

TRANSLATION

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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

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

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 18-19 November 2008

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on November 18-19, 2008. The Meeting was organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in close cooperation with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) and the Executive Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EBD IFAS).

2. The Meeting was held within the framework of Phase II of the “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” Project implemented by UNECE. The project is carried out under the supervision of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia and within the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). It is aimed at the improvement of the national legislation and state regulation in the field of dam safety in participating countries and strengthening of the regional cooperation in this field. The project is implemented in the context of the Programme on improvement of environmental and socio-economic situation in Aral Sea Basin-2 for the period of 2003 to 2010 (ASBP-2) implemented by IFAS. It is also a part of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) and is financed by the Government of Finland with partial financial support of Government of Russian Federation.

3. Opening of the meeting and the first plenary session were held in the framework of the 16th session of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources of SPECA countries. Meetings of the Working Group for development of a Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to Hydraulic Structures’ Safety and the Working Group for Harmonization of Regulatory, Legal and Technical Documentation on Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia were held concurrently. The meeting was concluded with a plenary session.

1. Objectives of the Meeting

4. The Meeting was to decide on further actions to harmonise the key provisions of respective national regulatory documents and technical specifications regulating safety of hydraulic structures, as well as to continue development of a Regional Agreement on cooperation in this field. In addition, the objective was to exchange corresponding experiences between the participants.

2. Attendance

5. 19 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan took part in the Meeting; IFAS was presented by 3 participants. The Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) and Eurasian Development Bank were also represented at the Meeting. 31 participant included in the list of Appendix 1 to this Report took part in the Meeting together with staff members of UNECE Secretariat, consultants and representatives of other organizations.

3. Opening of the Meeting

6. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE. He briefed the participants of the Meeting with the objectives of the project, results of its first phase (2004-2006) and the tasks laying ahead to implement the second phase of the project (2008-2010). He also noted that the core financing of the project is provided by the Government of Finland, and additional funding is provided by Government of the Russian Federation.

7. Mr. Timur Kamalov, Chairman of the State Inspection for Control and Supervision of the Technical Condition and Safe Operation of Large and High-Security Waterworks under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Gosvodkhoznadzor) welcomed the participants of the Meeting. He drew the attention of participants to the particular importance of ensuring the safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian countries, noted the interest of Uzbekistan to cooperation in this area, and in particular, to conclusion of a Regional Agreement on Cooperation, thereupon he wished success to all.

4. Election of Officers

8. Ms. Jyldyz Sarybaeva, Head of International Economy Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Georgy Petrov, head of Hydroenergy Laboratory under the

Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan; Kurbangeldy Ballyev, Department Head in the Research Center of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (SIC ISDC) IFAS, the representative of Turkmenistan, and Timur Kamalov, chairman of “Gosvodhoznadzor” of Uzbekistan took their turns in chairing the sessions of the meeting.

5. Approval of the Agenda

9. The following agenda of the Meeting was approved:
1. Opening of the Meeting.
 2. Election of officials.
 3. Approval of the agenda of the Meeting.
 4. Reports of current results of “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” Project and its further tasks.
 5. Session on development of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures.
 6. Possibilities of assistance to the stakeholder countries in improvement of their National Legislations on Safety of Hydraulic Structures.
 7. Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments on dam safety in countries of Central Asia.
 8. Consideration and approval of the Work Plan for 2009.
 9. Development of recommendations of the Meeting.
 10. Miscellaneous.
 11. Conclusion of the Meeting.
10. The Programme of the Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia is attached in Appendix 2.

B. PROCEEDINGS

11. Under Item 4 of the agenda, Mr. Bo Libert presented the results of activities completed under the Project in 2008. He remarked that in addition to the Regional meeting in Tashkent, held in March 2008, National workshops were held in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Besides, he noted, within the framework of this Regional Meeting, the first meetings of Working Group on development of a Regional agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures and the Working Group on Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments for Safety of Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia will be held. He also pointed out that the future cooperation of the countries of Central Asia would be aimed at the conclusion of a Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures; improvement and harmonization of the national regulatory and legal frameworks for safety of hydraulic structures, and advanced training of specialists in organizations supervising the safety of hydraulic structures.

12. Under Item 5 of the agenda, Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant, presented a version of the draft agreement as of 10 October 2008, prepared with consideration of comments and suggestions received before that date. Representatives of all participating countries expressed support for further work on the draft agreement and suggested a number of changes and proposals. Representatives of Uzbekistan shared an amended draft agreement, coordinated at the national level with ministries and departments. Several participants expressed their views that the cooperation body, would that be either a commission or a Hydraulic Structures Safety Center as the draft agreement provides for, would be useful to establish under the auspices of IFAS.

13. Under Item 6 of the agenda, the participants of the Meeting informed about the work completed in 2008, aimed at improvement and establishment of the national laws regulating the safety of hydraulic structures in countries of Central Asia. It was noted that the Model National Law on Safety of Hydraulic

Structures, developed during the first phase of the project, was used for this purpose. The meeting took note of information that the assistance to the interested countries in developing their national legislations on Safety of Hydraulic Structures will continue in 2009 in the form of advisory services or examination of draft national laws.

14. Under Item 7 of the agenda, Mr. Dmitriy B. Radkevich, consultant, introduced the participants to the concept of a coherent system of normative legal and normative technical instruments governing the safety of dams and other hydraulic structures in countries of Central Asia. He also reported that, in order to implement this concept, lists of such instruments currently in force in countries of Central Asia and Russia had been prepared, and a model of legislative, regulatory and legal acts and regulations of technical management for the region had been proposed. He then suggested for consideration of the participants a proposal to develop national legislation on safety of hydraulic structures in the form of relevant technical regulation, which could reflect all provisions of the Model Law on Safety of hydraulic structures accepted by specific country, and specify the basic requirements of technical nature.

15. Under Item 8 of the agenda, the Draft Work Plan for 2009 was presented and discussed. The participants' attention was drawn to the fact that the Plan provided for two meetings for each working group – Working group for development of Regional Agreement and Working Group on Regulatory, Legal and Technical Management of Safety of Hydraulic Structures.

C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

16. The participants of the Meeting made decisions on the discussed issues and recommended to take the following actions:

I. Concerning the support for improvement of National Legislation on Safety of Hydraulic Structures

To continue extending the support within the framework of the project to the countries interested in improvement of national legislation based on the model law on Safety of Hydraulic Structures in form of advice or independent examination.

II. Concerning the development of documentation for regulatory and technical management of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures:

1. To approve the Concept of a harmonized system of regulatory legal and technical documentation for the safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asian countries as a basis for further development.
2. To note the fruitful work of the experts of the countries of the region and consultants in the development of a draft model list of regulatory, legal and technical documentation.
3. To recommend to develop a model version of the technical regulation on Safety of hydraulic structures within the framework of the project.
4. To ask the consultants of the project to introduce the working group with the regulatory and technical documentation on Safety of hydraulic structures existing in the Russian Federation.

III. Concerning the Draft Agreement on Cooperation with respect to the Safety of Hydraulic Structures:

1. To continue the work on the draft regional agreement on cooperation with respect to the Safety of Hydraulic Structures, based on the version of October 10, 2008 with structural changes, taking into account all the comments and suggestions.
2. That the consultant of the Project together with the Working Group prepare for December 10, 2008, an amended version of the draft regional agreement, and that he sends this version to the National Coordinators for its consideration in due course.
3. To request the National Coordinators to present before 1 March 2009 the comments and suggestions to the developed version of the draft agreement coordinated at the national level.

4. To ask Management of the Project (UNECE) to approach the Executive Committee of IFAS with the proposal to expand the cooperation on Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia.

IV. Concerning the Work Plan for 2009:

To approve the Project Work Plan for 2009 (Appendix 3).

Miscellaneous

17. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Government of Finland and the Government of Russian Federation for their support to the Project.

18. To note with satisfaction the intention of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to support the efforts of Central Asian countries to ensure the safety of Hydraulic Structures within the framework of a new project.

19. To express gratitude to the Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan for the excellent organization of the meeting.

20. A list of materials distributed at the Regional Meeting is attached in Annex 4.

СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ

Региональное совещание по сотрудничеству по безопасности плотин в Центральной Азии
18-19 ноября 2008 года, Алматы, Казахстан

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Regional Meeting on the Cooperation in Dam Safety in Central Asia
Almaty, Kazakhstan, November 18-19, 2008

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**Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia
18-19 November 2008, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 18 November 2008

Venue: Meeting Hall of the city Akimat (Mayor's Office), Republic Square 4

Opening of the meeting and the first plenary session were held in the framework of the 16th session of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources of Special Program of the UN for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

16:00 - 16:30 Registration of Participants

First Plenary Session

16:30 - 16:50 **Opening of the Meeting**
Welcoming statement on behalf of UNECE,
Progress of "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation" Project and further tasks for its implementation
Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE

Welcoming statement
Mr. Timur Kamalov, Chairman of Gosvodkhoz nadzor, Uzbekistan

16:50 - 17:30 Discussion

Wednesday, 19 November 2008

Venue: Conference Hall of Almaty hotel, 85 Kabanbay Batyr str.

Simultaneous meetings of Working Groups

	Working Group on development of a Regional agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia <i>Chairman – Mrs. Jyldyz Sarybaeva, Kyrgyzstan</i>	Working Group on Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments for Safety of Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia <i>Chairman – Mr. Georgiy Petrov, Tajikistan</i>
9:30 - 9:45	Introductory word and proposals concerning the activities of the Working Group <i>Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant</i>	Introductory word and proposals concerning the activities of the Working Group <i>Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Advisor, UNECE</i>
9:45 - 10:00	Current situation of national legislations on Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian Countries. <i>Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant</i>	Structure of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments with regard to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Russian Federation <i>Mr. Dmitriy Radkevich, Consultant</i>
10:00 -10:15	Discussion	Review of existing regulations and legislation with respect to Safety of

Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian
Countries
Mr. Oleg Makaraov, Kyrgyzstan

10:15 - 10:45	Development of an agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia <i>Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant</i>	Suggestions on standard structure and list of regulatory instruments to support the Safety of Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia. <i>Mr. Dmitriy Radkevich, Consultant</i>
10:45 -11:00		Coffee-break
11:00 -12:30	Discussion	Discussion
12:30 -13:00	Adoption of recommendations of the Work Grouping	Adoption of recommendations of the Working Group
13:00 -14:00		Lunch Break

Second Plenary Session

Chairman – Mr. Kurbangeldy Ballyev, Turkmenistan

14:00 -14:15	Report from the Working Group on development of a Regional agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian Countries <i>Chairman of the Group - Ms. Jyldyz Sarybaeva, Kyrgyzstan</i>	
14:15 -15:00	Discussion	
15:00 -15:15	Report from the Working Group on Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments for Safety of Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia <i>Chairman of the Group - Mr. Georgiy Petrov, Tajikistan</i>	
15:15 -16:00		Discussion
16:00 -16:30		Coffee-break

Second Plenary Session

Chairman – Mr. Timur Kamalov, Uzbekistan

16:30 -16:45	Work Plan for 2009 <i>Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE</i>	
16:45 -17:30	Discussion aimed at development of decisions and recommendations of the Meeting	
17:30 -18:30	Reviewing and adopting the Decisions, Recommendations and Report of the Meeting Conclusion of the Meeting	

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Plan of Work for the Second Phase of the “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” Project

1. National Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia, Tajikistan, Dushanbe, March 2009
– 1 day
2. Meeting of the Working Group on development of a Regional agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian Countries
Tajikistan, Dushanbe, March 2009 (immediately after the National Meeting) – 2 days
3. Training
Uzbekistan, Tashkent (or Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek or Russia, Moscow), April 2009 - 3 days
4. Meeting of the Working Group on Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments for Safety of Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia
Uzbekistan, Tashkent (or Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek or Russia, Moscow), April 2009 (immediately after the Training) – 2 days
5. Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, November 2009 - 3 days
 - i. Meeting of the Working Group on Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments for Safety of Hydraulic Structures
 - ii. Meeting of the Working Group on development of a Regional agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian Countries
 - iii. Plenary sessions

**List of materials distributed at the Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation
in Central Asia
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 18-19 November 2008**

1. “Dam safety in Central Asia: building potential and regional cooperation” Publication, United Nations, 2007.
2. Draft agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia as of 10.10.2008, with comments.
3. Structurally changed and amended Agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia as of 10.10.2008, with comments.
4. Draft Charter (Articles of Association, Resolution on establishment) of the International Commission for the safety of hydraulic facilities in Central Asia as of 10.10.2008.
5. Draft Charter of the Regional Center for the safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia, as of 10.10.2008.
6. Draft agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia, submitted by Uzbekistan.
7. Proposals to the Draft agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia, presented by A. G. Zyryanov, Kyrgyzstan.
8. Proposals to the Draft agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia, presented by G. N. Petrov, Tajikistan.
9. The concept of Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments, governing the Safety of Dams and other Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia.
10. The list of legislative and regulatory instruments, as well as technical regulations of Russian Federation.
11. Consolidated list of legislative and regulatory acts and regulations of Central Asian countries on Safety of Hydraulic Structures with annotations.
12. Work plan for the second phase of the «Dam safety in Central Asia: building potential and regional cooperation» Project for 2009.
13. Proposals for training courses under the project.