

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MEETING ON DAM SAFETY COOPERATION  
IN CENTRAL ASIA**

**Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 11-12 November 2014**

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This report has been issued without formal editing by the Environment Division of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Secretariat

## **A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

1. The Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 11-12 November 2014. The meeting was organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in the framework of the ENVSEC program.

### **1. Objectives of the Meeting**

2. The meeting reviewed the main results of activities related to dam safety in Central Asia, and discussed proposals on priority directions of further cooperation to ensure the safety of hydraulic structures at the national and regional levels. In addition, the aim of the event was to share relevant experiences among the participants.

### **2. Participants**

3. The meeting was attended by 19 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan; IFAS was represented by 3 participants. Representatives of the OSCE, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) also participated in the meeting. Together with the staff of the UNECE secretariat, consultants and representatives of other organizations, the meeting was attended by 34 people. The list of participants is found in Annex 1 of this report.

### **3. Opening of the Meeting**

4. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Kokumbek Tashtanaliev, General Director of the Water Management and Melioration Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic. He noted the importance of dam safety in Central Asia and stressed the significance of contribution made thereto by the project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” and wished the participants fruitful work.

5. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE, in his address briefly explained the tasks and the expected results of the meeting, and voiced the hope that the further work will be beneficial for the further work on dam safety in the region.

### **4. Election of Chairs**

6. Messrs. Tilek Isabekov, First Deputy General Director of the Water Management and Melioration Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic; Medet Ospanov, Director of the Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan; Khamidjon Arifov, Secretary of Tajikistan National Committee of International Commission on High Dam’s Security alternately chaired the sessions of the meeting.

### **5. Adoption of the Agenda**

7. The meeting had adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of Chairs and adoption of the agenda of the Meeting.
3. Overview of activities related to dam safety in Central Asia.
4. Development of cooperation in Central Asia to ensure the safety of dams.
5. Safety of low-pressure hydraulic structures.

6. International experience and perspectives to support cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia by international organizations and financial institutions.
7. Plans for future activities to ensure dam safety in Central Asia.
8. Formulation of recommendations of the Meeting.
9. Miscellaneous.
10. Closing of the Meeting.

8. The full program of the Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia is found in Annex 2.

## **B. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**

9. Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser, informed the meeting about the funding situation for the implementation of the third phase of the “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” Project. He expressed the hope that the meeting could contribute to an effective planning of project activities on the base of priorities, indicated by the representatives of the countries of the region.

10. In respect to the agenda item “Overview of activities related to Dam Safety in Central Asia” national project coordinators from each Central Asian country, i.e. Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan; Mr. Iskender Djoldoshaliev, Kyrgyzstan and Mr. Khamidjon Arifov, Tajikistan, made presentations of the work on dam safety in Central Asia. They also identified priority directions of work for each country to ensure the safety of hydraulic structures.

11. The progress in development of cooperation in Central Asia to ensure the safety of hydraulic structures was reflected in reports of Mr. Iskender Djoldoshaliev; Mr. Oleg Makarov, Kyrgyzstan, and Mr. Vladimir Scherbyna, consultant, who all reported on the cooperation achieved in ensuring safety of hydraulic structures on the Chu and Talas rivers between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. In particular, they reported on the results of work to establish a system of automated safety monitoring at the Orto-Tokoi dam. Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan, reported on activities of the dam safety training center in Taraz.

12. Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan, made a presentation of the Methodological guide on the safety of hydraulic structures, developed with the support of Eurasian Development Bank.

13. In the session on the safety of low-pressure hydraulic structures, an expert Mr. Yuri Steklov made a presentation. He informed about the training on the safety of small hydraulic structures that took place in July 2014 in Moscow. Ms. Inna Kalberda, Russia, informed about the state regulation of the safety of low-pressure (small) hydraulic structures in the Russian Federation.

14. Ms. Madina Ibrasheva, Ms. Tahmina Jumaboeva and Ms. Elmira Djumakadyrova, OSCE representatives, informed about the intention of their organization to assist in the further realization of the project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”. Ms. Tatyana Leonova, representative of World Bank, informed about Bank programs, which are being realized in water-energy sphere.

15. Ms. Latifa Bulekbaeva, Representative of World Bank project accounted for the experience of the inter-sectoral workgroup in Kazakhstan on early warning and notification in the Syrdarya river basin and proposed to form such groups in Central Asian countries. Mr. Ryspek Apasov, expert of a GIZ

programme, informed about the realization of a component on hydraulic structures safety in the framework of «Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme». Mr. Guner Ryushtyu, Representative of ADB project, presented the work plans on dam safety in the Naryn cascade. Mr. Sahib Hassanzade shared the experience of improving dam safety in Azerbaijan, and expressed a wish to have the opportunity to exchange experience in this sphere with Central Asian countries also in the future.

16. During the review of the list of possible cooperation areas for securing the safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia, countries expressed their suggestions related to the priorities of the further activities in the project framework, both on the national and on the regional levels. In particular, Tajikistan delegation made a request for support in the establishment and strengthening of the recently formed State Supervision Service for hydraulic structures safety. It was suggested that there is a need to establish cooperation on the maintenance and operation of a number of jointly used hydraulic structures of common usage.

A consolidated list of the priority areas for cooperation for safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia is represented in Annex 3 to this report.

17. During the discussion on the feasibility of further work on the draft Regional Agreement on the safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia, the participants proposed to continue this activity in the framework of working group for safety of hydraulic structures, which is planned to be established under EC IFAS.

### **C. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

18. The meeting adopted the following decisions and recommendations on the issues raised on the agenda:

1. Take note of the progress reports on dam safety in Central Asia accounted for by the national coordinators. To note with appreciation the establishment of the State Supervision Service for Hydraulic Structures Safety in Tajikistan. To request the UNECE to support the priority directions of work to ensure dam safety that were identified in the reports and are presented in Annex 3.
2. Gratefully acknowledge the important role of the UNECE in promoting cooperation on dam safety on the Chu and Talas Rivers shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Request the UNECE to support the finalization of establishing a system of automated safety monitoring at the Orto-Tokoi dam.
3. Express gratitude to the developers of the Methodological guide on hydraulic structures safety and request the UNECE to assist in distribution of this guide, and, if necessary, to print an additional number of copies.
4. Express appreciation to the representative of Azerbaijan and to the representatives of ADB, World Bank and GIZ projects for the opportunity to learn from the experiences in ensuring dam safety.
5. Gratefully acknowledge the statements of OSCE representatives reflecting the intention to support the dam safety cooperation in Central Asia.
6. Take into account information from the representatives of the World Bank about plans on a component of safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia in the framework of the new water-

energy program and offer to use the regional meetings of the UNECE project to discuss the results of the World Bank project implementation.

7. Request the UNECE to support the realization of the most important areas of the further project implementation as proposed by the countries, and assist in the search of international and donor support for its realization. The Secretariat of the project is to combine the received proposals and distribute them to the national project coordinators for comments before 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014.
8. Take note of the willingness of countries to continue working on the draft regional agreement “On Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia” in the framework of the working group on dam safety in Central Asia under the auspices of IFAS. Request EC IFAS to speed up the establishment of this working group.
9. Request the UNECE to publish the meeting materials on its webpage <http://www.unece.org/ru/env/water/damsafety.r.html>.
10. Express gratitude to the invited experts from Russian Federation for the opportunity to learn from the experiences in ensuring dam safety in this country and their expressed intention to continue cooperation in this sphere with the countries of Central Asia.
11. Express appreciation to the ENVSEC program for support to the organization of the meeting.
12. Express gratitude to the Design and Technological Institute “Vodavtomatika and Metrology” for an excellent organization of the meeting.

## СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ

Региональное совещание по сотрудничеству по безопасности плотин в Центральной Азии  
11-12 ноября 2014 года, Бишкек, Кыргызстан

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Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, November 11-12, 2014

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**Regional meeting on dam safety cooperation  
in Central Asia  
November 11-12, 2014, Bishkek Kyrgyzstan**

*The meeting was held in the conference hall of the Dostuk hotel  
Bishkek, Frunze street, 429 B*

**AGENDA**

<b>Tuesday, 11 November 2014</b>	
9.00 – 9.30	Registration of participants
9.30 – 9.50	<b>Opening of the Meeting.</b> <i>Chairman – Mr. Tilek Isabekov, First Deputy Director General of the Water Management and Melioration Department, Kyrgyzstan</i>  Welcoming statement on behalf of the Water Management and Melioration Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic, <i>Mr. Kokumbek Tashtanaliev, Director General.</i>  Welcoming statement on behalf of UNECE <i>Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser</i>
09.50 – 10.00	<b>Adoption of the agenda and election of officials</b> Presentation of the participants and meeting agenda
10.00-10.30	Information on implementation of the project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”. <i>Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE</i>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.30	<b>Overview of dam safety activities in Central Asia.</b>  <i>National project coordinators:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <i>Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan;</i></li><li>– <i>Mr. Iskander Djoldoshaliev, Kyrgyzstan;</i></li><li>– <i>Mr. Bakhodur Yusupov, Tajikistan;</i></li></ul>
12.30-13.00	Discussion
13.00-14.00	Lunch

	<b>Development of cooperation in Central Asia to ensure the safety of dams.</b> <i>Chairman – Mr. Medet Ospanov, Director of the Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan</i>
14.00 – 14.10	Introduction. <i>Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE</i>
14.10 – 14.30	Cooperation to ensure the safety of hydraulic structures on the Chu and Talas rivers between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. <i>Mr. Iskender Djoldoshaliev, Mr. Oleg Makarov, Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Vladimir Sherbina, Consultant</i>
14.30 – 14.50	The training center for dam safety in Taraz. <i>Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan</i>
14.50 – 15.10	Presentation of the methodological guide for the safety of hydraulic structures. <i>Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan</i>
15.10-15.30	Discussion
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
	<b>The safety of small hydraulic structures.</b> <i>Chairman – Mr. Khamidjon Arifov, Tajikistan</i>
16.00-16.10	Introduction. <i>Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE</i>
16.10-16.30	Information on the training on the safety of small hydraulic structures, July 2014. <i>Mr. Yuri Steklov</i>
16.30-17.30	State regulation of the safety of low-pressure (small) hydraulic structures in the Russian Federation. <i>Ms. Inna Kalberda, Russia</i>
17.30-18.00	Discussion
<b>Wednesday, 12 November 2014</b>	
	<b>International experience and perspectives to support cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia by international organizations and financial institutions.</b> <i>Chairman - Representative of Uzbekistan</i>
9.30 – 10.30	Introduction. <i>Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Representative of OSCE</i></li> <li>• <i>Representative of WB</i></li> <li>• <i>Representative of ADB</i></li> <li>• <i>Representative of GIZ</i></li> </ul>

10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-11.15	The problems of the dam safety management on strategic objects in Azerbaijan. <i>Mr. Sahib Hasanzade</i>
	<b>Discussion of plans for future activities to ensure dam safety in Central Asia.</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Yuri Steklov</i>
11.15 -12.30	<i>On the development of other national and regional activities during the third phase of the project, including the continuation of the work on the draft regional agreement.</i>
	<b>Recommendations of the meeting</b>
12.30 -13.00	Consideration and adoption of decisions, recommendations and the report of the meeting. Closing of the Meeting.
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-18.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Consultations between delegations</i></li> <li>• <i>Meetings with representatives of donor organizations</i></li> </ul>

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## **Consolidated list of priority areas for cooperation on safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia**

### **I. The legal base and organization on the national level.**

1. Continuation of support to the development of national legal regulatory acts on the safety of hydraulic structures.

1.1. Justification and expertise of the draft law of Republic of Kazakhstan on Safety of Hydraulic Structures, involving the experts from the Russian Federation.

1.2. Support for activities related to the adoption of the model national law on Safety of Hydraulic Structures to the conditions of Kyrgyzstan.

2. Support the establishment and strengthening of organizations responsible for the safety of hydraulic structures.

2.1. Support the establishment and strengthening of the recently established State Supervision Service for Hydraulic Structures Safety in Tajikistan.

2.2. Support the establishment of the Commission on Dam Safety in Kyrgyzstan.

2.3. Assist in the establishment of the Control and Supervision Service for Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Kazakhstan.

### **II. Training on safety of hydraulic structures**

1. Organization of training seminars on dam safety.

2. Support the establishment and provide equipment to training centers and systems.

3. Practical training in special institutions of Russian Federation for specialists and trainers in training centers in Central Asia countries.

### **III. Regional cooperation**

1. Develop a model national program for the safety of low-pressure hydraulic structures for Central Asia.

2. Developing model rules for the safety of hydraulic structures.

### **IV. Safer operations of individual dams**

1. Support the cooperation between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on safe use of interstate level structures in the framework of Chu-Talas water commission: the Kirov Dam and the Orto-Tokoi Dam.

2. Assist in the establishment of controlling and measuring equipment, and SCADA systems on the hydro complex of Kyzylorda. Assist in the creation of an information system on the left bank

mainstream channel in the Kyzylorda region. (With participation of specialists from “Rusgidro”, Russia and PKTI “Vodavtomatika”, Kyrgyzstan, with co-financing by Republic of Kazakhstan).