

## **GWP CACENA in January 2005**

The Regional Stakeholder Conference of GWP CACENA was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on 17-18 January 2005, where the representatives of water management and environmental authorities, scientific and design institutions, leading NGOs from eight countries of the region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) as well as representatives of regional and international organizations and GWP Secretariat took part, considered the results of activity of regional network of CACENA in 2004 and Work Program for 2005.

The 2004 was a year of completion of certain stage in GWP activity, which was aimed to formulation of integrated water resources management (IWRM) concept and wide dissemination of knowledge about ways of implementation of this concept. Among achieved results it is necessary to give accent to followings:

- There is full understanding of IWRM concept among GWP network participants from all eight countries of the region, and this understanding has been disseminating among civil society through public awareness campaigns under the aegis of RTAC members.
- The GWP CACENA RTAC is recognized in the countries of region and beyond as a key conductor of started process of reformation of water sector towards practical use of IWRM principles.
- In some countries (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) the concept of IWRM is officially recognized as a base of state policy in a field of development of water sector. The rest of countries express formal political support to IWRM concept.
- The states of the region undertake certain steps towards formation of country water partnerships – for more purposeful support of reforms in water sector. The first formation of CWP was in 2004 in Kazakhstan. The rest of the countries are on the way of formation of CWP.

The participants mention that 2005 should be a sort of milestone on the way of implementation of IWRM principles. This is a period when it is necessary to move from discussions of the concept and formulation of approaches to more active practical actions. It is necessary to involve not only water specialists, but also representatives of other linked authorities as well as civil society. Taking into account the above the Work Program for 2005 was prepared and agreed by the GWP SC in December 2004.

The Conference was highly appreciated the role of Government of Norway and Finland in a process of implementation of IWRM principles in the region and also grateful to GWP Secretariat for fruitful organizational and financial support to partnership network in the CACENA region.