

TRANSLATION

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UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

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

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 14 March, 2008**

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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. A National Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan 14 March, 2008. The Meeting was organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with 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).

2. The Meeting was held within the framework of Phase II of the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” implemented by UNECE. 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 (SPECA) aimed at the improvement of the national laws and state regulation in the field of dam safety in the 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 for the period of 2003 to 2010 (ASBP-2) implemented by the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS).

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

3. The direct goal of the Meeting was to discuss the participation of Uzbekistan in the development of a Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures, harmonization of legislative framework and the technical normative documents in this field. In addition, it was an objective to have an exchange of experience in respect to updating of the national normative-technical framework to ensure safety of hydraulic structures.

### **2. Attendance**

4. 31 representatives of agencies dealing with government regulation to ensure safety of dams and other hydraulic engineering structures, and representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Emergency, Ministry for Agriculture and Water Management, other organizations took part in the Meeting. 35 persons included in the list of Appendix 1 to this Report took part in the Meeting together with representatives of the UNECE Secretariat and consultants.

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

5. The Meeting was opened by 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). He informed about the results of the Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia, which took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan 12-13 March, 2008. Mr. T. Kamalov stressed the importance of cooperation on dam safety for all countries of Central Asia and he pointed out with satisfaction that the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures and the Draft Regional Agreement on cooperation in this field were prepared at the previous stage of the Project. Mr. Timur Kamalov expressed his gratitude to the UNECE for the continuing support of the Project.

6. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of UNECE pointed out in his speech that the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” was carried out under the aegis of SPECA and the UNECE Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. He underlined that the safety of hydraulic structures in Uzbekistan was an example for other countries in the field of state regulation. He also pointed out with satisfaction that the Project was carried out in close cooperation with IFAS and EurAsEC.

### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

7. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division of UNECE, outlined the objectives of the Meeting and presented the agenda and the Work Programme of the Meeting.

8. The following agenda of the Meeting was approved:
  1. Opening of the Meeting.
  2. Approval of the agenda of the Meeting.
  3. On the results of Phase I of the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” and contents of Phase II of this Project.
  4. Normative-technical framework and the organization of state regulation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in Uzbekistan and their possible improvement.
  5. On the participation in the development of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures and proposals on how to organize discussions on this issue on the regional level.
  6. On cooperation in the harmonization of legislative framework and technical normative documents in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in the countries of Central Asia.
  7. On the Work Plan for project implementation in 2008.
  8. Development of the Meeting’s recommendations.
  9. Miscellaneous.
  10. Closing of the Meeting.
9. The Programme of the National Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia is presented in Appendix 2.

## **B. PROCEEDINGS**

10. Under Item 3 of the agenda, Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Secretariat, presented the results of Phase I of the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” implementation and described the main directions of cooperation between participating countries in Phase II of the Project.
11. Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant, brought to the attention of the participants the discussions under the main agenda items of the Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia that took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan 12-13 March, 2008, and introduced the conclusions and recommendations, approved by the Regional Meeting participants (Annex 3).
12. The participants of the Meeting endorsed the idea of Gosvodkhoznadzor to establish a Regional Training Centre on safety of hydraulic structures with the support of UNECE. The representative of Central Asian Research Institute for Irrigation proposed collaboration with Gosvodkhoznadzor in the development of curricula and training activities at the Regional Training Centre.
13. Under Item 4 of the agenda, it was stated that even if the legislative framework and technical normative documents in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in Uzbekistan are better developed compared to other countries of Central Asia, further additions to the normative – legal framework and technical normative documents are needed in the field of safety of hydraulic structures.
14. Under Item 5 of the agenda, Uzbekistan confirmed its readiness to act a lead party in the finalization of the draft of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures. An interagency meeting to discuss the draft of the Agreement was proposed.
15. Under Item 6 of the Agenda Mr. Dmitry Radkevich, Consultant, proposed to involve the Hydroproject Association, including Hydroproject Institutes located in Almaty, Dushanbe and Tashkent, in the work on harmonization of the technical normative documents in the field of dam safety in the countries of Central Asia.

16. The participants of the meeting raised the following issues requiring priority actions: the improvement of the reliability of large pumping stations cascades located on the territory of Uzbekistan and neighboring countries, and the improvement of access for maintenance personnel to water facilities of interstate use, located on the territory of neighboring countries.

### **C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

17. The participants of the Meeting made decisions on the discussed issues and agreed to:

1. Evaluate positively the participation of Gosvodkhoznadzor in the Regional UN Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”.
2. Note with satisfaction the successful organization of the Regional Meeting within the framework of this project, which took place in Tashkent, from 12 to 13 March, 2008.
3. Take into consideration the proposals for improvement of national legislation for safety of hydraulic structures and submit follow-up proposals on this issue to Gosvodkhoznadzor.
4. Request the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan to provide assistance to Gosvodkhoznadzor in the establishment and equipment of the Training Center, which in the future can be used for advanced training of experts from other countries in the region.
5. Support the proposal of Uzbekistan to act as a lead country in the finalization of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures.
6. Request the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan to nominate its representative before 15 April to the provisional Working Group to prepare the finalized draft of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures.
7. Request the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan to hold a meeting jointly with Gosvodkhoznadzor and other ministries concerned to consider at the national level the draft of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures and to agree on a national position on this issue.
8. Request Gosvodkhoznadzor to nominate its representative before 15 April, 2008, to the Working Group to prepare the finalized draft of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures and to the Working Group on harmonization of the technical normative documents in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia.
9. Request UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) to increase the scope of the Project by including the issue of the safety of large pumping stations, taking into account their significance in the economy of the countries of the region.
10. Recommend Gosvodkhoznadzor, with UNECE Secretariat support, to arrange for information dissemination in mass media on the regional cooperation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures.
11. Recommend UNECE Secretariat and Gosvodkhoznadzor to hold annual meetings on the issue of safety of hydraulic structures.

## СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ

Национальное совещание по сотрудничеству по безопасности плотин в Центральной Азии  
14 марта 2008 года, Ташкент, Узбекистан

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
The National Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
March 14, 2008, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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**National Meeting  
for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
14 March, 2008  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

**PROGRAMME**

- 09:00 - 09:30 Registration of participants
- 09:30 – 09:40 **Opening of the Meeting**  
*(Chairman: 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 (Gosvodhoznadzor)*  
Greeting on behalf of the UNECE  
*Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of UNECE*
- 09:40 - 09:50 **Presentation of the Meeting Programme:**  
*Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of UNECE*
- 09:50-10:00 **On the results of implementation of Phase I of the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” and contents of Phase II of the Project.**  
*Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of UNECE*
- 10:00-10.30 **Normative-legal framework and organizational forms for the state regulation in the field of hydraulic structures safety in Uzbekistan and their possible updating**  
*Mr. Timur Kamalov , Gosvodhoznadzor*  
*Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant*  
*Mr. Dmitry Radkevich, Consultant*  
*Discussion*
- 10:30-11.00 Coffee Break
- 11:00-11:40 **On participation in the development of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures, and proposals on how to organize discussions on this issue on the regional level**  
*Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant*  
*Representatives of Gosvodhoznadzor, MFA, Ministry of Justice and other ministries and departments concerned*  
*Discussion*
- 11:40-12.30 **On cooperation in harmonization of the legal framework and technical normative documents in the field of dam safety in the countries of Central Asia**  
*Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant*  
*Representatives of Gosvodhoznadzor and other ministries and departments*  
*Discussion*



12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.00	Discussion
14.30-15.00	<b>Consideration and approval of the work plan for 2008</b> <i>Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser of UNECE</i> <i>Discussion</i>
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break
15.30-16.00	<b>Consideration and approval of decisions, recommendations, and report of the Meeting.</b> <b>Closing of the Meeting</b>

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**The Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia**  
**Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 12-13 March, 2008**

National coordinators of the countries shall be entrusted with the coordination of all actions aimed at the implementation of these recommendations of the Meeting:

Kazakhstan – M.O. Ospanov  
Kyrgyzstan – I.A. Djoldoshaliev (to be confirmed)  
Tajikistan – to be nominated by the Tajik Government  
Turkmenistan – K.B. Ballyev (to be confirmed)  
Uzbekistan – T.K. Kamalov

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

**I. On the Draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures:**

- a. To continue the work on finalizing the draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures, using as a basis the text of the draft Agreement included in Appendix 7 of the UNECE publication “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”.
- b. To take into consideration the amendments and additions proposed by Tajikistan (a version of the draft Agreement dated 3 March, 2008), as well as the proposals put forward during the discussion of this question, in the finalization of the draft Regional Agreement.
- c. To establish a provisional Working Group for finalizing the draft Regional Agreement, consisting of one representative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and one or two representatives of the national agencies dealing with state regulation of safety of hydraulic structures in each of the countries, representatives of IFAS and EurAsEC, and international consultants of the Project.
- d. To request the national coordinators, jointly with concerned state authorities, and representatives of IFAS and EurAsEC participating in the Meeting to nominate persons to the UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) before 15 April 2008 for including them in the provisional Working Group for the finalization of the draft Regional Agreement.
- e. That the provisional Working Group shall prepare the finalized draft Agreement before 1 May of this year before submitting it to each of the participating countries for consideration in accordance with established procedure.
- f. To note with satisfaction the proposal of the Republic of Uzbekistan to act as a lead country in the finalization of the Regional Agreement and accept with gratitude the proposal of IFAS to coordinate activities in this direction and to request the national coordinators to bring to the notice of UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) the opinions of respective countries on these proposals before 15 April 2008.

**II. On the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures:**

a. To take into consideration the information on the current work and plans for improvement and formulation of the national regulatory legal frameworks on safety of hydraulic structures in the countries of Central Asia.

b. To request the UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) and EC IFAS to send letters approved by the national coordinators to the Governments of respective countries with information about the preparation of the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures and the recommendation to use this document or its separate sections for the improvement and formulation of the national regulatory legal framework with regard to the state regulation of safety of hydraulic structures.

### **III. On the Establishment of a Regional Training Centre:**

a. To evaluate positively the proposal of Uzbekistan to establish a Regional Training Centre for Dam Safety using the opportunities provided by the Training Centre of Gosvodkhoznadzor, and note with gratitude the intention of Uzbekistan to provide a venue for the holding of training courses and cover part of their administrative costs.

b. To recommend the organization of a pilot regional training course not later than the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009 at the venue of Gosvodkhoznadzor in order to test training programmes for specialists responsible for ensuring safety of hydraulic engineering structures.

c. To request the UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) to, if possible, identify funds for co-funding of the pilot regional training course from the Project budget or facilitate mobilization of funds for this purpose from other sources.

### **IV. On Scientific and Technical Cooperation:**

a. To establish a Working Group for harmonization of the normative and technical documentation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in the countries of Central Asia.

b. To request the national coordinators, in collaboration with concerned state authorities, to nominate persons to the UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) before 15 April this year to the Working Group for harmonization of the normative and technical documentation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in the countries of Central Asia (See Item a).

c. To express gratitude to Mr. Dmitry Radkevich for the provision of the electronic database of legislative instruments and regulatory legal acts of the Russian Federation and scientific engineering materials for the safety of hydraulic structures and to distribute this material among the concerned agencies in the participating countries.

### **Y. On the Work Plan for 2008:**

a. To adopt the revised Project Work Plan for 2008.

b. The host organizations to initiate activities for the organization of the planned events assisted by the Secretariat of UNECE and EC IFAS.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the staff of Gosvodkhoznadzor of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the excellent organization of the Meeting.