratislava to Istanbul and became closer to Central Asia, which will increase its efficiency.



Prof. Dukhovny - Director of SIC ICWC (photo by V. Sokolov)

Prof. Dukhovny - Director of the SIC ICWC - presented trended problems of the Aral Sea Basin on the basis of our model simulations and means of survival. It was stressed that the priority of regional cooperation and donor attention should be switched to the Amu Darya river basin, where the greater water deficit is expected at the level of the years 2030 -2050. The necessary directions of regional water policy development were presented in accordance with the Aral Sea Basin Program-3. It is necessary to pay more attention to the problems of the Aral Sea deltas too.



Prof. Kipshakbayev N.K. - Coordinator of CWP Kazakhstan – as one of the organizers of the ICWC stressed the need to strengthen the regional structures. (photo by V. Sokolov)

Ms. Barbara Janush-Pavleta - German-Kazakh University - briefly presented the activities of the University on education curriculum on integrated water resources management.

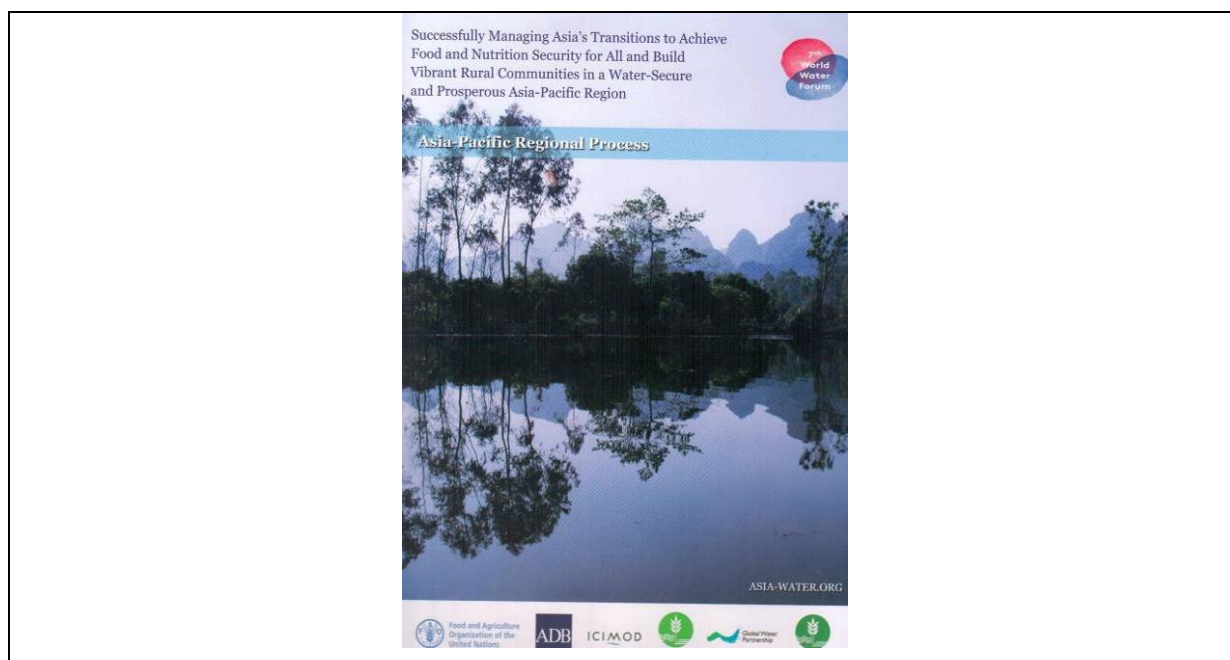
Elena Tsai - SIC ICWC - young specialist taking part in the Youth Parliament Forum at the invitation of the Forum - assured the participants that the younger generation is ready to take an active part in solving the problems of the Aral Sea.



GWP CACENA Partners with representatives of Finland (Seppo and Saya), whose government sponsored the Forum participation of partners from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.(photo by V. Sokolov)

After all the speeches Mr. Khamraev Sh.R. read the draft Session Resolution which was unanimously adopted by the participants (see the text in Attachment 1). At this the session was closed.

Session "Food Security in Asia" was a part of the inter-regional sessions; it consisted of two parts. In the first part Mr. Dukhovny V.A., Director of SIC ICWC on behalf of the GWP CACENA (authors Dukhovny, Sokolov, Ziganshina) presented report "Status of Food Security in Central Asia". The report demonstrated that the whole region can provide itself with food. Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan are now 90% self-sufficient with food except for some products. In particular, Uzbekistan has a shortage of meat and sugar, but the overall balance of the "export - import" is significantly in favor of the republic. Kazakhstan, due to its focus on rainfed grain production greatly exceeds its grain needs but provides population with the full range of food, mainly due to exports. The most difficult situation is in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. However, the growth rate of food production everywhere exceeds the rate of population growth. The main directions of food production improvement were presented, including IWRM primacy of Uzbekistan, farm productivity improvement through the transfer of knowledge to farmers, water saving, use of legumes as secondary crops, and creating salt and drought-resistant varieties of agricultural crops (corn, cotton, and so on). The negative influence of the work of hydropower systems on the stability of water supply for irrigation was demonstrated that caused damage to farmers. During the discussion, GWP CACENA representative stressed the need for legal arrangements of the rights to water of irrigated agriculture globally, similar to the UN resolution on water and sanitation.



As a part of the preparatory process for this session during 2014-2015, "White Paper" was prepared and published under the title "Successfully managing Asia's transition to Achieve Food and Nutrition Security for All and Build Sustainable Rural Communities in a Water-Secure and Prosperous Asia-Pacific region", which also includes materials jointly presented by GWP CACENA and SIC ICWC. This book was officially presented to the public at the end of the session.

In the second part of the session "Food Security in Asia" the session Chairman, FAO leading specialist Mr. Thierry Facon, focused on the need for greater attention to the salinity control in Asia, and provided Egypt, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan as examples of a large influence of salinity on water productivity. In the comments to his presentation, the GWP CACENA representative stressed that we have repeatedly during both

the preparation for the session and in previous discussions drew FAO's attention to the inaccurate information on this matter. In Uzbekistan, in recent years due to the creation of special Land Reclamation Fund the drainage works have dramatically increased, the highly saline land area almost disappeared, and the average saline area dropped sharply. Moreover, within the IWRM implementation on an area of about 500,000 hectares the cooperation of Water Consumers Associations with Hydromeliorative Expeditions improved; Expeditions provide WCAs with the necessary information on groundwater levels and salinity, recommended leaching norms, possibility of using drainage water depending on the soil and water salinity. Proposals to improve the Roadmap were presented in terms of more complete accounting of non-water land productivity factors.

Sessions KOICA SE-00189."The Global Water Crisis and the contribution of Korea."Venue: Gyeongju,Hotel Hyundai, Room: GHH-B210, time: 11.20 - 13.20

The session was opened by KOICA President Mr. Joung-Mok Kim.

The main report on the problems of the water sector support from the international financial institutions was made by prof. Asit Biswas - Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School for Public Policy in Singapore.

Following people presented within the session:

Prof. Khi-Choul Choi - Director of the International Research Center of Ecology, Korea

Mr. Frederik Addae - Director of Water at the Ministry of Water Resources of Ghana

Dr. Suong-won Kim- Regional head of the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Center of Korea

Dr. Chan-woo Lee - Specialist on Environment and Climate Change, Korea

The session was attended by GWP CACENA partners - Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan, Acting Chairman of the EC IFAS, Mr. Khamraev Sh.R., Mr. Nasymbayev N. - Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan, members of EC IFAS –Mr. Bayalimov D.,Mr. Kazakov M., Mr. Akmuradov M., Mr. Sheraliev N. and Mr. Holhudzhaev O. - BWO Syr-Darya and Mr. Sokolov V.I. - Regional Coordinator, GWP CACENA.

According to the results of the session the detailed information was obtained on KOICA activities for dissemination of Korean technologies in water sector in different countries, including Central Asia.



Participants of the session organized by KOICA(photo by V. Sokolov)

After the session, all delegates of Central Asia were invited to lunch with the KOICA President Mr. Joung-Mok Kim. Mr. Kim in his welcoming speech before lunch noted KOICA's intention to fund project in Uzbekistan on implementation of high technologies in water sector.

Meeting of GWP partners participating in activities of the Forum was held in the evening at the Hilton Hotel in Gyeongju, with the Chairman of GWP Ms. Ursula Preus-Shiffer.



Acting Executive Secretary of GWP Mr. Rudolph Cleveringa (photo by V. Sokolov)

It was a good opportunity for the partners from different regions to communicate and exchange views and information on the Forum as well as joint activities after the forum.



Participants of GWP meeting in Korea (photo by V. Sokolov)

The countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus in the meeting were presented by: Mr. V.I.Sokolov, Regional Coordinator of GWP CACENA, Ms. Valentina Khaidarova, Communications Officer of GWP CACENA, prof. N.K.Kipshakbayev and Ms. K. Yahiyeva from Kazakhstan, Mr. A. Djailoobaev and Ms. K. Musabaeva from Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Yarash Pulatov and Mr. Zainal Kobuliev from Tajikistan, Mr. Normuhamad Sheraliev from Uzbekistan and Mr. Mamed Asadov and Teimour Osmanov from Azerbaijan as well as Davaa Basandorj from Mongolia.

Day 4 (15 April 2015)

Sessions within the ministerial and regional processes in Gyeongju

4th Meeting of the Asian Water High Level Roundtable (AWHLR). Venue: Hotel Hyundai; Room: Diamond hall (B-1F); Time: 9.30-12.00

Participants: senior representatives of water agencies of 11 countries in Asia and the Pacific, officials of the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Coordinator - prof. Philipp Gourbville, France

The meeting was opened by the K-Water President Mr. Gyewon Choi. Then the presentation of official roundtable representatives was held.

A statement on the organization of the Asian Water Council was made by Mr. Buyngman Choi –the Director of the Institute K-Water.

Special statement in support of the establishment of the Asian Water Council was also made by Dr. Basuke Hadimoeldjono –the Minister of Public Works and Utilities of Indonesia.



Working moments of the 4th Meeting of the Asian Water High Level Roundtable(photo by V. Sokolov)



Participants of the Asian Water High Level Roundtable meeting (photo by V. Sokolov)

Presentations of the working group results:

Infrastructure and funding - prof. Gene Gyuling Yu- National Taiwan University

Water supply and sanitation - prof. Ltong Shi-ju - Director of the Tropical Marine Science Institute

Aral Sea - Dr. Vadim Sokolov - Regional Coordinator of GWP CACENA

As part of a roundtable discussion the following people spoke five minutes each:

President of KOICA Mr. Joung-Mok Kim

Mr. Kenya Komura - President of the Japan Water Agency

Mr. Osman Dion - practicing World Bank manager for the Asia-Pacific region

Mr. Steven Stockman - Director of US Army Engineers Corps

Mr. Somkiat Pradjamwong - Department of Irrigation of Thailand

Mr. Harman Idris - President of Water Management Company of Indonesia

Mr. Hammani Intkhirat - Deputy Minister of Energy and Production in Laos

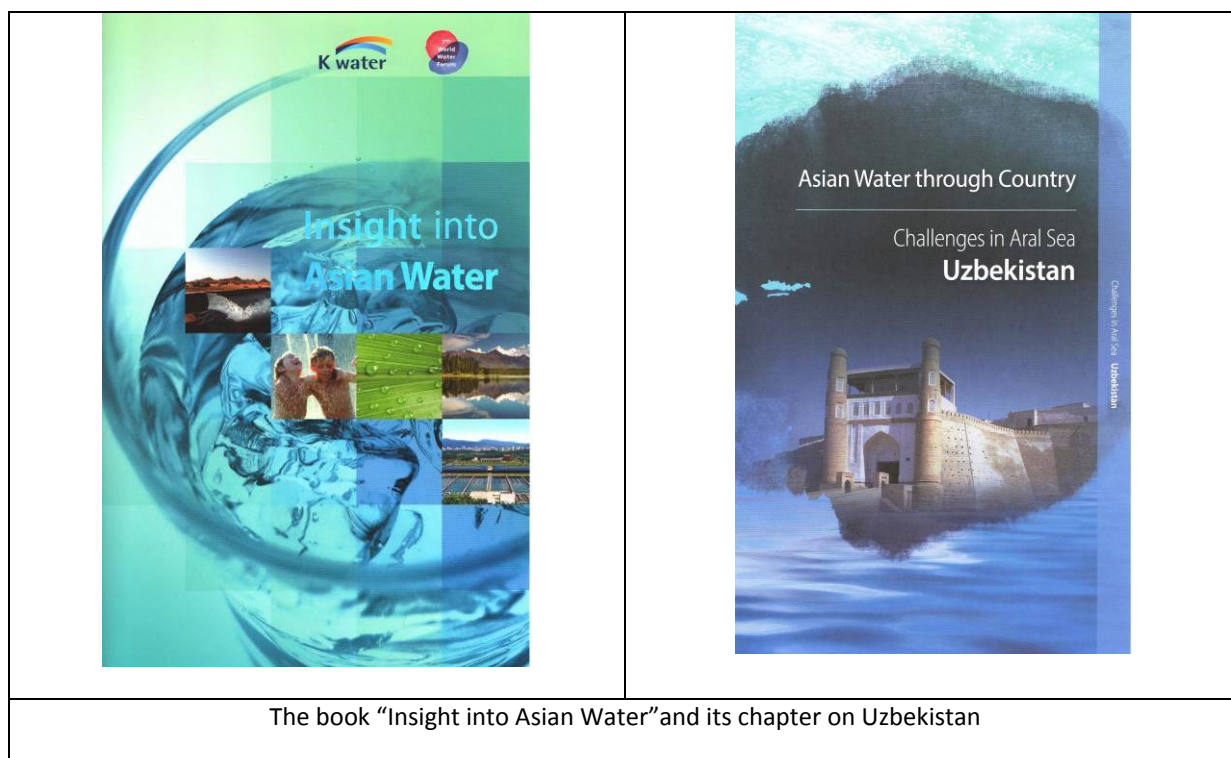
Mr. Shavkat Khamraev - Deputy Minister of MAWR of Uzbekistan

Mr. Ngueng Thai Lai - Vice-Minister of Natural Resources of Vietnam.



The meeting ended with the signing ceremony of the first copy of the book “Insight into Asian Water”(photo by V. Sokolov)

The book “Insight into Asian Water” includes reviews of water-related problems and their solutions in 11 Asian countries: Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Korea, Laos, Mongolia, Taiwan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, the Philippines and Japan. Review on Uzbekistan was prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan, the IFAS and GWP CACENA.

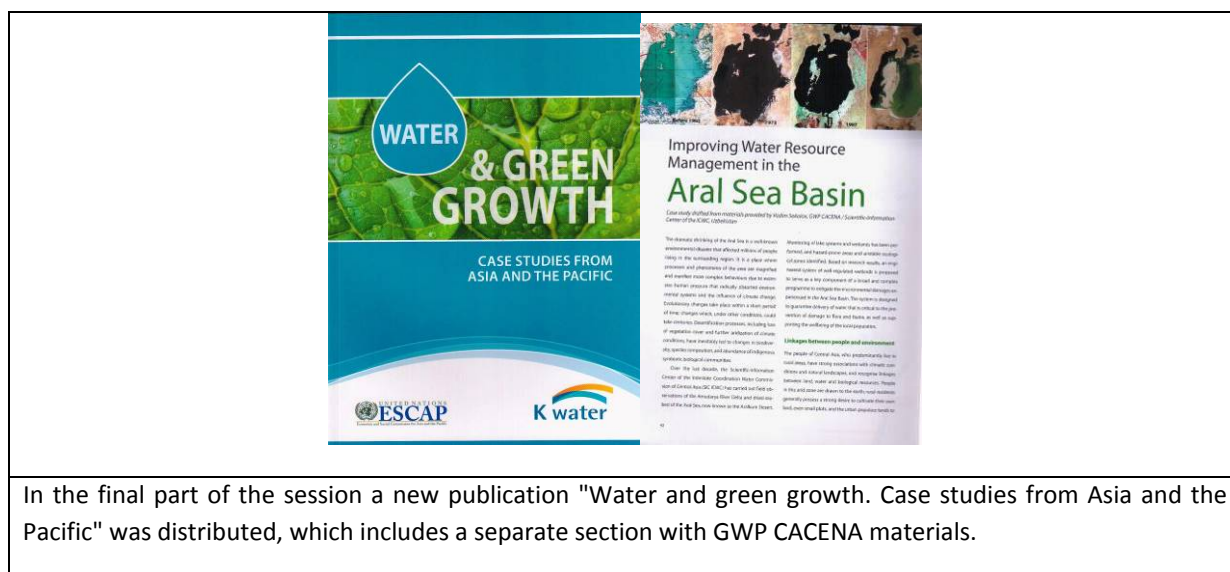


Session of the regional process "Water and Green Growth", coordinated by the UN ESCAP -Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, together with the Corporation K-Water. Venue: Hotel Hyundai; Time: 11.20 - 13.20

The session provided an opportunity to summarize the message to the regional leaders and policy-makers in Asia and the Pacific on policy options that could link water management as a "green" growth factor, especially where water is a limiting factor.

Discussions at the meeting were focused on four themes: how to eliminate investment gaps in water sector; cost-benefit balance issues; balancing role of water for different sectors of the economy, as well as public, private and non-governmental organizations; ensuring sustained economic growth through the use of water.

The case studies from the ESCAP member States experience were presented for the development of future guidelines for linking water with the green development principles. From Central Asia the Regional Coordinator of GWP CACENA Mr. V.I.Sokolov made a presentation, prepared jointly with SIC ICWC experts, about the importance of the water factor in solving the problems of stabilizing ecosystems on the example of the Aral Sea.



In the final part of the session a new publication "Water and green growth. Case studies from Asia and the Pacific" was distributed, which includes a separate section with GWP CACENA materials.

13.00-14.00. Topaz Restaurant in the Hotel Hyundai - business lunch at the invitation of the President of UNSGAB - Advisory Board of the UN Secretary General on Water and Sanitation, Ms. Uschi Eid. Regional Coordinator of GWP CACENA Mr. V.I.Sokolov took part in the business lunch, during which there was an exchange of views and ideas about architecture and initiatives on implementation of new (post 2015) sustainable development goals, based on water. Lunch was also attended by the chairman of NARBO, Mr. Keizrul bin Abdullah, as well as members of UNSGAB Mr. Kenzo Hiroki and Madame Olivia la O'Castillo.

The first question for discussion - Why in the previous Millennium Development Goals the goal "By 2015 to prepare IWRM plans in all developing countries" was not clearly performed, and how IWRM should be taken into account in the new strategic sustainable development goals? Reflecting on this question, Mr. Sokolov turned to the experience of Central Asia. For example, although National IWRM Plan of Kazakhstan was submitted to the Government, there is no practical implementation. This is due to the lack of clear indicators for measuring the effectiveness of IWRM Plan through a set of specific indicators.

If IWRM to be included in the new sustainable development goals, it is necessary to clearly define the ultimate goal, which the IWRM plan is to achieve. Excluding the water quality problems, today there are two key problems - either too much water or not enough water. IWRM plan can be considered effective if it minimizes the loss of excess water or lack of water.

IWRM process with the governance system has two functions - 1) supply of required water to the right place at the right time; 2) use of water for a particular purpose. IWRM plan can be considered effective if it, on the one hand, ensures stability and uniformity of water delivery with minimal unproductive water losses, and, on the other hand, provides increased water productivity at its use.

In the second part of the discussion, Ms. UschiEid suggested the game - if you are allowed to ask only one question to the Secretary General of the United Nations - what would it be? Mr. Sokolov suggested to ask the following question - Is it possible to make the water legislation not advising but binding - like, for example, traffic rules? Today, all known international conventions on water are advisory (as a joke prof. Dukhovny noted - they are like a mother-in-law - you can listen to her, but have your own way).

Final Asia-Pacific Regional Synthesis and Commitment Session. Venue: Hotel Hyundai; Time: 14.30 - 19.00

This session summed up and summarized the results of eleven sessions of the regional process organized by organizations from the Asia-Pacific region. The session was chaired by Mr. Ravi Naranian - Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF).

The session was opened by Mr. Kotaro Takemura - Secretary General of the Japan Water Forum, which serves as the APWF Secretariat. On behalf of the organizers of the 7th World Water Forum the session participants were welcomed by Mr. Jung-moo Lee - President of the Korean Water Forum.

Short presentation with an overview of the regional water security status was made by Mr. Gil-Hong Kim, Director of the Sustainable Development Department, ADB.

A summary of the Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) was presented by Ms. Jasmin Siddike - ADB



Then, brief information on the session outcomes was presented by the coordinators of regional sessions:

Water & Cities - Mr. Shakhbaz Khan, UNESCO Regional Office

Water & Green Growth - Ms. Salmah Zakaria, UNESCAP

Water & Food Security - Mr. Thierry Facon, FAO

Water and Climate Change Related Disasters - Mr. Ramesh Ananda, ICIMOD

Integrated Water Resources Management - Mr. Koichiro Omoto, NARBO

Rural Water & Sanitation - Ms. Khilda Winartasaputra, WASH

Development of Cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin - Vadim Sokolov, Regional Coordinator, GWP CACENA

Transboundary Rivers in North Asia - Mr. Deukko Koh, Korean Water Forum

Japan-Korea-China Trilateral Forum- Ms. Yuoko Akita, Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

Hydrological Services - Mr. Suong Kim, Korea Institute of Construction Technology (KICT)

Problems of the Pacific Islands and the Caribbean - Mr. Jose Luis Martin Bordes, UN-HABITAT.

After that, the two APWF co-chairmen - Ms. Changua Woo and Mr. Simon Thai moderated discussion of the high-level panel on the results of the eleven sessions - to formulate the region obligations on the implementation of session decisions.

This debate was preceded by two brief presentations on the national water security status - from Tajikistan - Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources, Mr. Sulton Rahimzoda and Vietnam - Mr. Tong Ngok Thanh - General Director of the National Center for Water Resources Planning.

Panelists of the debate were:

Mr. Keizrul bin Abdullah - NARBO,

Ms. Uschi Eid - UNSGAB

Mr. Gil-Hong Kim - ADB

Mr. Shigeo Mazutani - President of Swing Corporation

Mr. Mark Pascoe - International Water Centre

Mr. Ponce Samaniego - ADB Youth Forum

Ms. Jayamala Subramaniam - Fund Arghyam



Group photo: chairman and coordinators of Asia-Pacific Regional Process

Following the session, a resolution was adopted on the obligation of performance of the measures recommended by all eleven sessions over the next three years. Monitoring of the execution is the responsibility of the APWF Governing Board. It was also announced that the intermediate indicators will be published in 2016 in the third issue of the Asian Water Development Outlook.

The purpose of the session **T.4.2.3 «Strengthening basin management for effective water management at all relevant levels»** (INBO and UNESCO) was to analyze and disseminate solutions in the following areas:

- Develop basin framework agreements, regional agreements, national laws on water, management rules, management plans or other mechanisms for water distribution,
- Increase the number of water secure countries; management tools based on existing (local, basin, national, international) legal and regulatory frameworks; IWRM,
- Increase the number of organizations within basin or aquifer systems capable of sustainable water management,
- Develop appropriate framework for contextual assessment of water resources, users, and impact and uses water management indicators at the basin scale, starting with the initial data / information sources in the basin.

At the previous 5th and 6th World Water Forums INBO presented two handbooks developed in collaboration with partners - "A Handbook for Integrated Water Resources Management in Basins" and "A Handbook for Integrated Water Resources Management in Transboundary Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers", which were translated into Russian by GWP CACENA. At the session "Lessons learned and best practices of adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins and restoring aquatic ecosystems" two new products were presented - "Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Best Practices" and "A handbook for Management and Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems in River and Lake Basins." Both manuals are translated into many languages; in particular, a call to translate those into Russian was made.

In the evening an inter-regional meeting of GWP partners from China, South Asia, Southeast Asia and GWP CACENA was held at the Hilton Hotel in Gyeongju. It was a great opportunity to discuss the future of inter-regional cooperation and to encourage consultations on joint projects.



The participants of the inter-regional meeting of GWP partners from China, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the GWP CACENA, April 15, 2015, Korea

Sessions within the thematic process and the science and technology process in Daegu

High-level panel "Water Security" was opened with a video message of UNESCO Director Ms. Irina Bokova, who pointed out that 16% of all countries in the world and 40% of the population live under water stress. Current moment is characterized by growing awareness of water as a basis for sustainable development. A speech by CEO of K-Water prof. Gyewon Choi presented the Korean understanding of water security as a combination of sustainable water supply for all; prevention of water related disasters; scientific, financial, technical and political cooperation on water; pollution control; basic water security mechanisms; IWRM; SMART Water; transparent and continuously available information. Co-Chair of the 7th World Forum Mr. Soontak Lee added that water security is determined by the community's ability to withstand drought, floods, climate change and typhoons. Korean people are united in understanding and confidence in scope of measures that the government and the people jointly organized. We are eager to help all developing countries in establishing a global water security system.

Professor Asit Biswas, Singapore, presented his new book "Water management and environmental challenges" and its main provisions. The world comes to a standstill in following "current trends" scenario, which turns into a scenario of unsustainable development. The middle class, which has grown around the world up-to 80%, imposes higher requirements for good food, electricity and water. Prices for these services have been increasing, without which sustainable water and electricity supply is impossible. Meanwhile, middle-class incomes are mostly frozen. Solution is prudent and rational use of water. It is necessary to change the life behavior paradigm to the rational, less material and more intelligent; this requires freedom from established habits and lifestyles. Contribution and importance of the private sector has been increasing. Such mega-companies like Coca-Cola, Nestle, Suez, Natafim begin to define the global water policy - they, and not national governments. At the moment there are no signs of their monopoly and hegemony, but market competition may significantly affect the future mega force structure. Now is the time to define strict interaction rules of public and private organizations.

This concern was supported by the representative of the African Development Bank, who proposed to strengthen the completeness, organized nature and clear mechanism for regulating private participation in water management and use, given their dependence on many factors and the possibility of market decline. In the comments I supported him on the example of our regional energy companies that are trying to dictate modes of water sources, and, in the future, water policy. Japanese professor Taikon Okt introduced some adjustments in the prediction of climate change and future distribution of rainfall throughout the planet. In Central Asia floods will reduce; in Siberia - increase. It is necessary to strengthen the global and regional early warning systems. National water security systems are required, based both on engineering structures and organizational measures and fullest motivation for water conservation. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Mr. Sirojtdin Aslov spoke from the perspective of the importance of cooperation and commitment of the republic to be an active creator of joint regional and national security in the region. UNESCO representative Ms. Blanca Ibanies voiced that according to the calculations of the IHP program the benefit from global cooperation on transboundary waters can give a 5% annual increase in global GDP.

At the invitation of the World Water Council prof. Dukhovny V.A., Director of SIC ICWC (Partner of GWP CACENA) participated in the signing of several memorandums of cooperation between national water organizations, aimed at the spread of innovation, knowledge transfer and development of training programs. Andong University, project "Water Education" USA-Canada, Water Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the Air Force, signed a protocol on Cooperative Water Education. A similar protocol was signed between the Korea Water Forum and the US Army Corps Engineers. During this event we were able to

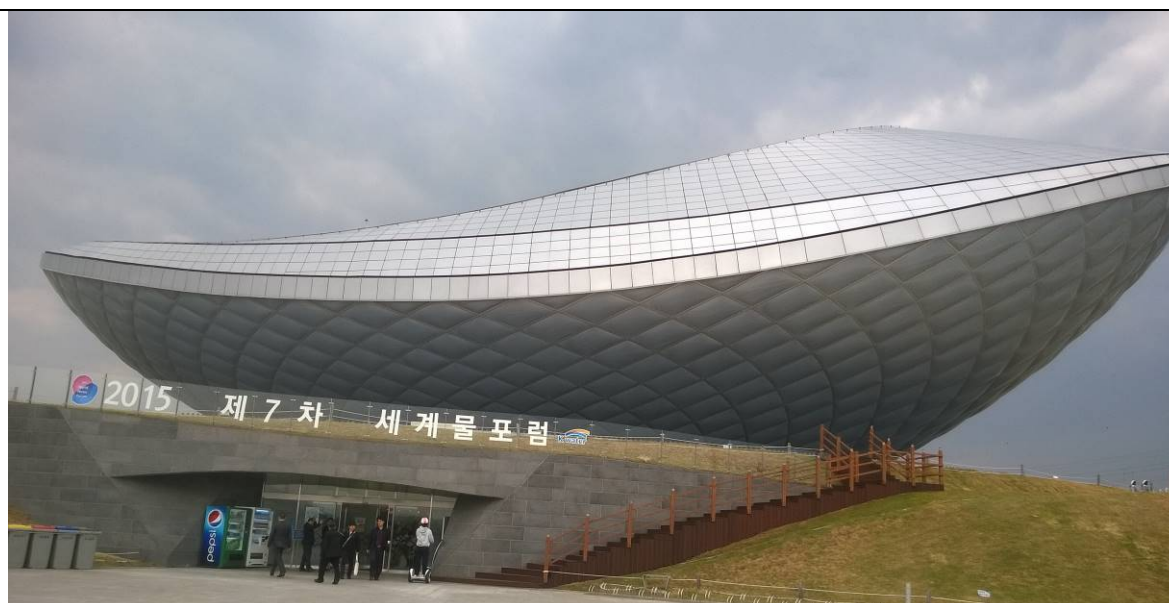
exchange information with the Director of Civil Works Corps Mr. Steve Stockton about our efforts to create a distance learning program on water management and agreed on a possible exchange.

The Central Asian delegation consisting of representatives of IFAS countries: B. Bayalimov, M. Kazakov, M. Akmuradov, as well as IFAS employees: RahatGaniev, Ruziyev, Director of BWO Syrdarya Mr. Holhudzhaev O., Regional Coordinator of GWP CACENA Mr. Vadim Sokolov - by invitation of K-Water Corporation participated in the field study tour with a visit to a control structure on River Nandong - the longest river in South Korea. Tour participants got acquainted with the work of the facility dispatch point, which automatically controls water delivery within the command area.



Barrage on the River Nandong

Participants of the tour visited National Museum of Water specially built for the 7th World Water Forum.



The National Museum of Water in South Korea - in the form of an ancient vessel for water storage



Delegation of Central Asia at the dispatch point of barrage on the River Nandong

Day6 (17 April 2015) - Daegu

Concluding session "Water for Food" was held under the leadership of IWMI Director Mr. Jeremy Bird. Heads of regional sub-programs submitted their proposals, which were not very new. The representative of the FAO Head Office Mr. Unver Oclay presented a Water Management Roadmap, which included technological improvements, quality management, upgrades, adaptation to climate change, strengthening farm capacity, governance and reduced water consumption for irrigation. The emphasis was placed on the fact that irrigation is the largest water consumer in the world. Speech of GWP CACENA partner - SIC ICWC in the person of its director prof. Dukhovny V. - pointed out that irrigated agriculture cannot be seen only as water user depending only on the efficiency of water use. Irrigated agriculture defines a large tail of social and economic value, including not only food security but employment and well-being of the rural cluster. Irrigated agriculture requires comprehensive approach, which depends on the local adaptation of guaranteed coordinated development system of not only the water sector, but also associated supply of fertilizers, machinery, agricultural services, institutional and financial construction of land as well as social sector. Irrigation is the development engine of related rural processing, marketing, service and administration industries, which should be considered together.

In the Roadmap and speeches of panelists there was not a word about the impending threat to irrigated agriculture from hydropower systems that break much needed stability of water supply for farmers by instability modes of operation of hydropower units in the interest of energy consumption. Program Manager Mr. Oclay asked GWP CACENA to send him detailed proposals on the Roadmap.

Forum closing ceremony was held at the usual mode of the announcement of quantitative results - involved 168 countries, approximately 40,000 participants (according to other sources 22,000), 395 different sessions and events. Award winners were announced. Kyoto Prize was received by an environmental organization from Nepal; Mexico Prize for water and sanitation was received the City of Montevideo; Daegu award was received

by Ricardo Alto from Colombia for introduction of plastic containers that were filled with water during the rainy season, followed by irrigation through drip distribution and water supply systems.

Unlike previous forums, thematic process did not end with the Forum completion - for each of the 16 topics of the process the working groups were established and their leaders were announced.

Korean leaders solemnly declared their willingness to serve the progress of water issues around the world.

The procedure was completed with the handing of the World Water Forum flag over to the Brazil water management leadership and the Mayor of Brasilia, where in March 2018 the 8th World Water Forum will be held.

CWP-Kyrgyzstan at the 7th World Water Forum



CWP-Mongolia at the 7th World Water Forum

Prof. Basandorj Davaa made presentations at the session of the Science and Technology Process:

1. "Development strategy on sewerage system in Ulaanbaatar"
2. "Needs to apply IUWM for capital city Ulaanbaatar of Mongolia"



Mongolian delegation

Minister of Nature Mrs. Oyunhorol (second from the left) and Parliamentary Deputy Ms. Batsogt (third from the left) and Prof. Basandorj Davaa



GWP's participants from China, Butan, Mongolia, India and Central Asia



Interview by GWP Chair Mrs. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss to Mongolian TV

CWP-Tajikistan at the 7th World Water Forum





Attachment 1

SPECIAL ISSUE SESSION R32AP

"DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION IN THE ARAL SEABASIN TO MITIGATE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE"

FINAL DOCUMENT

The Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) in collaboration with the network of the Global Water Partnership in Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA) organized a special issue session "Development of Cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin to Mitigate Consequences of the Environmental Catastrophe" in the framework of the 7th World Water Forum on 14th of April 2015 in Gyeongju, the Republic of Korea.

Within the special issues session, participants:

- Agreed that current challenges observed globally, including climate change, unprecedented increase in the demand for water, increasing water scarcity, reduction and pollution of fresh water, increased frequency of water-related disasters, intensive glacier melting, degradation of water ecosystems, desertification, environmental degradation, disruption of the ecological balance are characteristic of the Central Asian Region and create significant problems related to its sustainable development;
- Recognized that as a result of the Aral Sea desiccation in the countries of the basin, especially in the Aral Sea Region, a complex of complicated environmental, socio-economic and demographic problems emerged that are global by origin and level of consequences;
- Stressed that the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, established in 1993 by five Central Asian states, is the only regional body supported at the highest political level, which provides an unique platform for regional and international cooperation to address the problems of the Aral Sea Basin;
- Noted the urgency of implementing the Third Aral Sea Basin Program (ASBP-3) approved by the Governments of the Member States of IFAS and aimed at ensuring a more effective and integrated management of water resources, improving the environmental situation and socio-economic conditions, as well as strengthening cooperation in Central Asia;

- Recognized that situation in the Aral Sea basin in the field of water management, environmental and socio-economic conditions remains difficult despite the efforts of the Central Asian countries to address the problems of the Aral crisis and mitigate the consequences of the Aral Sea desiccation;
- Noted that the countries of the region with the assistance and support of international organizations, financial institutions and governments of donor-countries are taking steps to address the problems of the Aral Sea Basin and improve the environmental and socio-economic situation in general.

Following the discussions, for the effective and rational use of water resources, environment protection, socio-economic and sustainable development of the region, implementation of practical actions to mitigate the effects of the Aral Sea crisis, further strengthening of the regional cooperation to confront today's challenges and solve common problems in the Central Asian Region the participants of the special session proposed the following areas:

1. **Strengthening of cooperation within IFAS** – to ensure close interaction between the Member States of IFAS to address water, environmental and socio-economic problems of the Aral Sea Basin; strengthen the potential of the executive bodies of IFAS; and utilize the capacity and advantages of IFAS in addressing regional issues. The measures to promote and develop dialogue within the IFAS should be supported in order to achieve consensus between the countries.
2. **Ensuring implementation of the ASBP-3** - it is necessary to take urgent measures to implement the regional and national ASBP-3 programs and projects, and, in this regard the financial and technical assistance from international organizations, financial institutions and governments of donor-countries should be extensively involved; to ensure greater involvement of the executive bodies of IFAS for more effective implementation of ASBP-3 regional projects.
3. **Solution of the Aral Sea problems** - given the enormity of the Aral Sea crisis and the problems to be solved, it is necessary to consolidate the efforts of the international community to eliminate the negative consequences of the Aral Sea desiccation and reduce its damaging effects on the environment and livelihoods of millions of people living in the area of environmental disaster. In this case, important tasks are to create conditions for reproduction and preservation of the gene pool and public health, development of social infrastructure, raising the quality and the living standard of people, preservation and restoration of biodiversity of flora and fauna.
4. **Enhancing international cooperation** – to develop mechanisms for effective interaction and cooperation of the Executive Committee of IFAS, the executive bodies of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination and the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development with international organizations and financial institutions, as well as the donor community in order to attract their attention and efforts to address the problems of the Aral Sea Basin; to cooperate actively with the UN agencies, considering the UN General Assembly Resolution 63/133 dated December 11, 2008 on granting the observer status in the General Assembly to the IFAS.

Given the relevance of the above areas the special session participants call on international organizations and financial institutions, as well as donor community to support IFAS and Central Asian countries in the implementation of programs and projects in the Aral Sea Basin and the Aral Sea area.

In conclusion, the session participants expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Forum Organizing Committee for the support and creation of conditions for the preparation and conducting of the session under the Regional Process of the 7th World Water Forum.

ИСПОЛНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ КОМИТЕТ
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Founder states: Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan

№ 01/01-90 « 22 » April 2015 г.

Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss
Chair of Global Water Partnership

Dear Dr. Schaefer-Preuss,

Executive committee of International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) presents its compliments to Global Water Partnership (GWP) and has the honor to express its gratitude for providing financial assistance in conducting Special session R.3.2.AP "Development of Cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin to Mitigate Consequences of the Environmental Catastrophe" which was held on 14th April 2015 in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea.

First of all let me express my great appreciation for your kind promotion in participation of your representatives and also conducting the Special session within the framework of the 7th World Water Forum that gave a high international level to this event.

In this connection EC IFAS looks forward for fruitful cooperation with GWP in providing assistance to the countries of the Aral Sea Basin.

Taking this opportunity EC IFAS renews GWP the assurances of its highest consideration.

Acting Chairman



Sh. Khamraev

Section 2: Armenia

CWP-Armenia is preparing the project proposals

During April 2015 CWP-Armenia has prepared the project proposals to:

- "Smart management of urban water in Goris city" (to ADB);
- "Treatment of sewage of Tsakhkadzor city" (to USAID within "Securing water for food");
- "Efficient management of irrigation water and flood control" for the Lernarot village (to the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Armenia, within Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects).

WACDEP CACENA in Armenia

CWP-Armenia made a contract with the Djaamus Company to design and construct the irrigation system around the treatment station for irrigation of trees, and to construct additional aerators etc.

The meeting on growth of the higher plants to improve treatment in the second pond was held on 28 April 2015 for appropriate specialists.



Meeting with the plant specialists



Preparing a foam device for the higher plants

Section 3: Kazakhstan

IWRM ToolBox workshop for university lecturers in Central Asia (incl. Mongolia and Afghanistan)

The IWRM ToolBox workshop was held on 22-23 April 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The IWRM ToolBox workshop was targeted at the university staffs from AFG, KAZ, KYR, TAJ, TUR, UZB and MON that educate specialists in water management or related fields and sectors (such as agriculture, landuse, energy sector, environmental and mining sector). The workshop was attended by 35 lecturers (of which 20 women and 15 men) and 5 MSc students. The participants were selected based upon a Call organized by the German-Kazakh University (GKU) (more than 50 lecturers applied, a selection was based on several factors - relevance to individuals' study course, age/gender and a good command of English). The workshop consisted of presentations (all participants presented their study courses and issues related to IWRM teaching), work groups, plenary discussions. In addition to presentations of Ms. Danka Thalmeinerova (on GWP in glance and

strategy, ToolBox, tools, case studies, experience from other university workshops), there was a comprehensive presentations from Vadim Sokolov (GWP CACENA) on activities in GWP CACENA and Vera Mustafina (a coordinator of Regional Center for Sustainable Development, CAR@VAN).

Section 4: Kyrgyzstan

Twelfth NPD Steering Committee meeting

On 17 March 2015 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, over 50 representatives of different stakeholders (including CWP-Kyrgyzstan) and donors involved in improving the situation of water resources in Kyrgyzstan attended the 12th Steering Committee meeting organized by UNECE, OECD, Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic (Department of Water Management and Melioration), EUWI, EECCA. Expert group presented a study on ways to increase water use efficiency in the agriculture sector. Results suggest that introduction of sprinkler or drip irrigation in place of surface irrigation could boost agricultural productivity in Kyrgyzstan. At the next stage of the process, experts will study practical application of such technologies in specific regions of Kyrgyzstan.



Opening Ceremony of the Water Museum

CWP-Kyrgyzstan attended the Opening Ceremony of the Water Museum in Bishkek on 22 April 2015. The Water Museum is situated in the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after Skryabin K.A. There are the unique displays, equipment and interactive stands.

CWP-Kyrgyzstan discussed further cooperation with this museum as well as with the Aarhus Center and the Water Management Department and the Ecology Department of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University.



CWP-Kyrgyzstan representatives with Director of the Aarhus Center, Dean of the Nature Resources Department and the Head of the Chair of the Ecology Department of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University.



At the Water Museum

Section 5: Mongolia

National Conference on Canals

On 9 April 2015 in Ulaanbaatar, participants from all regions of Mongolia gathered to discuss the work plan for 2016-2017. CWP-Mongolia actively participated and proposed: - to develop water partnership; - to organize the water days in all regions of Mongolia in order to reveal problems and to define ways for problems solutions within water partnership.



Statement of the Minister of Construction of Mongolia at the conference

Section 6: Tajikistan

Roundtable "Science and Practice in Irrigated Agriculture of Tajikistan"

CWP-Tajikistan organized the Roundtable "Science and Practice in Irrigated Agriculture of Tajikistan" on 31 March 2015 in Dushanbe. The roundtable was devoted to 80th Anniversary of the birth of Prof. Domulladjanov. The aim was to cover the role of science in agriculture sector development, achievements of scientific-technological sphere and scientific-technological contribution of Prof. Domulladjanov to irrigated agriculture. More than 30 people (scientists, farmers, local administration and others) participated.





Third meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus

Mr. Yarash Pulatov, CWP-Tajikistan Coordinator, and Dr. Vadim Sokolov, GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator, participated in the 3d meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus on 28-29 April 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus is charged with the overview and guidance of the assessment of the nexus in selected transboundary basins, which is carried out as part of the Convention's programme of work 2013–2015 that was adopted by the Parties.

This third meeting of the Task Force brings together representatives of the countries that are concerned by the ongoing and possible future basin assessments, as well as representatives of organizations undertaking parallel initiatives, partners, experts and stakeholders.

The meeting has the following objectives:

- To provide an overview of the status of preparations of assessments;
- To discuss the findings and the experience from the basin assessments;
- To review the draft contents of the overall stocktaking report of the nexus assessment;
- To agree on the steps to complete the presentation of findings for publication;
- To discuss possible follow-up activities for the Convention's programme of work 2016–2018.





Section 7: Uzbekistan

Roundtable "Role of Science and Innovations in the Integrated Water Resources management"

The Roundtable "Role of Science and Innovations in the Integrated Water Resources management" initiated by the Ecological Movement Group of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan was held on 22 April 2015 in Tashkent. This roundtable was devoted to the Earth Day.

Participants (total: 120 people): Deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, ministries, republican organizations, international organizations, NGOs, CWP-Uzbekistan etc.

Prof. Sanginov, Head of the EcoForum (CWP-Uzbekistan partner) has made presentation "Water Management role in the Integrated Land Resources Management ". He called on stakeholders to improve cooperation between water and agriculture specialists and to use water and land resources more efficiently.



Roundtable on Ecology and Water Saving for NGOs

CWP-Uzbekistan jointly with the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia organized the Roundtable on Ecology and Water Saving for NGOs on 23 April 2015.



The Roundtable participants discussed a strategy on cooperation between REC CA, CWP-Uzbekistan and NGOs for improvement of water resources management as well to take attention on water quality improving.

The Roundtable participants noted that water quality management in Uzbekistan is not efficient and doesn't address to requirements at the national and regional level. They also noted that problem solution isn't correspond to needed level and information sharing is weak. Participants decided to develop a strategy on cooperation.

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The Global Water Partnership's vision is for a water secure world. Our mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.