

TRANSLATION

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THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

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

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 3-4 November 2009

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 3-4 November, 2009. The Meeting was organized by the United Nations 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 (EB IFAS) in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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 the Aral Sea Basin-2 for the period 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 the Government of the Russian Federation.

1. Objectives of the Meeting

3. The Meeting was organized to discuss the draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia, and to consider the opportunity to elaborate a model technical regulation “Provision of the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures”, as well as to plan activities within the framework of the project for the year 2010. In addition, the objective was to exchange corresponding experiences between the participants.

2. Attendance

4. 24 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan took part in the Meeting; 3 participants represented IFAS. The Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), World Bank and Eurasian Development Bank were also represented at the Meeting. 38 participants 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

5. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Duishenbek Kamchibekov, State Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Kyrgyzstan. He emphasized the relevance of hydraulic structures safety issues for Central Asia and expressed gratitude to UNECE and the international consultants on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for their support and assistance provided to address problems important for the region. He also wished success to the Meeting.

6. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE in his welcoming speech drew the attention to the fact that the project was entering its final stage and called to strengthen the efforts aimed at completion of the project and the achievement significant results, which would be appreciated by both participating countries and donors.

7. Mr. Sagit Ibatullin, Chairman of IFAS EC, welcomed the participants. He emphasized with satisfaction that the cooperation between IFAS and UNECE in terms of implementation of the regional project aimed at ensuring the safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia continued to develop successfully.

4. Election of Officers

8. Messrs. Chyngyz Uzakbaev, Deputy Director General of the Department of Water Resources, Kyrgyzstan, Medet Ospanov, Director, IFAS Executive Board in the Republic of Kazakhstan, Hairullo Ibodzoda, a member of IFAS EC – Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan and Timur Kamalov, Chairman of the State Inspectorate on Control and Surveillance of Technical Condition and Safe

Operation of Large and Important Water Management Facilities (“Gosvodhoznadzor”) of the Republic of Uzbekistan took 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. Progress in the implementation of the second phase of the project (2008-2010).
 5. Working groups’ sessions:
 - (a) Working group on harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments on dam safety in countries of Central Asia.
 - (b) Working group on elaboration of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures. Reports on working groups’ sessions.
 6. Work Plan for 2010.
 7. Proposals for further development of the project.
 8. Miscellaneous.
 9. 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 2009. He remarked that in May 2009 in Tashkent, a pilot regional training course was conducted on enabling the safety of hydrotechnical structures safety in Central Asia, and a Working Group session was held on harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical normative instruments for dam safety in countries of Central Asia. In Almaty, in August 2009, a Working Group session took place on preparation of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures. In addition, on October 2009 in Dushanbe, a national meeting was held on the safety of hydrotechnical structures in Tajikistan.
12. Mr. Yuri Steklov, consultant, reported on the progress at the regional level in terms of the implementation of the decisions made at the previous regional meeting held in Almaty in November 2008.
13. Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan; Mr. Iskander Djoldoshaliyev, Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Khairullo Ibodzoda, Tajikistan and Mr. Timur Kamalov, Uzbekistan reported about the activities in their countries during the previous period with regard to improvement of national normative legal frameworks. In particular, it was emphasized that in Kazakhstan, in December 2008, the law on introduction of amendments to Water Code of the country was adopted to enhance state regulation in the area of the safety of hydrotechnical structures, and in May 2009, the Government of the country approved Safety Rules for water management systems and facilities. In Kyrgyzstan, within the framework of a World Bank funded project on water management improvement, draft laws were prepared on the establishment of national Dam Safety Committee along with its statutes. In Tajikistan, the establishment of an interdepartmental working group to elaborate a draft law on the safety of hydrotechnical structures was being considered. In Uzbekistan, a draft law on introduction of amendments to the national legislation on the safety of hydrotechnical structures adopted 10 years ago was in its final stage of approval in the national Parliament.
14. Under Item 5a of the agenda, Mr. Dmitry Radkevich, consultant, presented his vision of further work related to elaboration of a model national technical regulation “Provision of the safety of hydrotechnical structures”. The Terms of Reference for the development of a model technical regulation was supplemented with several items based on proposals given by some participants. Mr. Radkevich also

noted that national rules and standards required for the implementation of the provisions of the proposed technical regulation should be revised.

15. Under Item 5b of the agenda, Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant, presented in detail the work performed with regard to the elaboration of a Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the field of the safety of hydrotechnical structures. As a result, a new draft agreement was prepared as of September 13, 2009, which included all comments and proposals received before that date, and another version as of September 24, 2009 that systematized outcomes of previous discussions in a new format and with some additions. Mr. Vinogradov, consultant, presented the review of all comments and proposals for the draft regional agreements as of September 24, 2009. Then the participants shared their views about the documents presented.

16. Under Item 7 of the agenda, Mr. Bo Libert presented proposals for the 2010 work plan. The participants' attention was drawn to the fact that the plan provided for two meetings of each working group – Working Group for Development of Regional Agreement and Working Group on Regulatory, Legal and Technical Management for the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures.

17. Under Item 8 of the agenda proposals were made for further development of the project on dam safety cooperation in Central Asia.

18. Under Item 9 of the agenda, Mr. Dmitry Radkevich, consultant, briefed the participants on the results of the investigation conducted in relation to the accident that happened at Sayano-Shushenskaya HPP and on measures undertaken in Russia to prevent such accidents in the future.

19. The representatives of Tajikistan reported to the participants that in October 2009 the high-rise Nurek Dam on the Vakhsh River in Tajikistan was awarded with an honorable certificate by the International Commission on Large Dams, which acknowledged it being an example of highest engineering achievement in dam construction.

B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

20. The participants of the Meeting made the following decisions and recommendations under the agenda items:

I. Concerning the support for improvement of national legislation on the safety of hydrotechnical structures

To continue the support within the framework of the project to the countries interested in improvement of their national legislations based on the Model Law on the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures in the form of consultations or independent reviews of draft legislations.

II. Concerning the development of documentation for regulatory and technical management for the safety of hydrotechnical structures

1. To consider the Terms of Reference as a basis and to recommend to use it in the development of a model technical regulation “Provision of the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures” taking into account proposals on its content made by the participants of the meeting.

2. To continue the work on the preparation of a model technical regulation “Provision of the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures” in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) The consultants of the project are to prepare the first version of a model technical regulation by November 30, 2009 to be sent to the national project coordinators for consideration by the countries participating in the project; to apply in the preparation of the document the relevant CIS interstate standards, construction norms and rules (SNiP), and the regulations of the Russian Federation applied in Central Asia.

(6) National project coordinators should submit comments and proposals on the first draft model technical regulation by February 28, 2010;

(B) The consultant of the project is to submit the second version of the model technical regulation prepared, taking into account comments and proposals received, to be considered at the next meeting of the project Working Group on Regulatory, Legal and Technical Management for the Safety of Hydraulic Structures in April - May 2010;

3. The consultant of the project is to start preparing a list of model summary rules and standards, which could be adopted as normative subsidiary documents to the technical regulation "Provision of the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures".

4. To gratefully accept the offer of the World Bank financed "Water Management Improvement Project" in Kyrgyzstan to arrange for the translation of the model technical regulation to English.

III. Concerning the Draft Agreement on Cooperation related to the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures in Central Asia

1. National project coordinators are to ask MFA of their respective countries to send the official position of their country on the draft agreement version as of September 24, 2009 to the Executive Committee of IFAS by December 31, 2009.

2. The consultants of the project are to prepare a revised version of draft Regional Agreement by February 15, 2010 taking into account the proposals received from the countries participating in the project.

3. The project management is to submit to the Executive Committee of IFAS a revised draft Regional Agreement to be further submitted for approval in the respective countries, and to request assistance for promptly receiving the positions of the countries on the revised draft agreement.

4. The consultants of the project are to summarize the elaborated proposals from the countries and to prepare a draft of the agreement on this basis, to be considered at the next session of the Working Group on drafting the agreement.

IV. Concerning the Work Plan for 2010

To approve the Project Work Plan for 2010 (Appendix 3).

Miscellaneous

1. To recommend IFAS Executive Committee to introduce the matter on inclusion to ASBP-3 a regional project for further development of cooperation in the area of the safety of hydrotechnical structures taking into account outcomes of the UNECE project "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation".

2. To note with satisfaction the readiness of the Eurasian Development Bank to support the efforts of Central Asian countries related to the preparation and publication of analytical reviews on ensuring the safety of hydrotechnical structures.

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

4. To express gratitude to the Design and Technological Institute "Vodavtomatika and Metrology" for a good arrangement of the Meeting.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
The Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, November 3-4, 2009

КАЗАХСТАН		KAZAKHSTAN	Contacts
1.	Мухатов Жумабек Садвакасович начальника Управления эксплуатации Комитета по водным ресурсам МСХ	Zhumabek Mukhatov Head, Division for Operation Committee on Water Resources under the Ministry of Agriculture	Tel. (+77172) 742694 Fax (+77172) 742681 E-mail: 591924@mail.ru Mob. (+7701) 4451329
2.	Нурсадыков Дархан, 2 секретарь Департамента ЦА МИД	Darkhan Nursadykov 2-nd Secretary, Department of CA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Tel. (+77172) 720253 Fax (+77172) 720367 E-mail: nursadykov@MID.kz Mob. (+7705) 1025356
3.	Нуртазин Майдан Мухамедович Технический директор ПК «Институт Казгипроводхоз»	Maidan Nurtazin Technical Director , Production Cooperative “Institute of Kazgiprovodkhoz”	Tel. (+7727) 2798333 Fax (+7727) 2791614 E-mail: kazgipro@mail.ru Mob. (+7777) 3301505
4.	Оспанов Медет Оспанович Директор, Исполнительная Дирекция МФСА в Республике Казахстан	Medet Ospanov Director, Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 507717 E-mail: ifas_almaty@mail.ru ; mospanov@inbox.ru Mob. (+7701) 7138219
5.	Аляхасов Жанат Заместитель директора, Исполнительной дирекции МФСА в Казахстане	Zhanat Alyakhassov Deputy Director, Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan	Tel. (+7727) 2986383/81/85 Fax (+7727) 507717 E-mail: ifas_almaty@mail.ru ; alyahasov@gmail.com Mob. (+7777) 3880742
КЫРГЫЗСТАН		KYRGYZSTAN	
6.	Дуйшенбек Камчыбеков Статс-секретарь Министерства природных ресурсов	Duishenbek Kamchibekov Secretary of State, Ministry of Natural Resources	Tel. (+996312) 30-04-10 E-m: info@geo.gov.kg ,
7.	Узакбаев Чынгыз Макешевич Заместитель генерального директора Департамента водного хозяйства	Chyngyz Uzakbaev Deputy Director General Water Management Department	Tel. (+996312) 549083 E-m: c_uzakbaev@mail.ru
8.	Омокеев Айбек Талгатбекович Заведующий отделом двухстороннего сотрудничества международно- правового департамента Министерства иностранных дел	Aibek Omokeev Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Tel. (+996312) 626643
9.	Алманкунов Азамат Жумабекович Атташе департамента международного экономического сотрудничества Министерства иностранных дел	Azamat Almankunov Attache, International Economy Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Tel. (+996312). 667353
10.	Джолдошалиев Искендер Алымкулович Начальник отдела технической экспертизы и инвестиций Департамента водного хозяйства	Iskender Djoldoshaliev Head of Division, Water Management Department	Tel. (+996312) 549098 Fax. (+996312)549094 Iskender1957@mail.ru

11.	Макаров Олег Степанович Директор ПКТИ Водоавтоматика и метрология	Oleg Makarov Director, Research Institute Vodoavtomatika i Metrologia”	Tel. (+996312) 541159 E-m: pkti@elcat.kg
12.	Зырянов Алексей Григорьевич Заместитель начальника Центра эксплуатации и ремонта ОАО "Электрические станции"	Alexey Zyrianov Deputy Director, Center of Operation and Repair of JSC "Electricity stations"	Tel. (+996312) 672172 E-m: expo-es@infotel.kg
13.	Ишекеева Гульзада Назаркуловна Главный специалист Управления правовой экспертизы Министерства юстиции	Gulzada Ishekeeva Leading specialist, Ministry of Justice	Tel. (+996312) 656498 Ishekeeva.G@Gmail.com
14.	Душебаев Азат Кенешбекович Сотрудник Института стратегического анализа и прогноза	Azat Dushebaev Representative, Institute for Strategic Analysis and Prognosis	Tel. (+996312) 684758
15.	Жумалиев Нурбек Алмазбекович Заместитель начальника Управления «Сельводзащита» МЧС	Nurbek Jumaliev Deputy Head, of Department, Ministry for Emergency Situations	Tel. (+996312) 659342. Jumaliev-nur@rambler.ru
ТАДЖИКИСТАН		TAJKISTAN	
16.	Ибодзода Хайрулло Член Исполкома МФСА- Полномочный представитель от Республики Таджикистан	Hairullo Ibodzoda Representative of Tajikistan in the Executive Committee of IFAS	Tel./Fax (+7727) 3873431/33 E-mail: ibodzoda@mail.ru Mob. (+7701) 7877105
17.	Петров Георгий Николаевич Заведующий лабораторией гидроэнергетики Института водных проблем, гидроэнергетики и экологии АН	Georgiy Petrov Head of Laboratory, Water Problems Institute, Academy of Sciences	Tel. (+99237) 2245231 E-mail: geomar@bk.ru Mob. (+99291) 8620536
18.	Арифов Хомиджан Обидович Начальник Таджикского Научно-исследовательского отдела энергетики	Homidjan Arifov Head of Tajikistan Energy Research Division	Tel. Tajnioe@mail.ru Mob: (+99290) 7704828
19.	Годоев Истамкул Муродилаевич Директор Таджикского филиала НИЦ МКВК	Istamkul Godoev Director of Tajikistan Branch SIC ICWC	Tel. 992372 235 35 66
УЗБЕКИСТАН		UZBEKISTAN	
20.	Камалов Тимур Камалович Председатель Госинспекции «Госводхознадзор»	Timur Kamalov Chairman, State Inspection “Gozvodhoznadzor”	Tel. (+99871) 2443131 Fax (+99871) 2443041 E-mail: v-nadzor@sks.uz
21.	Исмаилов Бахадир Исламович Начальник отдела Договорно-правового управления МИД	Bahadir Ismailov Head of Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Tel. (+99871) 2362033 Fax. (+99871) 2334834 E-mail: dpu@tiv.uz dpu@tiv.uz
22.	Юсупов Улугбек Давлетович 3 секретарь Договорно-правового управления МИД	Ulugbek Jusupov 3 Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Tel. (+99871) 2334834 Fax (+99871) 2338107 E-mail: dpu@tiv.uz

23.	Наргитов Мухитдин Джурабаевич Начальник Международно-правового управления Минюста	Muhitdin Nargitov Head of Department, Ministry of Justice	Tel. (+99871) 2320882 Fax. (+99871) 2334844 E-mail: info@minjust.gov.uz
24.	Талипов Шухрат Ганиевич Главный специалист Госинспекции «Госводхознадзор»	Shuhrat Talipov Chief Specialist, State Inspection "Gozvodhoznadzor"	Tel. (+99871) 2443049 Fax (+99871) 2443041 E-mail: v-nadzor@sks.uz
ЭКСПЕРТЫ		EXPERTS	
25.	Стеклов Юрий Николаевич Консультант	Yuri Steklov Consultant	Tel. (+662) 9679536 E-mail: yuri.steklov@gmail.com Mob. (+668) 40332465
26.	Радкевич Дмитрий Борисович Консультант	Dmitry Radkevich Consultant	Tel. (+7495) 4935131 Fax. (+7495) 4974050 radkevich@mte.gov.ru
27.	Виноградов Сергей Консультант	Sergei Vinogradov Consultant	Tel: (+44) 1382 345620 E-mail: s.v.vinogradov@dundee.ac.uk SergeiVinogradov@aol.com
28.	Оролбаев Эркин Эргешевич Консультант	Erkin Orolbaev Consultant	Tel. (+996312) 660452 E-mail: erkin.orolbaev@gmail.com
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ		INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	
Европейская Экономическая Комиссия ООН		United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	
29.	Бу Либерт Региональный советник Отдел по окружающей среде, жилищному вопросу и землепользованию	Bo Libert Regional Adviser, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division	Tel. (+4122) 9172396 Fax (+4122) 9170621 E-mail: Bo.libert@unece.org Mob. (+4179) 4446026/4180
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ ФОНД СПАСЕНИЯ АРАЛА		INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA	
30.	Ибатуллин Сагит Рахматуллович Председатель Исполкома МФСА	Saghit Ibatullin Chairman of the Executive Committee of IFAS	Tel. (+7727) 2607745 Fax (+7727) 3873431 E-mail: Saghit@inbox.ru , ec.ifas_almaty@mail.ru Mob. (+7701) 5310225
31.	Бекниязов Мурат Кабыкенович Член Исполкома - Полномочный представитель от Республики Казахстан	Murat Bekniyazov Representative of Kazakhstan in the Executive Committee of IFAS	Tel./Fax (+7727) 3873431/33 E-mail: mbekniyazov@mail.ru Mob. (+7777) 2482168
32.	Оморов Манасбек Оморович Член Исполкома-Полномочный представитель от Кыргызской Республики, Руководитель Исполнительной Дирекции ИК МФСА в Кыргызской Республике	Manasbek Omorov Representative of Kyrgyzstan in the Executive Committee of IFAS Director, Executive Board of IFAS in Kyrgyzstan	Tel./Fax (+7727) 3873431/33 E-mail: aral09@mail.ru Mob. (+7777) 8233685
33.	Мамбетжанова Сейде Заместитель директора Исполнительной Дирекции МФСА в Кыргызской Республике	Seide Mambetjanova Deputy Director, Executive Board of IFAS in Kyrgyzstan	Tel./Fax. (+996312) 590212 E-mail: ldmfsa_kg@infotel.kg ; aral09@mail.ru Mob. (+996555) 953012

34.	Умаров Алишер Саидович Сотрудник Исполкома МФСА	Alisher Umarov Representative of the Executive Committee of IFAS	Tel. (+7727) 2607745
ДРУГИЕ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ		OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	
35.	Тулеген Таджибаевич Сарсембеков Консультант, Евразийский банк развития	Tulegen Sarsembekov Consultant, Eurasian Development Bank	Tel. (+7727) 2444044 sarsembekov_tt@eabr.org mob. (+7701) 7970905
36.	Кимберли Балкли Сотрудник Отдела Экономики и Окружающей Среды Центр ОБСЕ в Бишкеке	Kimberley Bulkley Economic Environmental Officer The OSCE Centre in Bishkek	Tel: (996 312) 612441 E-m: kimberley.bulkley@osce.org
37.	Анатолий Николаевич Крутов Компания SMEC, проект Всемирного Банка	Anatoly Krutov SMEC Company, WB Project	E-mail: krutov@bk.ru
38.	Сернецкий Олег Богданович НПО «Полит Контакт».	Oleg Sernetzki NGO Politcontact	Tel: (495) 621-97-37 E-m: oleg- 2001-s@mail.ru Mob. 0555-29-03-31

PROGRAMME
The Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, November 3-4, 2009

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

9.00 – 9.30 Registration of the Participants

First Plenary Session

9.30 – 9.40

Opening of the Meeting

Chairman – Mr. Chyngyz Uzakbaev, Deputy Director General, Department of Water Resources, Kyrgyzstan

Welcoming statement on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
Mr. Duishenbek Kamchybekov, State-secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources

Welcoming statement on behalf of UNECE
Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE

Welcoming statement on behalf of IFAS
Mr. Sagit Ibatullin, Chairmen of IFAS EB

09.40 – 10.00

Adoption of the agenda and election of officials

Presentation of Meeting agenda:
Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE.

10.00-10.30

Progress in the implementation of the second stage of the project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”.

Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE.

10.30-11.00

Coffee break

11.00-12.00

Progress in the implementation of the decisions of the regional meeting “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”, Almaty, November 2008 at the regional and national levels.

Mr. Yuri Steklov, consultant;
national project coordinators:

- *Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan;*
- *Mr. Iskander Djaldoshaliev, Kyrgyzstan;*
- *Mr. Hairullo Ibodzoda, Tajikistan;*
- *Mr. Timur Kamalov, Uzbekistan.*

12.00 – 12.30

Discussion

12.30-14.00

Lunch

**Working Group on Regulatory, Legal and Technical Management for the Safety of
Hydrotechnical Structures**

Chairman - Mr. Hairullo Ibodzoda, Tajikistan

14.00 – 14.10

Introduction and proposals concerning the activities of the Working Group.

Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE

- 14.10 – 14.30 On elaboration of a model technical regulation “Provision of the Safety of Hydraulic Structures”.
Mr. Dmitry Radkevich, consultant
- 14.30 – 15.30 Presentations by country representatives
- 15.30-16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00-17.30 Discussion
- 17.30 -18.00 Adoption of decisions, recommendations and a report of the Working Group

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Working Group for Development of Regional Agreement

Chairman – Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan

- 9.30 – 9.40 Introduction and proposals concerning the activities of the Working Group
Mr. Yuri Steklov, consultant
- 9.40 – 10.00 Review of the comments to draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Area of Hydrotechnical Structures Safety in Central Asia.
Mr. Sergei Vinogradov, consultant
- 10.00 – 10.30 Discussion
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 -12.00 Presentations by IFAS, MFAs, Ministries of Justice and other stakeholder ministries’ and agencies’ representatives
- 12.00 -12.30 Adoption of decisions, recommendations and a report of the Working Group
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch

Second Plenary Session

Chairman – Mr. Timur Kamalov, Uzbekistan

- 14.00 -14.10 Discussion of proposals for further development of the project on cooperation with regard to dam safety in Central Asia
Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE;
Mr. Yuri Steklov, consultant;
country representatives;
EADB representative
- 14.10 -14.30 Discussion
- 14.30-14.40 Work Plan for 2010
Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE
- 14.40-15.00 Discussion
- 15.00 -15.30 Outcome of the investigation of the accident at Sayano-Shushenskaya HPP and on

measures aimed at prevention of such accidents in the future.

Mr. Dmitry Radkevich, consultant

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00 -17.00 Review and adoption of decisions, recommendations and report of the Meeting.
Conclusion of the Meeting

Plan of Work for the Second Phase of the “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” Project in 2010

Under the project the following main goals were envisaged to be achieved:

A - The Governments of the participating countries have introduced or revised national regulatory frameworks for dam safety.

B - The Governments of the participating countries have set up a regional cooperative framework on dam safety and sustained intraregional cooperation, including the introduction and maintenance of early warning systems for dam accidents.

C - The Governments of the participating countries have the necessary documentation and technical capacity for harmonizing technical regulations and procedures for the monitoring and evaluating of dam performance.

D - The Governments of the participating countries have better access to potential sources of technical assistance for rehabilitation of dams and improvement of monitoring and early warning systems.

The work plan for 2010

1. Support to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in improvement of their national legislations based on Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures (output A)
2. Development of the Draft Agreement on Cooperation related to the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures in Central Asia (output B)
3. Development of a model technical regulation “Provision of Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures” (output C)

Under the project the following events are planned to take place in 2010:

1. Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Development of a Regional Agreement and Meeting of the Working Group on Harmonization of Regulatory, Legislative and Technical Management instruments
Bishkek or Tashkent
2 days (April -May 2010)
2. Training for high level officials
Moscow¹
10 days (beginning of summer 2010)

¹ If necessary financial resources will be available.

3. Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia (Including meetings of the Working Groups)
Bishkek or Tashkent or Almaty or Dushanbe
2 days (October-November 2010)

In case of availability of funds, other activities such as additional training, meetings on bilateral cooperation on dam safety and cooperation on pumping stations may be considered.