



Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For May 2018

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1. FINAL WORKSHOP ON PRESENTATION OF THE “LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: MEETING THE SDGs THROUGH IWRM IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ARMENIA” SEED GRANT PROJECT RESULTS



On May 10, 2018 in the framework of “Leaving no one behind: Meeting the SDGs through IWRM in rural communities in Armenia” seed grant project Country Water Partnership, Armenia (CWP) convened the final Workshop of the project. The Workshop was attended by representatives of interested state agencies and the 17 villages included in the project.

In the first part of the Workshop, the project engineer presented the proposals for improvement of W&W, irrigation systems, and in the second part, the fundraising expert presented the fundraising strategy and resource mobilization possibilities for improving the systems.

All the participants of the Workshop found that a very useful and serious work was carried out to enable providing the residents of rural areas with drinking, irrigation water, as well as adequate wastewater services in the future.

The activities carried out within the project are of great value for the rural population and the country, since they will enable the heads of the 17 project communities, as well as CWP Armenia, to apply to various funds with the developed comprehensive and/or priority improvement proposals to get supplementary funding and to implement the measures planned within the improvement proposals. This means that this seed project can be a serious stimulus in getting new finances for the improvement of water supply, wastewater and irrigation systems in rural areas.



The activities implemented within the seed project will increase the level of involvement of the project in the SDG context of the country.

Emphasizing the importance of rehabilitating W&W, irrigation systems, the heads of the mentioned settlements are willing to participate in the projects for improvement of the systems within the scope of their budgets. Representatives of stakeholder government agencies participating in the Workshop made several proposals to make the project more effective, which, we believe, will be involved in implementation of the next stage of the project.

2. THE FINAL SEMINAR OF SDG 6 SEED GRANT PROJECT



Country Water Partnership scientific, ecological NGO with the support of State Committee of Water Economy of the RA MEINR implements SDG 6 seed grant project, which goal is to bring together responsible parties for monitoring of SDG 6 indicators, to identify their abilities, to conduct their need assessment and to organize trainings and workshops.

State Committee of Water Economy of the RA MEINR is the focal point for coordinating the integrated monitoring of SDG 6 and it has already established the Intersectoral monitoring team (IMT) via state bodies who are responsible for water and sanitation indicators monitoring by SDG 6 National focal point. IMT members

are representatives from State Committee of Water Economy of the RA MEINR, Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Veolia Djur CJSC, JINJ Ltd.

On May 29, the final Seminar for members of the Intersectoral Monitoring Team and for other stakeholders was organized by Country Water Partnership scientific, ecological NGO.

Monitoring and Reporting on SDG 6 were presented by the facilitators: Alice Savadyan, Liana Margaryan, Edgar Pirumyan. Presentations and discussions were held on the following indicators:



6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time

6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time

6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources.

3. Seminar devoted to World Climate Change day

On May 15, 2018, USAID-funded PURE-Water project organised educational seminar “The value of Wetlands in the Ararat Valley” in Ararat town, devoted to the World Climate Change day in cooperation with Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company Armenia. The seminar was attended by representatives of project partner communities and active CSOs of the Ararat valley.



During the seminar the representatives of “Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company Armenia” introduced the sustainable development course of their company which is aimed at resource saving and waste reduction. Afterwards, PURE-Water project expert introduced the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat.

The expert touched upon the Armenia’s obligations in the framework of the Convention, as well as introduced the existing types of Armenian wetlands to the participants.

The expert particularly emphasized the Khor Virap Marsh Ramsar Site, pointing out its value, potential environmental threats and the need for restoration of its values.

4. Regional Days, Budapest- May 2018



In the framework of GWP Regional Days in Budapest the representative of Armenia Liana Margaryan represented two SDG projects: “Leaving no one behind: Meeting the SDGs through IWRM in rural communities in Armenia” seed grant project and SDG 6 seed small grant project. Then she participated in Strategy, Operational Discussion and Bilateral meetings and Hungary Junior Water Prize.

5. Meeting on the "Kura-2" project

Date: 3 May 2018

Place: Baku, Azerbaijan

Organizer: CWP-Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University

Participants: CWP-Azerbaijan partners, national coordinator and international experts of the "Kura-2" project, students and teachers of the Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University.

The meeting discussed issues on water resources use of the Kura River. As a result, it was decided to expand cooperation with the university staff, involve students in the Kura-2 project implementation and participate in the conference to be held in 2019 in the framework of the "Kura-2" project.

The conference program will include themes related to integrated water resources management, water security, energy security, environmental issues, etc.

6. Seminar on IWRM principles

Date: 15 May 2018

Place: Saatlinsky region, Azerbaijan

Organizer: CWP-Azerbaijan

Participants: local administration, water users, farmers, national coordinator and international experts of the "Kura-2" project, CWP-Azerbaijan partners, representative of the World Bank's project "Support for the Development of Water User Associations" (Total: 28 people).

The main goal: providing the necessary information on the main principles of integrated water resources management and water resources protection to water users.

The participants visited the plots of WUAs "Shirinbei" (there were no repair and restoration works of water networks on this site) and "Nasimikend" (here, the World Bank implemented the repair and restoration works of farm water networks).

In the afternoon, the participants visited the Mugan Experimental and Reclamation Station, which is located in the Jafarkhan village. It was decided to carry out a pilot project on adaptation to climate change under the support of the "Kura-2" project.



7. Conference on the research of the Parliamentary Committee on the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia

Date: 1 May 2018

Place: Tbilisi

Organizer: Parliamentary Committee on the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia

Participants: deputies of the Georgian parliament, parliamentarians of Georgia and Great Britain, CWP-Georgia (Total: 40 people).

The Parliamentary Committee on the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia is moving to a new format on cooperation with civil society meaning to invite civil society to participate in the parliamentary oversight process. The committee begins to implement the British model of case study.

Participants were informed about the functions of the parliamentary oversight committee and discussed the following issues:

- Mechanisms for cooperation with civil society within the oversight committee. Conducting in-depth studies by obtaining qualified information;
- Research process;
- Development of recommendations for responsible government structures.

The Parliamentary Committee invited the participants to conduct the first study on atmospheric air in Tbilisi. CWP-Georgia proposed to conduct the study on water security. This issue will be considered during the additional events.



8. National meeting on implementation of the waste management reform in Georgia

Date: 25 May 2018

Place: Tbilisi

Organizer: the Greens Movement of Georgia

Participants: representatives of SIDA, the Ministries, the Parliamentary Committee, NGOs, as well as the Swedish Ambassador to Georgia, and academics, and CWP-Georgia (Total: 80 people).

The meeting was organized within the "SIDA Clean Up_Georgia" project.

Management of Waste, which is air, water and soil pollutants, in recent years has been a priority in the life of Georgia, both at the state level and in the activities of civil society.

For CWP-Georgia, the topic is relevant, because rivers, lakes including transboundary ones are polluted with waste. The development and improvement of waste management is closely related to the improvement of the situation in the water sector. This was repeatedly noted during the meeting.

The meeting discussed ways and mechanisms for minimizing pollution and proposed the recommendations on the introduction of new technologies. The participants identified the need for regular meetings on this issue. Representatives of different sectors agreed and expressed their readiness to participate actively.



9. REGULAR 73rd MEETING OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR WATER COORDINATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

The regular 73rd meeting of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) in Central Asia was held on the 3rd of May 2018.

The member of ICWC from the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Ye.N. Nysanbayev chaired the meeting. The members of ICWC from the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. S.N. Rakhimzoda, from Turkmenistan Mr. M. Bairamdurdiyev, and from the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Sh.R. Khamraev took part in the meeting. The heads of executive bodies, such as BWO Amu Darya, BWO Syr Darya, SIC ICWC, and Secretariat, the chairman of the IFAS Executive Committee Mr. G.N. Baidjanov, the representative of Uzbekistan in the IFAS Executive Committee, the head of the Executive Board of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea in the Republic of Kazakhstan and invited persons also participated in the meeting.

The following items were addressed in the agenda:

1. Results of the use of water withdrawal limits and the operation regimes of reservoir cascade in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins over the non-growing season 2017-2018.
2. Consideration and adoption of water withdrawal limits and operation regimes of reservoir cascade in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins for the growing season 2018.
3. Draft Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Information and Analytical Support of Water Management, Use, and Protection in the Aral Sea Basin and the Arrangement of Interstate Exchange of Information.
4. Progress on the “Implementation Plan on strengthening ICWC activities in key directions”.
5. Agenda and venue of the next 74th regular ICWC meeting.

Decisions were made on all items of the agenda. Particularly, it was mentioned that, given the predicted low-water level, limits for the growing season should be set at 90% for the period of April-May, with the following adjustment, if necessary.

The meeting was organized in the city of Kyzylorda upon invitation and with the support of the akimat (local government) of Kyzylorda province. This is exactly the city, where the Agreement on Joint Actions to address the problem of the Aral Sea and Prearalie that laid the ground for establishment of the Interstate Fund for saving the Aral Sea was signed in 1993.

CWP-Kazakhstan took part in the meeting.

More information: <http://sic.icwc-aral.uz/releases/eng/330.htm>



10. Two meetings of the regional working group on the development of the "Program of Action to Assist the Countries of the Aral Sea Basin" (ASBP-4) and "Improvement of Institutional and Legal Mechanisms"

Date: 14-18 May 2018

Place: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Organizer: EC IFAS

Participants: experts from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; members of EC IFAS (Total: 24 participants).

In accordance with the Decision of the IFAS Board, the work was carried out within 4 themes:

- integrated use of water resources;
- Ecological problems;
- socio-economic situation;
- Improvement of institutional and legal mechanisms.

Following the results of the event, the members of the working groups proposed:

- 1) The Executive Committee of IFAS, with GIZ's expert support, to prepare, as soon as possible, the draft Concept for the development of ASBP-4, including issues that determine the structure, objectives and tasks, the main areas of the ASBP-4, the regulations of the Regional and National Working Groups, the terms of reference for training, and selection criteria for projects. The prepared draft document should be agreed by the countries;
- 2) Within three months, the working group to prepare proposals for improving the organizational structure and legal framework of IFAS. It is recommended to use the Discussion Paper "Improving the organizational structure and legal framework of IFAS: analysis and proposals";
- 3) EC IFAS to circulate the draft Protocol of rotation to the members of the working group of IFAS for consideration and submission of proposals by July 1, 2018.

CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Prof. Nariman Kipshakbaev took part in the meetings.

11. XXI Meeting of the Aral-Syrdarya Basin Council

Date: 25 May 2018

Place: Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan

Organizer: EC IFAS, Aral-Syrdarya Basin Water Inspectorate.

Participants: invited experts, members of the Basin Council, CWP-Kazakhstan (Total: 45 participants).

The following issues were considered at the meeting:

- 1) Establishment of water protection zones and bands on the lakes in the Kyzylorda region.
- 2) Restoration of water quality in the Syrdarya river
- 3) Monitoring and assessment of the meliorative state of irrigated lands in the Southern-Kazakhstan region.
- 4) Examination of hydraulic structures.
- 5) other relevant issues.

12. AEF 2018 Global Challenges Summit

Date: 17-18 May 2018

Place: Astana, Kazakhstan

Organizer: Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Participants: known world politicians, representatives of state bodies, international and non-governmental environmental organizations, SDC, WB, ADB, Interstate organizations, NGOs, invited experts, etc .

GWP CACENA Regional Council Member Bulat Yesekin and CWP-Kazakhstan Executive Secretary Kuralay Yakhliyeva participated in the panel session "Green Economy: A New Model of Sustainable Growth".



The session discussed the issues of development of renewable energy sources and reduction of environmental impact, introduction of resource-saving technologies, tools of the "green economy", as well as attracting investments in high-tech and knowledge-based industries.

CWP-Kazakhstan Executive Secretary Kuralay Yakhliyeva, took part in the high level panel session "Water and Peace. How to stimulate transboundary water cooperation".



13. Round table "Priorities of Kazakhstan for cooperation in Central Asia in the field of sustainable development and environmental protection"

Date: 15 May 2018

Place: Astana, Kazakhstan

Organizer: Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Participants: governmental agencies, ADB, international organizations, NGOs, CWP-Kazakhstan.



The following issues were discussed:

- Analysis of the experience of regional cooperation in Central Asia;
- Kazakhstan's programs and commitments on SDGs, green economy, climate change and environmental protection;
- Priorities for sustainable development for national and regional development programs;
- Recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness of regional cooperation and further joint actions.



More information: <http://ecogofond.kz/orhusskaja-konvencija/tekst-konvencii/is-sharalar/>

14. International scientific-practical conference "The Aral Sea in the modern history stream"

Date: 24 May 2018

Place: Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan

Organizer: USAID, GIZ, EC IFAS, REC CA

Participants: representatives of state structures of Central Asian countries and Afghanistan: ministries and departments for water resources management, environmental protection, ministries of foreign affairs, scientific communities, the Executive Committee of IFAS and its structural units, Akimat of Kyzylorda oblast, as well as USAID, GIZ and OSCE, CWP-Kazakhstan.



The conference participants got acquainted with the results of the scientific and practical expedition and the regional demonstration tour to the Kazakhstan part of the Aral-Syrdarya basin. The panels have considered:

- 1) Scientific basis for solving urgent problems in the Aral Sea basin;
- 2) Practical solutions to improve the water, environmental and socio-economic issues of Central Asia.

The conference participants adopted a Resolution that reflects the need to continue the dialogue, as well as to develop multilateral cooperation to ensure sustainable development and improve the ecological conditions of the Priaralie.

More information: <http://kyzylordatv.kz/ru/news/society/v-obektive-vnimanija-aral-1>

<https://e-kyzylorda.gov.kz/?q=ru/news/mezhdunarodnaya-nauchno-prakticheskaya-konferenciya-aralskoe-more->

15. National Olympiad on IWRM

Date: 5 May 2018

Place: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Organizer: Kazakh-German University, CWP-Kazakhstan

Participants: students, teachers of universities



The National Olympiad was organized to create conditions for cooperation of young specialists of Central Asia and Afghanistan in a professional language based on knowledge of the basic principles of international and national water law and the theoretical foundations of IWRM. The winners received a referral for participation in the regional IWRM Olympiad.

16. On-site seminar "Transboundary cooperation and joint management of water resources"

Date: 30-31 May 2018

Place: Khogos village, Almaty region, Kazakhstan

Organizer: CWP-Kazakhstan, KazVodHoz

Participants: GWP CACENA partner-organizations, Department of Transboundary Rivers of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, "Kazvodkhoz", Balkash-Alakol Basin Inspection, Institute of Geography of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, media and students (Total: 26 people).



17. The meeting with workers of the Panfilov production site of the Almaty branch of Kazvodkhoz

Date: 30 May 2018

Place: Zharkent village, Almaty region, Kazakhstan

Organizer: CWP-Kazakhstan

Participants: Akimat of the Panfilovskiy area, Almaty region; Kazvodkhoz.

The meeting discussed the use and protection of transboundary water resources of the Khorgos river. The commemorative plaque in honor of the initiator of the construction of this facility - CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Nariman Kipshakbaev - was established at the waterworks "Dostyk". He was thanked on behalf of the inhabitants of Panfilov district.



18. Interview to the local media about water cooperation in Central Asian countries

Date: 4 May 2018

Place: Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan

CWP-Kazakhstan Chairman Prof. Nariman Kipshakbaev, gave an interview to the local media about water cooperation in Central Asian countries.



19. Seminar-training for students

Date: 7-8 May 2018

Place: the Issyk-Ata district water management department, Chui oblast of the Kyrgyz Republic

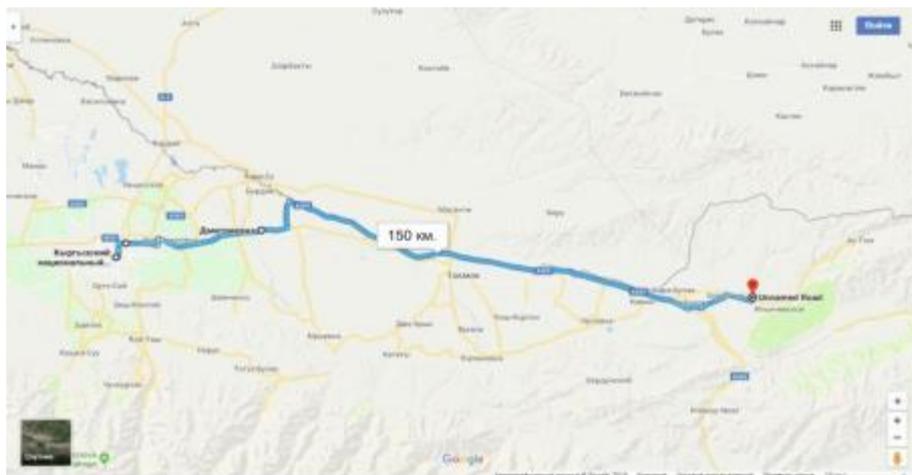
Organizer: CWP-Kyrgyzstan

Participants: representatives of the Issyk-Ata branch of the Department of Water Resources Management of the Kyrgyz Republic, WUA of the Issyk-Ata District, WUA of the Kemin District, the students of the Faculty of Water Reclamation, Ecology and Land Management of KNAU, CWP-Kyrgyzstan (Total: 39 people, incl. 17 women).

Purpose: Capacity building, familiarization with work of WUAs; involving young people into practical activity of CWP-Kyrgyzstan.

CWP-Kyrgyzstan representative Sadabaeva Zh., lectured: 1 - "Hydrology, meteorology, climatology", 2 - "Construction and reclamation of recreational zones".

The route of the field seminar





20. Practical Seminar on methods for cleaning the collector-drainage network

Date: 18-19 May 2018

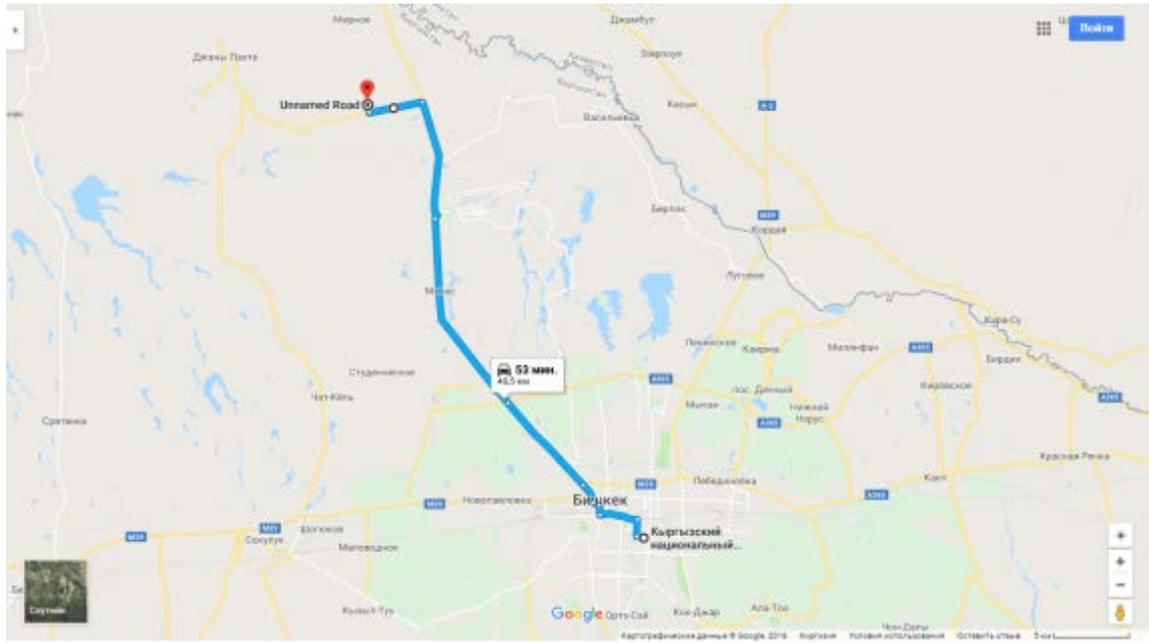
Place: state farm "Zhany Jer", Chui oblast of the Kyrgyz Republic

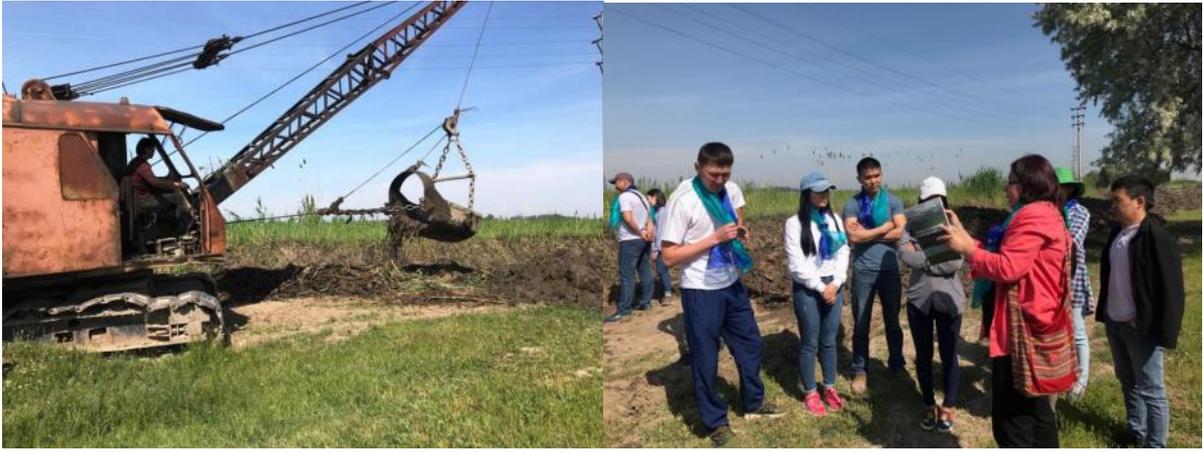
Organizer: CWP-Kyrgyzstan

Participants: representatives of the Sokuluksky District Water Management Department, the WUA Support Department of the Sokuluk District, students of the Faculty of Water Reclamation, Ecology and Land Management of KNAU, representatives of CWP-Kyrgyzstan (Total: 25 people, including 10 women).

Purpose: Study of the impact of climate change on water resources in different geographic zones, and adaptation measures. Capacity building, dissemination of knowledge on adaptation actions to climate change and step-by-step involvement of young people.

Route of the practical study tour





21. Training "Application of water security indicators in the decision-making in the Kyrgyz Republic"

Date: 30 May 2018

Place: Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Organizer: CWP-Kyrgyzstan, OECD, National Institute of Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic

Participants: representatives of the state bodies of statistics, agriculture, water management, ecology, hydromet, state inspections of technical and ecological safety and phytosanitary, MES, local administration of Chui oblast, "FinWater WAYII" project (Total: 21 people, including 15 women).

Trainers of CWP-Kyrgyzstan made presentations:

1. "The concept and elements of water security of the Kyrgyz Republic"
2. "Application of water security indicators of the Kyrgyz Republic for decision-making".



22. TV interview on SDG6

Date: 16 May 2018

Place: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Prof. Basandorj gave interview on SDG6 to the "Morning call" program at the national TV where the ways for improvement of sanitation in cold region were discussed and a policy was suggested, focusing on increasing of access to sanitation.



23. Exhibition on the benefits of sanitation

CWP-Mongolia arranged the exhibition on sanitation which had to demonstrate that reducing pollution of soil and water can be achieved by improved sanitation, as well as introduction of advanced technology for sanitation would be suitable for all people. CWP-Mongolia has involved 8 partners in this activity.



24. Round table "Water and Productivity of agricultural crops"

Date: 07 May 2018

Place: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Organizer: Institute of Soil Science of the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences, CWP-Tajikistan

Participants: Institute of Soil Science, Institute of Agriculture, Institute of Horticulture and Viticulture, Tajik Agrarian University named after Sh. Shotemur, Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, farms, WUAs and other stakeholders (Total: 34 people, incl. 13 women).

Purpose: Dissemination and exchange of information on the issues of rational use of water resources, the importance of water in the formation of crop production in the context of its deficit and climate change, the introduction of water-saving and soil-protective technologies.

Participants discussed the report of CWP-Tajikistan representative Ibrokhimov N.Sh. "Wheat Productivity depending on Mineral Nutrition and Irrigation Regimes in the Republic of Tajikistan". The publications of the Global Water Partnership on IWRM are disseminated among participants.



25. Dialogues about cooperation in water sector of Tajikistan

CWP-Tajikistan jointly with the International Water Management Institute (Central Asian Office) has organized dialogues and a number of meetings with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Tajik Agrarian University named after Sh.Shotimura and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan on further cooperation in the water sector.

Date: 22 May 2018

Place: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Organizer: IWMI, CWP-Tajikistan

Participants: International Water Management Institute (Central Asian Office), Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Tajik Agrarian University named after Sh.Shotimura, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan (Total: 18 people, including 3 women).

Purpose: Strengthening partnerships, ties and expanding cooperation with regional and national as well as state and public organizations.

1. Meeting with the Secretariat of the forthcoming High-level International Conference (June 20-22, 2018), dedicated to the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028";
2. Meeting with the rector of the Tajik Agrarian University on joint signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation;
3. The meeting and dialogue in the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation on further cooperation in the field of IWRM, rational use of water resources, land improvement and irrigation, introduction of new technologies, etc.;
4. Meeting with scientists of the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan on further cooperation in the field of water problems in Tajikistan and Central Asia.



26. Conference on Activity of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan in the 1st quarter of 2018

Date: 13 May 2018

Place: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Organizer: Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan

Participants: Deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, employees of ministries, departments, organizations and educational institutions, representatives of international organizations, members of the Central Kengash, employees and activists of Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, youth of Uzbekistan, NGOs and employees of central and local mass media, CWP-Uzbekistan.

Deputy Speaker of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Chairman of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan Alikhanov B.B. has reported on the activity of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan for 2017.



The report noted the achievements of CWP-Uzbekistan in the implementation of large-scale works at the country level in order to make the concept of IWRM more practical. A concrete program of joint activities is planned for the following periods of the current year. CWP-Uzbekistan was suggested to consider the possibility of publishing a brochure on ongoing work on the introduction of IWRM in Uzbekistan to inform the general public.

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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.