

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Report
of a Meeting of the Project Working Group on Normative Legal and
Technical Regulation of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures
Moscow, Russia
20 August 2010

This report has been issued without official editing by the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The Meeting of the Project Working Group on Normative Legal and Technical Regulation of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures took place on 20 August 2010 in Moscow, Russia immediately after the end of the International Training Course on Hydraulic Structures Safety for High-Ranking Executives from Central Asia Countries, which had been held 16-20 August 2010 in Moscow. The Group has been established and acts within the framework of the project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” implemented by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) with the financial support of the Government of Finland and additional financing from the Government of the Russian Federation. The project is carried out under the supervision of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and within the framework of the working program of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. 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 socioeconomic situation in the Aral Sea Basin for the period 2003 to 2010 (ASBP-2) implemented by the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS). It is also a part of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC).

1. Objectives of the Meeting

2. The working group met primarily to discuss matters related to the implementation of the decisions made during the regional meeting in Bishkek in November 2009 with regard to the drafting of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments on the safety of hydraulic structures (HS) in countries of Central Asia as well as the group’s work plan until May 2011.

2. Attendance

3. All the participants of the International Training Course on Hydraulic Structures Safety for High-Ranking Executives from Central Asia Countries were invited to take part in the Meeting. The list of attendees is found in an appendix to this report.

3. Opening of the Meeting and Election of Officials

4. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser. Mr. Kurbangeldy Ballyev, the representative of Turkmenistan in the IFAS Executive Committee, chaired the Meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

5. 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. Activity of the Working Group on Harmonization of Regulatory, Legislative and Technical Instruments on HS Safety in Central Asia Countries.

5. Implementation of decisions of Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, November 2009.
6. Preparation of a draft technical regulation “Provision of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures”.
7. Preparation of a list of model uniform rules and standards which may be adopted as regulatory technical instruments to the technical regulation “Provision of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures”.
8. Prospects for further development of HS safety cooperation in Central Asia
 - Expected inclusion in ASBP-3 of a regional project for further development of HS safety cooperation formulated with account taken of the results of of the UNECE project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”.
 - Support by the Eurasian Development Bank of further development of HS safety cooperation in Central Asia.
 - Prospects for HS safety cooperation on small transboundary rivers of Fergana Valley.
9. Proposals for future activities of the Working Group
10. Miscellaneous
11. Closing of the Meeting

B. PROCEEDINGS

6. Mr. Yuri Steklov, consultant, briefly reported on the progress in the implementation of the decisions made at the previous regional meeting held in Almaty in November 2009 in the part of drafting model regulatory, legislative and technical instruments on HS safety. He noted that in accordance with the decisions the first version of the draft model technical regulation “Provision of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures” had been prepared. In December 2009 it was submitted to national project coordinators for review in the countries of the region. He also noted that the model technical regulation had been translated into English with the support of “Water Management Improvement Project in Kyrgyzstan” financed by the World Bank.

7. Mr. Igor Borzenko, Deputy General Director of Technical Research Center “Gidrobezopasnost”, presented an updated version of the draft model technical regulation “Provision of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures”. The participants of the Meeting discussed this project and suggested certain amendments. They also discussed the course of future work to be performed to finalize the model technical regulation and prepare a list of model uniform rules and standards which may be adopted as regulatory technical documents to the technical regulation.

8. During the discussion of this item of the agenda, the attendees emphasized the importance of further development of cooperation in the field of regulatory technical framework of HS safety and noted the intellectual and financial support that the Russian Federation provides to this cooperation.

9. Mr. Kurbangeldy Ballyev informed the participants of the Meeting about the efforts to formulate a regional project for further development of HS safety cooperation to be

included in draft Aral Sea Basin program for the period 2011 to 2015 (ASBP-3), being prepared by the IFAS Executive Committee. The project aims to support long-term cooperation of the Central Asia countries on the basis of the work achieved in the implementation of the UNECE project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”. During the subsequent discussion a suggestion was voiced to establish a regional working group under the auspices of IFAS to direct project implementation.

10. Mr. A.P. Mironenkoy, a representative of the Eurasian Development Bank, informed about a decision made by the Management Board of the Bank to provide financial support to the present international training course and to allocate – in response to a request of the IFAS Executive Committee – funds for the preparation of a regional report on HS safety in Central Asia.

11. The participants of the Meeting heard were informed by representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan about the results of a meeting of the heads of the Agency on Water Resources of Kyrgyzstan and Gosvodkhoz nadzor of Uzbekistan (State Inspectorate for Control and Supervision over Technical Condition and Operational Safety of Large and Especially Important Water Facilities under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan), which took place on 3 March 2010 in Tashkent. The meeting discussed the prospects for HS safety cooperation on small transboundary rivers of Fergana Valley.

12. Mr. Bo Libert informed that the regional UNECE project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” would be completed in May 2011. He requested the attendees to suggest possible activities to be implemented before the end of the project and priorities for further cooperation on the regulatory legal and technical framework of HS safety. Representatives of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan requested support from the project to hold national meetings aiming to elaborate national legislation on HS safety. The representative of Turkmenistan requested assistance in drafting tentative rules of operation of water reservoirs of inter-state use on a transboundary river.

C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The participants of the Meeting made the following decisions and recommendations:

I. To approve the draft model technical regulation “Provision of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures”, presented by the consultant.

II. To continue work on the model technical regulation “Provision of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures” and the list of model uniform rules and standards in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) That national coordinators are to provide comments on the document not later than 1 December 2010;

(b) The consultant is to submit the second version of the model technical regulation together with the list of model uniform rules and standards, redrafted with account taken of the received comments, not later than 1 February 2011.

III. The national coordinators are to provide information about the application of the results of the UNECE project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” in participating countries as well as proposals for further development of HS safety cooperation in the project before the end of 2010 in accordance with tentative contents, prepared by the project secretariat.

IV. Take note of information on the preparation of a project proposal for further development of HS safety cooperation, formulated with account taken of the results of the implementation of the UNECE project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”, for inclusion in ASBP-3.

V. To take note of information about the first meeting of representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan for HS safety cooperation on small transboundary rivers of Fergana Valley.

VI. To note with satisfaction the readiness of the Eurasian Development Bank to provide financial support to the IFAS Executive Committee for the preparation of a regional report on HS safety in Central Asia and express gratitude to the Bank for the additional financial support to the holding of the present training course.

VII. To note the interest expressed by all countries in the region to cooperation in (i) creation of compatible national HS registers on the basis of a uniform methodology with the subsequent creation of a regional HS register, and (ii) provision of safety of small dams. Request cooperating countries and organizations to support cooperation in these fields.

VIII. Express gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation for providing intellectual and financial support to cooperation in elaborating the regulatory technical framework of hydraulic structures safety in Central Asia and request that it continue to assist the countries of Central Asia in providing HS safety.

Appendix

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
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for High-level Officials from Central Asia
16-20 August 2010, Moscow, Russia

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