

GWP CACENA in February 2009

The GWP CACENA Council Meeting was held on 4 February in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The main issues on the agenda were on internal governance:

- Formal reconfirmation including three new appointments were done by the CWPs of their RC member and Regional Advisory Board member (the latter corresponds to RTEC). Out of the eight RC members there are now five men and three women in the council
- The Regional Chair Nino Chkhobadze declared that she will resign by the end of 2009, i.e. she is not available for re-election. A long discussion followed on the her replacement and the proposed chair candidate Bulat Yessekin, who was appointed RC member of Kazakhstan at this meeting
- A three hour long revision of the RWP statutes was made in plenary, in a process that created shared knowledge and ownership of the Region's Constitution"
- GWP CACENA will send 18 delegates to 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, where they have many different agendas and a joint event at the Central Asia session on 18 March, co-sponsored by Finland. Moreover Turkey is an important neighbour to the region.
- The regional report on the State of Water Supply and Sanitation of the CACENA countries is in its final steps of preparation by GWP Armenia. It will serve as basis document for the Interregional Workshop between CACENA and CEE in Kiev, 25-27 May, 2009
- The 8th Annual Stakeholder Conference of GWP CACENA will be held in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan by end of November 2009

The second step in OM training for GWP CACENA took place on 5-6 February in Almaty with Ricardo as trainer. He was assisted by Ms. Ikbal Yusupova from IWMI Tashkent, who acted both as interpreter and OM expert from the region. Her contribution was very helpful to overcome language barriers and for participants to better capture the OM concept.

Participants were mainly RC and RTEC members who are all responsible for their CWP work programmes. This highly competent group took so active part in Ricardo's teaching that the time schedule came at risk. At the end of Day 2 the training finished on time with apparently a good understanding on reporting, monitoring and planning. The acid test will be to design the regional strategy based on formulated Outcome Challenges.

Concerning the monitoring of outcomes and the journal writing questions arise:

1. Shall activities be monitored, so a journal of records can be kept as an institutional memory which can serve with the history once an outcome is in place after x years?
2. Is it feasible for RWPs and CWPs to write journals on a monthly basis and shall these be written in addition to the present monthly reports for GWPO?
3. Which reports are required by GWPO, monthly, semi-annual, annual?

Next steps:

1. The GWP CACENA regional work plan 2009 and five year strategy 2009-2013 will both be written in Outcome mapping formats.
2. It is high time for GWPO Communications to send out reporting instructions, i.e. the GWP Reporting Practical Guide has to be finalised and disseminated to the regions.



OM Training set up in Almaty



Regional Communication Officer Ilhom, GWP Kazakhstan Chair Nariman and OM trainer Ikbal



Meeting venue Kargali Sanatorium, Almaty, Kazakhstan Azerbaijan



Nodira and Yarash GWP Tajikistan, Rustam of GWP



GWP Kazakhstan delegates Bulat and Gaini



GWP Armenia delegates Arevik and Eduard

A half-day seminar was held at the Helsinki University of Technology (HUT) on 16th February with main objective to disseminate experiences from the cooperation with GWP CACENA in 2008 as a part of the work plan financed by Finland. The *Water and Development Research Group* of HUT, led by Prof. Olli Varis, published a book on Central Asian Waters with contributions from GWP and they participated in workshops in Dushanbe in November 2008 (www.water.tkk.fi/global/publications). Among the 40 participants there were students and authors of the book, teachers, water experts and representative from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (Ms. Katarina Hautamäki-Huuti, who is the new focal point for GWP).

Introductory presentations were given by the university and GWP representatives on the *Global Water Problems* curriculum of HUT, GWP's role in sustainable development of water resources and how it added value in regional work and the processes that it uses in achieving its mission. Vadim presented specifics of the region and how the four year long support of Finland has helped the region in promoting IWRM policies. Khalid presented a conceptual framework of how GWP mechanism implements its mission and where and how in practical terms GWP adds value. Bjorn gave a briefing on the ongoing cooperation in which he highlighted achievements and challenges. Details were also presented on the 2008 cooperation with HUT, covering such matters as promoting young professionals, their meeting with colleagues in Tajikistan, the contents of the book as well as future plans for continued studies within the *Global Water Problems* curriculum on the Caucasus situation during 2009-2010.

A very well informed discussion took place on the difficult water resources situation in the Aral Sea Basin reflecting significant interest in that region.

On 17th February there was held consultation meeting with MFA Finland, Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador and Development Policy Adviser, Mr. Matti Kääriäinen who very comprehensively presented the new policy document approved by the minister called "Wider Europe Initiative" (WEI) on Finland's development cooperation outlining five thematic areas that defined its scope.

Water is part of the 4th Theme: *Energy and environment; conservation and efficient use of energy, energy safety, promoting the sustainable use of renewable energy sources and other renewable natural resources, sustainable use of mineral resources and environment protection, especially the prevention of cross-border threats to the environment.*

The WEI aims at development assistance to the former Soviet Union countries, today Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), with EU and Russia as key actors. Finland takes a pro-active role with this initiative which is currently in the final stages of preparation. These discussions with GWP were termed very timely and promising for future cooperation. During the meeting it was clarified by us how GWP adds value in the development where water resources are at stake, and how GWP CACENA has positioned itself to assist both at regional and country levels. In this work the ongoing support since 2004 from Finland to the GWP CACENA work programme was presented. The fact that it is untied has given GWP CACENA effective help to build and mobilise its partnerships to serve IWRM development.

In a first phase of cooperation in 2009, Finland will co-sponsor the CACENA side event at 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul. In this way Finland together with GWP will facilitate strengthening of the regional cooperation between the five Central Asian countries.

The second phase of 2009 of the Finnish contribution will help to start the new GWP CACENA strategy with focus on transboundary cooperation, where the Caucasus sub-region lacks regional institutions, IWRM support to national plans, capacity building and regional cooperation and coordination with other actors in the region.