

TRANSLATION

Original: RUSSIAN

8 May 2006

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

**REPORT OF THE SECOND EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON THE PROMOTION
OF DAM SAFETY COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA**

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10–11 April 2006

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The Second Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 10–11 April 2006. The Meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in close collaboration with the Executive Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EB IFAS).

2. The Meeting was held within the framework of the project “Capacity building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia” that is being implemented by UNECE and UNESCAP. The project, implemented under the supervision of the Project Working Group for Rational Use of Energy and Water Resources in Central Asia in the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs), aims to strengthen national capacities with regard to dam safety and to improve regional cooperation in this area. The project is also a contribution to the implementation of the Aral Sea Basin Programme 2 (ASBP-2) and follows the decision taken by the First Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 24–25 March 2004.

Objectives of the Meeting

3. The main objective of the Meeting was to facilitate cooperation between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the development of national legislation on dam safety and of a draft regional agreement on cooperation in emergency situations involving hydrotechnical installations. The event’s other objective was the exchange of relevant experiences between the participants.

Attendance

4. The Meeting was attended by 26 experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; IFAS was represented by four participants. Staff members of the UNESCAP and UNECE secretariats and a consultant brought the total number of participants to 38. The list of participants is provided in Annex 1.

Opening of the Meeting

5. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Almabek Nurushev, Director of the Executive Board of IFAS in the Republic of Kazakhstan. On behalf of the host country, he welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of cooperation on dam safety for all the countries of Central Asia. He noted the timeliness of the Meeting and underlined that promoting safe exploitation of dams and other hydrotechnical installations is a priority of IFAS. He expressed gratitude to UNECE and UNESCAP for their cooperation with IFAS in this area.

6. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Advisor of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of the UNECE secretariat, highlighted in his presentation the issues of financing and the proposed form of implementation of the project “Capacity building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia”. He greeted the participants of the Meeting and wished them successful work.

7. Mr. Yuri Steklov of the Environment and Sustainable Development Division of the UNESCAP secretariat greeted the meeting participants. He welcomed the broadening of the participation to include representatives of Ministries of Justice, Foreign Offices and Ministries of Emergency Situations. He expressed his gratitude to the Executive Board of IFAS in Kazakhstan for agreeing to host the meeting and to the Government of Finland for financial support of the project.

8. Mr. Markku Maunula, Head of the Water Management Unit, Finnish Environmental Institute, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Finland. He said that the project would undoubtedly facilitate the strengthening of cooperation between the countries in Central Asia on dam safety.

Election of Officers

9. Mr. Nurlan Atshabaarov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Water Resources in Kazakhstan; Mr. Kydykbek Beishekeev, First Deputy General Director of the Department of Water Management in Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Ismoil Nachmidinov, Head of the Management Department, the Ministry of Melioration and Water Management in Tajikistan; Mr. Guvanch Khaimedov, Main Engineer, Ministry of Water Management in Turkmenistan; and Mr. Timur Kamalov, Chairman of the State Inspectorate "Gostekhvodnadzor" of Uzbekistan each chaired one of the Meeting's sessions.

Approval of the Agenda

10. Mr. Yuri Steklov of the UNESCAP secretariat outlined the objectives of the Meeting and presented its agenda and work programme.

11. The following agenda was approved:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Approval of the Meeting agenda
4. The legislative and normative basis for dam safety in Central Asia
5. Presentation and discussion of a draft model national law "On the safety of hydrotechnical installations"
6. Development of proposals for the draft regional agreement on cooperation in case of emergency situations involving hydrotechnical installations
7. Development of Meeting recommendations
8. Other issues
9. Closing of the meeting

The full programme of the Second Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia appears in Annex 2.

B. PROCEEDINGS

12. Under agenda item 4, representatives of the participating countries and the Technical Director of the IFAS Executive Committee made presentations, which were discussed in detail.

13. Mr. Maunula presented Finland's experience with establishing and implementing dam safety legislation.
14. Under agenda item 5, Mr. Dmitrii Radkevich, consultant, presented the draft model national law "On the safety of hydrotechnical installations".
15. Mr. Ernazar Makhmudov, Director of the Institute of Water Problems of the Academy of Sciences in Uzbekistan, made an intervention on "The interlinkage of national dam safety with dams on transboundary rivers". Mr. Dauletiyar Bayalimov, senior scientific officer of the Institute of the University named after Korkyt-Ata, Kazakhstan, highlighted in his intervention the dam safety problems of the Shardarya dam and the prevention of flooding of riverbanks and populated areas downstream.
16. The lecturers stressed the high interest of Central Asian countries in developing national dam safety legislation and expressed the intention to take necessary measures in this direction, using the opportunities offered by the project.
17. Under agenda item 6, Mr. Radkevich presented a draft regional agreement on cooperation in emergency situations involving hydrotechnical installations.
18. Under agenda item 7, the meeting participants discussed in detail the draft model national law "On the safety of hydrotechnical installations" and the draft regional agreement on cooperation in emergency situations involving hydrotechnical installations that had been presented by Mr. Radkevich, and they agreed on the conclusions and recommendations presented in the following section.

C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

19. The Participants recommended taking the following actions:

I. At the project level

- I.1. Before 1 June 2006 the National Experts should finalize the national reports, including general information on dams, according to the structure of the terms of reference.
- I.2. On the basis of the finalized national reports, the secretariat should prepare a draft publication on the legal aspects of the safe exploitation of dams in Central Asia before 1 September 2006 and present the draft for discussion during the next Meeting of the Expert Group in November 2006.

II. At the national level

Recognizing the necessity to improve the legislation on the safety of hydrotechnical installations in the countries of Central Asia, the participants made the following decisions:

- II. 1. The draft model national law "On the safety of hydrotechnical installations" is accepted as a basis for further work.
- II. 2. National Experts will initiate a discussion in their respective countries of the draft model national law "On the safety of hydrotechnical installations" and prepare a summary of the comments on the draft and make it available to the international consultant before 1 July 2006.

II. 3. The international consultant will revise the draft law and send it to the UNECE before 1 August 2006 for distribution to the National Experts.

II. 4. The National Experts will present the new version of the draft model national law "On the safety of hydrotechnical installations" for consideration to appropriate Ministries and authorities before 1 September 2006.

II. 5. The National Experts will initiate a discussion of the draft regional agreement (on a bi- or multilateral basis) on cooperation in the case of emergency situations involving hydrotechnical installations, prepare a summary of comments on this draft and make them available to the international consultant before 1 July 2006.

II. 6. The international consultant will introduce the proposed changes and additions to the draft regional agreement and make it available to the UNECE secretariat before 1 August 2006 for distribution to National Experts and the Executive Committee of IFAS.

II. 7. The National Experts will prepare proposals on legal and organizational issues related to regional cooperation on dam safety before 1 September 2006.

II. 8. The National Experts will present the results of the discussion and the proposals on the draft model national law "On the safety of hydrotechnical installations" and the draft regional agreement on cooperation in the case of emergency situations involving hydrotechnical installations during the next Meeting of the Expert Group.

II. 9. The National Experts will prepare proposals for possible forms of dam safety cooperation and present these during the next Meeting of the Expert Group.

III. At the regional level

International organizations and experts should:

III. 1. Facilitate cooperation between the countries of Central Asia in the development of legislation on dam safety by consultations and consultative meetings.

III. 2. Facilitate exchange between countries of information in the preparation of national legislation for dam safety.

III. 3. Organize training for staff dealing with inspection of dam safety, including through sharing of experiences in this area by countries outside the region.

20. The participants of the Meeting agreed to organize the Expert Group's next Meeting in November 2006.

21. The following preliminary agenda for the Third Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia was agreed upon:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Approval of the Meeting agenda
4. Discussion of a draft publication on dam safety legislation in Central Asia

5. Results of discussions and revisions of the draft model national law "On the safety of hydrotechnical installations"
6. Results of discussions and revisions of the draft regional agreement on cooperation in the case of emergency situations involving hydrotechnical installations
7. Development of Meeting Recommendations
8. Other issues
9. Closing of the meeting

Annex 1

СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ
Второго совещания группы экспертов по содействию развитию сотрудничества
по безопасности плотин в Центральной Азии
10–11 апреля 2006 года, г. Алматы

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
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10–11 April 2006, Almaty, Kazakhstan

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Annex 2

**Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia
10-11 April 2006, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

Venue: Conference hall, Executive Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in Kazakhstan. Lenin St.26, Alatau village, Karasaiskiy district, Almaty oblast, Kazakhstan.

PROGRAM

Monday, 10 April 2006

- 08.30 - 09.00 Registration of participants
- 09.00 – 09.20 **Opening of the Meeting.**
(Chairman – Mr. Almabek Nurushev, Executive Committee of IFAS, Republic of Kazakhstan)
Opening statement on behalf of the UN ECE and UNESCAP. *Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser on Environment, UN ECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, Mr. Yuri Steklov, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP Water Resources Section, Environment and Sustainable Development Division*
Opening statement on behalf of the Government of Finland. *Mr Markku Maunula, Finnish Environment Institute*
- 09.20 - 09.30 Presentation of the Meeting program. *Mr. Yuri Steklov, UNESCAP.*
- Session 1. National regulatory frameworks for dam safety in the Central Asia. (Chairman – Mr. Anatolii Ryabtsev, Kazakhstan)**
- 09.30 - 09.40 Dam safety as a priority in the work of IFAS. *Mr Anatolii Kholmatov, Executive Committee of IFAS*
- 09.40 - 10.00 Presentation of national reports on the safety of dams and work to ensure safe operation of dams in Central Asia. *Mr. Tulegen Sarsembekov, Kazakhstan; Mr. Alexey Zyrianov, Kyrgyzstan; representative of Tajikistan (?); Mr. Kurbangeldy Ballyev, Turkmenistan; Mr. Timur Kamalov, Uzbekistan.*
(Each country has 20 minutes including 5 minutes of questions)
- 10.00-10.30 Coffee break
- 10.30-11.50 Presentation of national reports, continuation
- 11.50-12.30 Additional interventions (5-7 minutes) and discussion
- 12.30-13.30 Lunch
- Session 2. Legislation to ensure safety of water control structures. (Chairman – Mr Kydykbek Beishekeev, Kyrgyzstan)**
- 13.30-14.00 Dam safety legislation in Finland. *Mr Markku Maunula, Finnish Environment Institute.*

14.00-14.45	Draft model national law to ensure safety of water control structures. <i>Mr.Dmitry Radkevich, consultant</i>
14.45 - 15.30	Discussion
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16-00 -17.00	Informal discussions and consultations

Tuesday, 11 April 2006

Session 3. Development of cooperation in case of emergency situations related to water control structures. (Chairman – Mr. Ismail Nachmidinov, Tajikistan)

09.00- 09.30	Outline of a subregional agreement on cooperation in case of emergency situations related to water control structures. <i>Mr.Dmitry Radkevich, consultant</i>
09.30-10.30	Discussion
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.20	<i>Comments by representatives of IFAS and participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan</i>
12.20-12.30	Summing-up of discussion. <i>Mr.Dmitry Radkevich, consultant</i>
12.30-13.30	Lunch

Session 4. Recommendations for the development of cooperation to ensure dam safety in Central Asia. (Chairman – Mr. Guvanch Hanmedov, Turkmenistan)

13.30-15.00	<i>Comments by representatives of IFAS and participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan</i>
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break

Session 5. Elaboration and adoption of Meeting recommendations. (Chairman – Mr.Timur Kamalov, Uzbekistan)

15.30 -16.30	Discussion
16.30- 17.00	Adoption of Meeting recommendations
	Closing of the Meeting.

