



Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For November 2016

www.gwp.org

GWP Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA) c/o ICARDA-CAC (GWP CACENA/IWMI), Apt 123, Block 6, Osiyo str,
Tashkent, 100000, Uzbekistan Tel: +998 712 652 555, Fax: +998 711 665 097 Website: www.gwp.org

Strategic Goal #1: Catalyze Change in Policy and Practice

1.1. Advocacy for IWRM as a Tool towards Water Security

1. 2nd World Irrigation Forum (WIF2)

The 2nd World Irrigation Forum (WIF2) and 67th International Executive Council (IEC) hosted by the Thai National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (THAICID) was held from 6-12 November 2016 at Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The Main Theme chosen for WIF2 is: Water management in a changing world: Role of irrigation for sustainable food production. The triennial World Irrigation Forum (WIF) aims to bring together all the stakeholders involved in irrigation of multi-disciplines and all scales, including the policy makers, experts, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and farmers. It provide a platform for the world irrigation community and interested development professionals to find solutions to problems plaguing the irrigated agriculture, in time of depleting freshwater resources as a result of global warming and climate change.

The forum was attended by 1200 participants from 40 countries.



On November 6 - the first day of the Forum - at the International Centre in Chiang Mai the welcoming speeches were made by the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, the President of ICID, the President of the Irrigation and Drainage of Thailand. Speakers noted that the worldwide water shortage pressure has a negative impact on food security. And from this point of view, the reform in the agricultural sector is a priority. The aim of reform should be the optimal use of resources, where farmers themselves can reduce production costs and make more profit. While it is clear that success in agriculture requires effective irrigation and intelligent water management.



On November 7, the plenary sessions were held on the key issues of irrigation and drainage in addressing water balance, food, energy and ecology. The session noted that the increase in demand for food and water is currently under the threat of climate change, population growth and urbanization. Therefore it is necessary to create such efficient irrigation systems, which will allow using water efficiently and effectively in response to changing conditions.

On November 8, the plenary sessions on the extreme climatic conditions particularly flood and drought, and on the key and smart actions to alleviate hunger and poverty through irrigation and drainage were held. It was noted that legal activity, intelligent technologies and weather forecasts can become practical actions for prevention of expected water crisis.

On November 8, the working groups meetings were also held. Mr. Shukhrat Mukhamedzhanov is the secretary of one of these working groups namely the Working Group on Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-Economic Transformation (WG-IDSST). The Working Group on Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-Economic Transformation (WG-IDSST) consists of experts from Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Japan, India, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.



The Working Group discussed the action plan of the working group until 2030. The action plan includes the strengthening of the network in order to improve the WG efficiency and functioning, to strengthen cooperation with other countries in order to share best practice and expertise for development of irrigation and drainage systems in countries with transformation economies.

To strengthen the network the Working Group decided the followings:

- 1) every year all the countries prepare information on existing situation and problems of irrigation and drainage as well as these problems solved or not; 2) to publish information through websites of ICID or other such as of SIC ICWC; 3) ICID will support publication and translation into English language; 4) to organize the regional meeting of the working group once per three years before the ICID Congress or the Irrigation Forum.

One of the main issues of discussion was a change of mandate of the Working Group on Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-Economic Transformation (WG-IDSST). The main difference between the new mandate and the previous one is involvement of all the countries that have experience in the restoration and development of irrigation and drainage after changing socio-economic conditions.



2. Seminar "Role of young specialists in the water resources protection"

The seminar "Role of young specialists in the water resources protection" organized by CWP-Azerbaijan was held on 15 November 2016 in the Ganja city.

The seminar aim was to raise awareness and role of young people in water resources problems decisions and to build capacity for overcoming these problems.

Participants: students from universities of the Evlakh-Ganja area, experts of CWP-Azerbaijan partner organizations, teachers of the Agricultural Academy of the Ganja city.



The following issues were considered:

- Water quality assessment and standardization;
- Difference between water user and water consumer;
- What is the waterworks construction?
- Why the river basin is being considered as a single whole object in IWRM?
- Why IWRM?
- The purpose of water protection zone;
- Implementation of biological treatment of wastewaters;
- What is the responsibility established by the legislation for violations in the field of water use and protection?
- What is the legal basis for water management?
- What is the Water Management Structure?



Participants discussed ways to involving young people into activity on water resources protection.

3. Seminar "Role of young specialists in the water resources protection"

The seminar "Role of young specialists in the water resources protection" organized by CWP-Azerbaijan was held on 16 November 2016 in the Ganja city.

The seminar aim was to raise awareness and role of young people in water resources problems decisions and to build capacity for overcoming these problems.

Participants: students from universities of the Ganja-Gazakh area, experts of CWP-Azerbaijan partner organizations, teachers of the Agricultural Academy of the Ganja city.



4. High-Level Policy Meeting to Discuss Groundwater Issues in the Ararat Valley

On November 9, CWP-Armenia took part in the policy workshop organized by the USAID Advanced Science and Partnerships for Integrated Resource Development Project (ASPIRED) to discuss the current situation with the groundwater resources in the Ararat Valley.

The Chief of Staff of the President of Armenia, the Deputy-Ministers of Nature Protection, Agriculture, Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources, other decision-makers, public and private sector representatives attended the event (Total: 43 people).

The purpose of the event was to present results of the work implemented within the ASPIRED Project. The ASPIRED Project addressed the consequences of uncontrolled water abstraction by fisheries and its implications on the groundwater availability in the Ararat Valley, and recommended a set of policy, administrative and economic mechanisms aiming to mitigate the situation.



More information: <http://www.aspired.wadi-mea.com/hy/category/aspired-armenia/>

5. Meeting of NGOs of Georgia and Baltic countries

On November 10, the meeting of NGOs of Georgia and Baltic countries with Diplomatic Corps was held in the Europe House in Tbilisi. The meeting was organized by the Embassy of Lithuania in Georgia. The purpose - strengthening the partnership between civil society of Georgia and Baltic countries and information exchange on environmental problems, projects etc. The meeting was attended by 100 participants.

CWP-Georgia noted the importance of minimization of rivers and lakes pollution. Despite approval of the law on wastes there were not closed down the landfills along the rivers and lakes.



6. Meeting "Assessment of water demand in the Aragvi river basin for 2020-2050"

The meeting "Assessment of water demand in the Aragvi river basin for 2020-2050" organized by USAID within the "Governance for Development" project was held on November 29, in the Conference Hall of the Center of Environmental Education.

The meeting aiming to discuss the document "Assessment of water demand in the Aragvi river basin for 2020-2050" was attended by representatives (total: 40 people) of various ministries, local administration, research institutes, NGOs. This document will help to develop the basin plans.

CWP-Georgia proposed to attract more attention to climate change issues in the basin and to collaborate in this sphere.



7. 22nd meeting of bilateral commission on interstate use of water facilities on the Talas and Chu rivers

CWP-Kyrgyzstan took part in the 22nd meeting of bilateral commission on interstate use of water facilities on the Talas and Chu rivers organized

The meeting "Promoting transboundary cooperation and IWRM in the Chu and Talas river basin" organized by UNECE, UNDP and GEF was held on November 30, in the City Hotel in Bishkek and was devoted to 10th Anniversary of establishing the Chu-Talas water management commission as a joint water management body of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Participants: representatives of the Department of water management and land reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Committee on Water Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, civil society, UNECE, SDC, UNDP, CAREC, OSCE, Fin Water WEL 11 Program (Total: 62 people, including 20 women).

Purpose: considering the reports on Secretariat activity and its working groups on implementation of decisions of 21st meeting of the Commission and the work plan for 2017.



1.2. Guidance on Institutional and Technical issues of Water Security

8. Round Table on WACDEP CACENA in Tajikistan

The roundtable organized by CWP-Tajikistan was held on November 22, 2016 in Dushanbe.

Purpose: to discuss implementation of the work plan 2016, achievements of IWRM promotion, and outcomes of the demo-project within WACDEP CACENA.

Participants (total: 18 people): CWP-Tajikistan members, WACDEP CACENA executors, academia, civil society.

The following presentations were done:

- "Results of demo-project on water saving crop irrigation technologies for the round-year use of irrigated lands under climate change adaptation in Tajikistan";
- "Crop irrigation technologies: current situation and development prospect";
- "Water saving crop irrigation technologies - the basis for adaptation to climate change in Tajikistan";
- "Role of the Global Water Partnership in IWRM principles implementation".



Strategic Goal #2: Generate and Communicate Knowledge.

2.1. Knowledge Base on Water Security

9. Meeting of NGOs from the Eastern Partnership countries

The Meeting organized by the Secretariat of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum was held in the Europe House in Tbilisi.

The meeting aim was to propose the environmental issues to the new Parliament and Government of Georgia for their consideration.

CWP-Georgia proposed the followings:

- Speed up discussing and approval of new water law;
- Speed up ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health (UNECE Water Convention);
- Involve public experts into the process of identification of SDG national indexes according to the Article 75.

Those proposals will be considered during the meeting with the Environmental Committee of the Parliament of Georgia (currently the term is being discussed).

Total: 18 participants.



10. Round Table "Discussion of 5th National Report on Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic"

On November 30, CWP-Kyrgyzstan took part in the Round Table "Discussion of 5th National Report on Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic" organized by the Aarhus Center in Bishkek.

The Kyrgyz Republic acceded to the Aarhus Convention "On Access to information and public participation in decision-making and access to justice in the field of environment protection" in 2001 and thus it has an obligation to the international community to guarantee the right of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

Participants: UNDP, CAREC, OSCE, Fin Water WEL 11 Program, Aarhus Center in Bishkek, civil society (Total: 20 people, including 10 women).

Countries were suggested to prepare their reports according to template within transparent and consultative process with public participation and stakeholders' involvement.



11. Seminar "NGOs participation in the environment protection and implementation of water saving technologies"

The Seminar "NGOs participation in the environment protection and implementation of water saving technologies" organized by CWP-Uzbekistan under support of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan was held on November 8, in Tashkent. The key partners of CWP-Uzbekistan were invited to participate (total: 24 people).

Purpose: raising awareness on role of water as a basic element of sustainable development of Uzbekistan.

Presentations were done by Prof. Dukhovny V.A., Mr. Kurbanov E.K., Mr. Sanginov S.S., Dr. Sokolov V.I. Representatives of the Samarkand Architecture-Construction Institute, the Samarkand State University, the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Land Reclamation took part in discussion.

Participants noted that in the era of globalization, one of the main factors is the work of NGOs with the public, so the role of NGOs in the promotion of water-saving technologies and impact on the audience is increasing.





2.2. Capacity building on Water Security issues

12. The Learning lessons devoted to the World Toilet Day

CWP-Armenia organized the Learning lessons for teachers and schoolchildren within WACDEP CACENA.

On 19 November is the World Toilet Day celebrated in all over the World. This day is being celebrated since 2001 when at the conference in Singapore the toilet issues were discussed. Various events were aimed to attract public attention to problems related to toilet availability and its cleanness.

CWP-Armenia organized trainings on 21 November in the Geological Museum (total: 12 participants) and on 22 November in the Mez Parni village (total: 20 participants).

Those trainings were aimed to raising awareness of teachers and schoolchildren about importance of toilet availability and about problems arising when toilet isn't properly cleaned. Participants were informed that Armenia approved SDGs and SDG6 is related to pure water and sanitation. Trainers answered on questions of schoolchildren and disseminated booklets.



Young teachers at the training in the Geological Museum

www.gwp.org

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.