

Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For September 2015

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1. The First meeting of the Coordination Group on Regional Information Space for Water and Environment in Central Asia

GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Vadim Sokolov took part in the first meeting of the Coordination Group on a Regional Information Space for Water and Environment in Central Asia initiated by UNECE that was held on 1-2 September 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Representatives of regional institutions, such as EC IFAS, SIC ICWC, SIC ICSD, BWO Amudarya, BWO Syrdarya, Regional Hydrological Center, CAREC, Regional Mountain Centre for Central Asia, CDC "Energy", ICWC Secretariat, ICSD Secretariat, as well as representatives of key donors (World bank, SDC, GIZ, UNEP) participated in this meeting.

The mission of the Coordination Group is to create conditions for governance and coordination of activities of all stakeholders on development of regional information space for water and environment in Central Asia. It is expected that such regional space will provide a comprehensive body of open and easily interpretable information and will be used by the Governments of Central Asia and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and its organizations as a decision support tool. The public, academia, educational institutions and civil society should also have access to this information space.



Leaders of Coordination Group (from left): Saghit Ibatullin (UNECE Convention Monitoring Expert from CA), Shukhrat Talipov (EC IFAS), Bo Libert and Marton Krasnay (UNECE), Vadim Sokolov (GWP CACENA/SIC ICWC)

The meeting was organized in form of 8 sessions:

- Setting the scene
- Achievements and problems in data production, analysis and information exchange
- Principles, common criteria and structure of the information space
- Better decision support based on reliable, agreed upon information
- Scope of information
- Geographical coverage and sources of information
- Legal basis and financing
- Transparency, access by academia, universities and the civil society



Working moments of the Coordination Group meeting

2. The Two-Day International Conference dedicated to 15 years of the Agreement between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Vadim Sokolov took part in the two-day international conference dedicated to 15 years since the date of signature of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Use of Water Management Facilities of Intergovernmental Status on the Rivers Chu and Talas that started in Chok-Tal village, Issyk-Kul province on 16 September 2015.

This Agreement was signed by the Governments of the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan in January 2000 and later ratified by National Parliaments in order to ensure mutually beneficial cooperation on use of water management facilities of intergovernmental status on the Chu and Talas rivers.



Mr. Tilek Isabekov, Co-chair of the Chu-Talas Water Commission from Kyrgyz party, First Deputy Director General of the Department for Water Resources and Land Reclamation, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Agriculture and

Land Reclamation in his welcome speech underlined the importance of given Agreement for development of bilateral cooperation for reliable water supply in the two transboundary river basins.

Co-chair of the Commission from Kazakh party Mr. Yerlan Nysanbayev, Vice-Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan also emphasized the significance of efforts undertaken within the framework of this Agreement, including development of principles governing joint water management based on the interests of each state.

The Conference brought up about 100 participants, including representatives of the national ministries and agencies from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, the international organizations such as GWP CACENA, UNECE, OSCE, GIZ, SDC, as well as individual water professionals.

3. The 67th meeting of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia

GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Vadim Sokolov took part in the 67th meeting of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia, which was held on 17th of September 2015 in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic.



Opening of the 67th meeting of ICWC and some working moments

ICWC meeting was held under the chairmanship of the First Deputy Director General of the Department for Water Resources and Land Reclamation, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Mr. Tilek Isabekov. The following issues were discussed in accordance with the agreed agenda:

1. Fulfillment of water withdrawals quotas and operation regimes of the reservoir cascades in the Amudarya and Syrdarya River Basins over the growing season 2015 and the forecast for the non-growing season 2015-2016.
2. Presentation and discussion of proposals and comments received in the course of interdepartmental approval at the national level of the draft Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan on Information and Analytical Support of Water Management, Use, and Protection in the Aral Sea Basin and the Arrangement of Interstate Exchange of Information.
3. Consideration of GIZ Project Concept "Promoting enhancement of regional water cooperation in Central Asia by building capacities of BWO Amudarya, BWO Syrdarya and their divisions".
4. Agenda and venue of the next 68th ICWC meeting.

Relevant decisions were made on all the above issues.



Taking occasion of the 67th meeting of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC), Directors of two Basin Organizations (BWO Amudarya and BWO Syrdarya), Mr. Makhramov and Mr. Kholkhudjaev visited Bishkek on transit to Issykkul on 15th September. Using this opportunity GWP CACENA Secretariat organized a working meeting of those persons with WACDEP CACENA Project Manager, Mr. Djailoobaev to discuss results of climate change adaptation activities under the WACDEP CACENA project and how they could be used by BWOs in their water resources management practices.

4. The Pilot Training for Strengthening Model Capacity

GWP CACENA Regional Secretariat in cooperation with the World Bank conducted the Pilot Training for Strengthening Model Capacity, which was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 28 September - 3 October 2015.

The objective of this pilot training is to strengthen model capacity –get people to understand a modeling. The training was delivered on the basis of the curriculum targeted for mid-level decision makers. The goal is to work through the process of modeling, using the 3 models as guides but not getting "under the hood" too

much. This includes selecting basin boundaries, time span, defining questions, understanding the different types of models for different uses, etc., so that the workshop participants understand the general approach and ask the right questions to the modelers. This pilot training was delivered for 20 mid-level managers represented 6 countries (including Afghanistan) who have little experience in modeling.

Applications of water resources management models and best practices for selecting suitable models were presented and discussed. This was followed by a general discussion of the audience. In addition, categories of possible water resources problems in the region that need modeling support were discussed in general terms. The Aral Sea Basin is comprised of 2 main river basins - the Syrdarya and Amudarya - and the problems of both should be considered. These included basin hydrology, water consumption, and water use efficiency.



The key organizers of the pilot training: Anatoliy Sorokin (SIC ICWC), Daryl Fields (World Bank), Vadim Sokolov (GWP CACENA)

A pilot training was implemented to redefine the curriculum for a longer-term training program. The regional water project concurrently was scoped, as part of the implementation of ASBP3 as agreed upon in the EC-IFAS World Bank MOU. Implementation proposes to include developing an information system, which is in line with the Road Map objectives to develop a (1) an information/data portal, (2) training on modeling, and (3) professional development.



Participants of the training

However, several things are needed to follow up this pilot activity as input to development of the regional project: a structure for training that was tested; a curriculum for training, customization of the training based on country's needs and issues; and a results framework to indicate what success from the training program looks like.

Collaboration will continue during 2016 with the Model Expert Group (MEG).

5. Preparing the Work Plan and Budget 2016

GWP CACENA Regional Secretariat during September 2015 organized a consultation process with all CWP's concerning the work plan and budget for 2016. It is important to note that Mongolia will actively participate in WACDEP-2. Taking this into account, budget allocation for 2016 was specifically discussed.

6. Second WASTenet Technical Seminar on Natural Treatment Systems and Constructed Wetlands

CWP-Armenia took part at the Seminar "Introducing NTS and CWs as a viable alternative for Wastewater Treatment of Small Communities" organized by the Ilia State University of Armenia on 24 September 2015.



Ms. Arevik Hovsepyan, CWP-Armenia Coordinator, made the presentation "Natural Wastewater Treatment Systems: Institutional and Financing Considerations, Lessons from Armenia". This presentation is based on the results of WACDEP CACENA demonstration project in Armenia.

Mr. Artak Mkrtumyan, representing the Parakar village, informed participants about problems related to the treatment station operation (people behaviour, financing, technical issues, etc.).

7. Final presentation of USAID project "Clean Energy and Water"

On 23 September 2015 CWP-Armenia participated at the final presentation of USAID project. The management plan for the Armenian Southern watershed, methodology for environmental flow assessment, as well as the pilot projects on saving the energy and water resources, were developed within the USAID project.

8. Project proposal "Development of Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan at the Local Level"

CWP-Armenia prepared the project proposal "Development of Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan at the Local Level" for submission to the competition announced by the Climate East Forum (estimated grant - 12000 euro).

It is supposed to develop the Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation for 3 settlements in the Lory and Shirak areas of Armenia.

9. WACDEP CACENA in Armenia

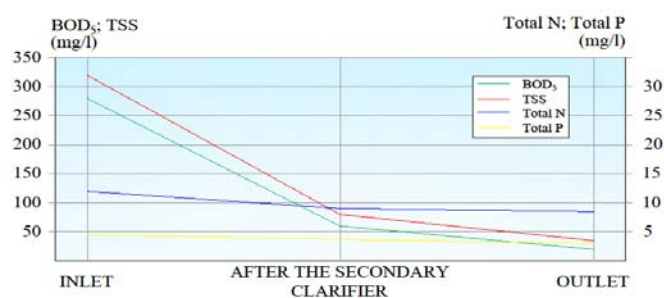
CWP-Armenia made a contract with LLC "JRAHAMUS" on the lagoons and the sedimentary pond refinement.

The contract with specialist on Hyacinthus cultivation and fish breeding for creating proper environment in the naturally aerating pond was made.

The monitoring of wastewater treatment and water quality was conducted.



TREATMENT PLANTS INDICATORS



10. The Roundtable on Biological Technologies for Treatment of Saline Soil

The Roundtable on Biological Technologies for Treatment of Saline Soil organized by CWP-Azerbaijan was held on 22 September 2015 in Baku.

Participants (total: 26 people): Public Corporation on Land Reclamation and Water Management of Azerbaijan, Scientific Production Association on Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation of Azerbaijan, Institute "AZGIPROVODHOZ", USA Company "KENZBIO".

GWP CACENA RC Member Mr. Osmanov informed participants about available water resources of Azerbaijan, IWRM in the republic. Participants noted importance of such meetings.



11. The World Bank seminar

CWP-Kyrgyzstan is a member of the Inter-departmental Technical Working Group on developing a new project "Water Resources Management in Central Asia (CA - WaRM)". This project was initiated by the Department on Water Management of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and the World Bank for strengthening management of information system on water resources and knowledge platform for water management in Central Asia.

CWP-Kyrgyzstan as a member of the Inter-departmental Technical Working Group on developing a new project participate in the seminar organized by the World Bank on 7 September 2015 in Bishkek. Ms. Kasiet Musabaeva informed participants about CWP-Kyrgyzstan activity on capacity building, access and sharing information on water resources management etc.

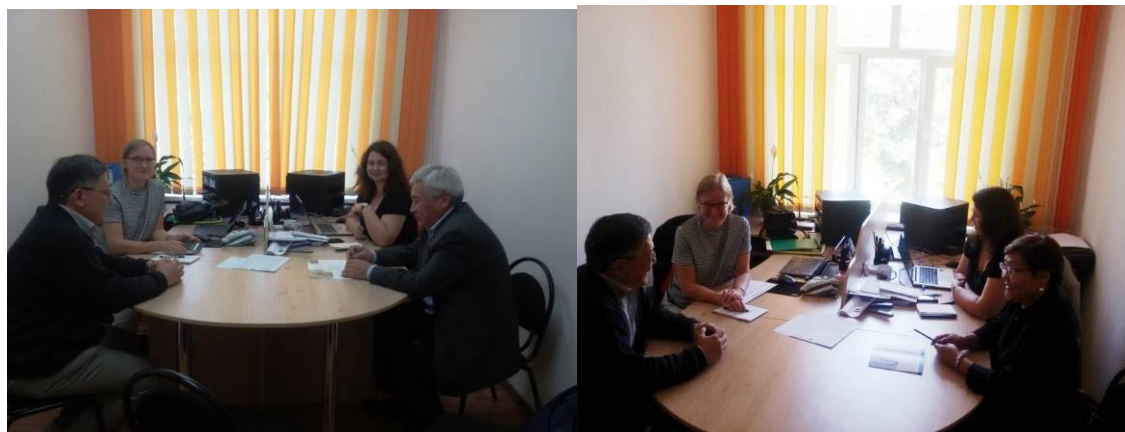




12. FinWaterWEI meeting

The working meeting on cooperation between CWP-Kyrgyzstan and FinWaterWEI program coordinator Ms. Tea Turnros was held on 15 September 2015 in the FinWaterWEI office in Bishkek. The FinWaterWEI program assistant Ms. Gruzdova and the Aarhus Centre Director Mr. Nurbekov attended also the meeting. The FinWaterWEI II Programme as assistance for water sector is being implemented in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan under support of the Government of Finland.

The theme: Brief information about current and further activity of participants related to IWRM and other "water" issues and public awareness, gender issue and synergy within implementing activity.



13. Conference "Cooperation on Ecology between Finland and Kyrgyzstan"

CWP-Kyrgyzstan participated in the Conference "Cooperation on Ecology between Finland and Kyrgyzstan" held on 16 September 2015 in Bishkek. The key themes: management of environmental data for climate change adaptation and rational nature management. Organizers: the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry at the Government of Kyrgyzstan, KYRGYZHYDROMET at the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the State Agency on Geology and Mineral Resources at the Government of Kyrgyzstan.



14. Action "Clean Issyk Kul"

On 19-20 September 2015 CWP-Kyrgyzstan jointly with the Public Fund "Clean Issyk Kul" and the Aarhus Centre took part in the cleaning of coastal zone of the Issyk Kul lake in Cholpon-ata. Professional divers and nature-lovers from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Russia participated. During 2 days of rain, a lot of garbage (plastic bottles and bags, toys etc.) was collected. This action aimed to draw public attention to protection of Issyk Kul lake and safe swimming of Kyrgyz people and guests.



15. Seminar for young government employees of water sector from Central Asia and Afghanistan

The Seminar for young government employees of water sector from Central Asia and Afghanistan organized by the German-Kazakh University jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, UNESCO, World Bank, OSCE, the UN Regional Centre of Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, was held on 23-25 September 2015 in Almaty. CWP-Kyrgyzstan and CWP-Tajikistan took part in the seminar. CWP-Tajikistan Coordinator Prof Yarash Pulatov as a National Expert, made presentation "National legislation of Tajikistan on water resources management and climate". CWP-Kyrgyzstan Coordinator Mr. Abdybay Djailoobaev as a National Expert, made presentation "National legislation of Kyrgyzstan on water resources management ". He informed about reform in water resources management (basin management principle), monitoring and information exchange, flood control, land reform (right of property), and water resources protection.



16. Green development strategy of Ulaanbaatar city

The meetings on Green development strategy of Ulaanbaatar city were held from 1 till 28 September 2015. CWP-Mongolia as a consulting and professional organization is involved to development of green strategy of capital city mostly focusing on water security and water scarcity of Ulaanbaatar city.



17. SDG meeting

CWP-Mongolia with the Cluster office of Parliament of Mongolia organized the SDG meeting on 17 September 2015 in Ulaanbaatar. More than 20 organizations and 50 people were invited to participate. The following

people made presentations: Prof. Basandorj Davaa, State Secretary of Ministry of Construction and Urban Development Mr. Erdeneburen, and Ms. Bulgan from the Department on Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Green Development and Environment.



18. The North-East Asian Mayors Conference

CWP-Mongolia was invited to take part in the North-East Asian Mayors Conference held on 21-22 September 2015 in Ulaanbaatar. CWP-Mongolia representative participated in the panel "Sustainable water management for cities" and suggested to develop the IUWM approach and to increase the percentage of treated water for reuse.



The Mayors forum of North-East Asian cities

19. The High level meeting on Integrated Urban Water Management

CWP-Mongolia organized the workshop on Integrated Urban Water Management on 28 September 2015 in the Government House of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar. The workshop was attended by Ms. Bayanselenge (Minister of Construction and Urban Development), Mr. Baterdene (Mayor of Ulaanbaatar city), the Minister of Environment and Green Development, Mr. Francois Brikke (GWPO, Sweden) and representatives from 23 organizations (total: 85 people). [The Workshop Program is attached]



20. Demonstration of water saving irrigation technologies

In order to promote irrigation technologies for all-year productive use of irrigated lands in central areas of Tajikistan the pilot sites for demonstrating water saving irrigation technologies were created by CWP-Tajikistan together with its partners (the Gissarsky research centre, the Institute "TajikNIIGiM"). Researches of young scientists are supported, the trainings on cropping technology for second yield using furrow and drip irrigation technologies, and the field lessons on soil characteristics (Photo 1) are being conducted. Maize after wheat harvesting is shown on the photo 2 (September 10, 2015).



Photo 1



Photo 2

21. The field seminar "Ruzisahro"

CWP-Tajikistan jointly with the department of intensive cropping technologies of the Institute of Agriculture of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan organized the field seminar for scientists, farmers, water specialists and other stakeholders on 17 September 2015. The aim is to demonstrate the intensive growing technologies for maize, nut, panic grass, sunflower, golden gram in the Gissarsky Valley.



22. The seminar "Furrow irrigation with stream partitioning and water measuring"

The seminar "Furrow irrigation with stream partitioning and water measuring" under support of CWP-Tajikistan was held on 12 September 2015 in Kurgan-Tube, Khaatlon region. Representatives of WUA "Yangi Hayet", farmers, water specialists and other stakeholders took part. The aim was to inform participants about innovations and inventions in irrigation and ways to apply them in agriculture. The moderator was Mr. Aslonov, specialist-innovator.



23. Training seminar on IWRM implementation

On 8 September 2015 CWP-Uzbekistan in cooperation with WUA of Pstdargom district of Samarkand region organized the training seminar on IWRM implementation. Specialists of WUA and the leaders of some farms actively implementing IWRM principles took part in the seminar.

Tools and new solutions for IWRM implementation coupled with economic and financial mechanisms as well technical ones were discussed. Close cooperation between water users and water consumers in order to minimize water losses was also considered.



Participants (total: 26 people) agreed to develop the incentive mechanism for water saving not only for water consumers but also for water management organizations. Integration of water organizations, legal tools for independence and self-discipline as well consulting agencies are needed to be developed. Participants noted that GWP Partnership can assist effectively in such activity.

Additionally farmers raised the problem of simplification of mutual control of water distribution between WUAs and farms.

Integrated Urban Water Management

Workshop Program

Mongolia, 28 September –2 October 2015

1. Context

Water security is under threat in many urban areas. The very nature of urbanization contributes to water stress: rapid population growth, inadequate planning, pollution, poverty, competing demands on the resource, and the urban water consumption is likely to double by 2025. In addition, climate change is expected to cause significant changes as well in precipitation patterns which will affect the availability of water and induce water related disasters.

The urban population of Mongolia is currently at 69% of the total population (about 3 million inhabitants) and expected to go to 78% by 2025; 45% live in Ulan Bator. Drinking water coverage is estimated to be of 78% and only 64% of the urban population has access to sanitation facilities, but the percentage has gone down over the years because of increased urbanization and unplanned settlements. The water resources are very unevenly distributed in Mongolia, and the water quality has become a critical issue. Furthermore Mongolian Mining and other industries have caused severe pollution of watercourses leading to increased pressure on scarce water resources.

Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) provides a framework for interventions over the entire water cycle and a reconsideration of the way water is used (and reused). IUWM addresses trade-offs among water users: agriculture, industry, household, and ecosystems. More and more governments recognise the importance of taking such an approach to address the challenges of cities.

To address the growing need of IUWM, GWP in collaboration with key partners (the University of South Florida and the Water Partnership Program of the World Bank) have developed an IUWM toolkit and training modules for stakeholders at all levels, and which will be presented in Mongolia for the first time.

2. Objectives of the Workshop

The main objective of the Workshop is to contribute to the well-being of the urban population of Mongolia by improving water and wastewater management through the implementation of an integrated approach.

The specific objectives are:

- To introduce the concept and principles of Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) to a high level panel of 20 persons representing the urban sector of Mongolia, and to 25 professional staff who will subsequently benefit from a more

detailed training workshop. This first meeting will be held in Ulaanbaatar on Monday 28 September.

- To implement a training session of 3 days with 25 professionals on how to implement an integrated approach based on modules that were developed by the University of South Florida, the Global Water Partnership and the Water Partnership Program of the World Bank. This training session will held in the Mandal Resort, 55 km away from Ulaanbaatar, from 29 September to 2 October.

3. Proposed agenda

Time	Activities	Persons involved
Monday 28 September 2015		
High level 'IUWM' meeting in Ulaanbaatar - State Government building, Conference Room A		
09:30 – 10:00	Registration of participants	MWP
Introductory session		
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and introduction of participants	Professor Basandorj, Coordinator Mongolia Water Partnership
10:10 – 10:15	Opening speech	M. Battsojt, Member of Parliament and President of Mongolian Water Partnership
10:15 – 10:25	Opening remarks	HE M. Tsogtbaatar, Minister of Construction and Urban Development
10:25 – 10:35	Opening address	World Bank Representative
10:35 – 10:45	Workshop objectives and link with SDGs	M. Francois Brikke, Global Water Partnership
10:45 – 11:00	Presentation on Water Management in Ulanbaatar	M. Bat-Erdene, Vice Mayor of Ulanbaatar City
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break and group photo	
Introducing the Integrated Urban Water Management Approach		
11:30 – 12:00	Presentation on Key concept and principles of IUWM	M. Francois Brikke, GWP
12:00 – 12:20	Presentation on IUWM case studies	Dr Seneshaw Tsegaye, USF
12:20 – 12:50	Panel discussion with participants	M. Francois Brikke and M. Matthijs Schuring, World Bank
12:50 – 13:00	Conclusion and closing of session	M. Battsojt, Member of Parliament and President of Mongolian Water Partnership
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	4 th floor building
Field visit Ulanbaatar and drive to Mandal Resort		
14:00 – 17:00	Field visit in UB and drive to Mandal Resort (55km away from UB)	MWP
17:00	Arrival at external Workshop Site	
19:00 – 20:00	Dinner	
Tuesday 29 September		
IUWM Technical Workshop		
08:30 – 08:45	Introduction to the IUWM Technical Workshop	Dr Seneshaw Tsegaye
08:45 – 09:15	Presentation on Stakeholders Engagement	M. Francois Brikke
09:15 – 10:00	Group exercise on Stakeholders Engagement	All

10:00 – 10:30	Feed-back from group exercise	All
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:00	Presentation on the IUWM Diagnostic Tool	Dr Seneshaw Tsegaye
12:00 – 12:30	Getting familiar with the tool on computers	All
12:30 – 13:00	Question and answers session	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:30	Presentation: Integrating stakeholders engagement process and the IUMM diagnostic tool	M. Francois Brikke
14:30 – 15:30	Group exercise using the computerized model + planning for an appraisal mission	All
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00 – 17:00	Feed back in plenary and discussion on the tool	All
17:00	Conclusion	M. Matthijs Schuring
19:00 – 20:00	Dinner	
Wednesday 30 September		
08:30 – 08:45	Recalling main lessons learnt from Day 1 and 2	M. Ankur Gupta
08:45 – 09:45	Presentation: Introduction to the Water Balance tool	Dr Seneshaw Tsegaye
09:45 – 10:30	Group exercise: Using the Water Balance tool	All
10:30 – 11:00	Feed back in plenary	All
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:00	Presentation: Introducing the concept of beneficiation for sanitation	M. Francois Brikke
12:00 – 12:30	Presentation: examples from different cities	Dr Seneshaw Tsegaye
12:30 – 13:00	Presentation: The Sanitation challenge in Mongolia and discussion	Prof Basandorj
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:45	Presentation: Defining sanitation technological options (Household and city levels)	Dr Seneshaw Tsegaye
14:45 – 15:30	Group exercise: Defining technological options (Household and city levels)	All
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 17:00	Group exercise: final selection criteria for the technical option (cost, management, institutional and normative parameters)	M. Francois Brikke
17:00	Conclusion	M. Matthijs Schuring
19:00 – 20:00	Dinner	
20:00 – 21:00	Evening discussion: IUWM and the SDGs	M. Francois Brikke
Thursday 1 October		
08:30 – 08:45	Main lessons learnt from Day 3	All
08:45 – 09:15	Presentation : Institutional Set-Up	M. Francois Brikke
09:15 – 10:15	Group exercise : Designing an institutional matrix and institutional analysis	All
10:15 – 10:30	Discussion on institutional set up	All
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:00	Presentation : planned modules on IUWM Economics & Financing	M. Matthijs Schuring

12:00 – 13:00	Discussion on what participants consider important to be included in these modules	All
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:30	Presentation: Planning for and implementing IUWM	M. Francois Brikke
14:30 – 15:30	Group exercise: Planning for and implementing IUWM in Mongolia and next steps	All
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break	All
16:00 – 16h30	Conclusion	Prof. Basandorj, M. Francois Brikke, Dr Seneshaw, M. Matthijs Schuring, M. Ankur Gupta
16:30 – 17:30	Certificate Ceremony and Closing of Workshop	All
19:00 – 20:00	Dinner	
Friday 2 October		
09:00	Departure to Ulaanbaatar	All

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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.