

## **GWP CACENA in April-May 2008**

The first round of the training seminars on IWRM was conducted during April – May by the GWP CACENA Secretariat in seven of eight countries (unfortunately, due to new political leadership in Turkmenistan for the moment GWP activities at the country level still not agreed). This round of seminars is an element of the capacity development program to facilitate National IWRM planning process in all CACENA countries. This activity is continuation of actions started in 2005 and continued in 2006-2007 with support from the Government of Finland. The target is capacity development for key players of planning and IWRM implementation process, not only involving water specialists, but also water users and other stakeholders (around 25-30 persons in each country were attended). The principal basis for training courses are the GWP paper “Catalyzing Change...” and the set of TEC Policy and Technical Briefs (nine issues), and also the CapNet “Manual on IWRM planning” - the all translated into Russian. Also experience of a number of ongoing pilot projects (“Kazakhstan National IWRM plan” and “IWRM-Fergana”) were used for dissemination during these seminars.

The Third Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth World Water Forum took place on 28-29 May in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan with the participation of more than 200 people from 13 countries. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Processing Industry of Kyrgyzstan, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey and the GWP CACENA. The Conference title was “Climate Change, Water Resources Management, Governance and Capacity Building Issues in Central Asia”. Ministers from Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan attended to the meeting. Presentations were made by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey. Roundtable meetings followed by many experts from the countries of the region sharing similar problems were fruitful and provided guidance for managing and protection water resources to meet human and environmental needs. Many interesting ideas and comments have emerged in this context.