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Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development

**Report of the National Meeting
on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 12 June 2008**

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 National Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 12 June 2008. The Meeting was organized by UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) jointly with the Scientific and Research Center of the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development of the International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea (SIC ICSD IFAS) with the participation of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Nature Protection.

2. The Meeting was held within the framework of the 2nd stage of the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” that is implemented by UNECE. The Project is executed under the aegis of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources of the UN Special Program for Economics of Central Asia (SPECICA) and within the framework of the Work Program of UNECE Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes aims at the improvement of the national legislations and governmental 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 framework of the Program of particular actions on the improvement of ecological and social and economic environment in the Aral Sea basin for a period 2003-2010 (ASBP-2) executed by IFAS. Also, the Project is a part of the “Environment and Security” Initiative (ENVSEC) and is financed by the Government of Finland.

1. Objectives of the Meeting

3. The direct objective of the Meeting was to discussion the participation of Turkmenistan in the development of a Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures (HS), harmonization of the legislative framework and the technical normative documents in this field. In addition, it was an objective to exchange experience with regard to the potential improvement of national normative-technical framework to ensure safety of hydraulic structures.

2. Participants

4. 17 representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources directly engaged in governmental regulation to ensure safety of dams and other HS as well as representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Nature Protection, Civil Defense and Rescue Works Authority of the Ministry of Civil Defense and other organizations participated in the work of this Meeting. 24 persons including representatives of the UNECE Secretariat, SIC-ICSD IFAS,

Basin Water Resources Organization (BWO) “Amudarya” and consultants took part in the Meeting. A list of participants is found in Attachment 1.

3. Opening of the Meeting

5. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Kakadurdy Ataliev, Deputy Minister of Water Resources. On behalf of the Host Organization he warmly welcomed all Participants and wished them success in their work. He highlighted that the problem under consideration at the Meeting – the safety of hydraulic structures – was of importance for all countries in Central Asia including Turkmenistan as well as for the region as a whole. He noted that dams and other large HS represented a potential danger in a transboundary context for any other objects of economy and population in case of their destruction. Mr. Kakadurdy Ataliev also pointed out that the Participants of the Meeting would deal with important issues such as the elaboration and improvement of the legislation of Turkmenistan on HS safety and promotion of the development of cooperation in this field.

6. The participants of the Meeting were welcomed by Mr. Djumamurat Saparmuradov, Deputy Minister of Nature Protection. He directed the Participants’ attention to the fact that upon consideration of issues of provision of HS safety such aspects as the achievement of sustainable development and impact on the environment should be taken into account. In this regard, he noted the importance of attracting relevant specialists to the participation in the elaboration of the national legislation on HS safety would contribute to the successful work.

7. Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Advisor of UN ECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division conveyed greetings to the Participants of the Meeting from the UNECE Management. In his speech he highlighted that representatives of Turkmenistan from SIC-ICSD IFAS and the Ministry of Water Resources actively participated in the implementation of the first stage of the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” and that they had made a significant contribution to the two principal documents finalized during the first stage of the Project: the Model National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures and the Draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation in this field, and to the preparation of the UNECE publication on the results of this phase. In conclusion he thanked the Ministry of Water Resources and SIC-ICSD IFAS for the cooperation in the organization of the Meeting and expressed his confidence that the representatives of Turkmenistan would actively participate in the implementation of the second phase of the Project.

4. Approval of the Agenda

8. Mr. Bo Libert, UN ECE Secretariat, briefly informed about the objectives of the Meeting. Then he presented the Agenda and Work Program of the Meeting.
9. The Agenda was approved as follows:
 1. Opening of the Meeting.
 2. Approval of the Meeting Agenda.
 3. On the results of the execution of the first phase of the Project “Dams Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” and the contents of the second phase of the Project
 4. Normative and legal frameworks and organizational forms of the governmental regulation in the field of the safety of hydraulic structures in Turkmenistan and their potential improvement.
 5. On the elaboration of the Regional Agreement on the Cooperation in the field of the safety of hydraulic structures and proposals on how to organize discussions on this issue at the regional level.
 6. On cooperation in harmonization of a legislation base and approximation of technical normative documentation in the field of dam safety in Central Asian countries.
 7. On the work plan for Project implementation in 2008.
 8. Consideration and approval of decisions, recommendations and the report of the Meeting.
 9. Other issues.
 10. Closing of the Meeting.
10. The Program of the National Meeting on the Cooperation in Dam Safety in Central Asia is found in Attachment 2.

B. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

11. Mr. Bo Libert, UN ECE Secretariat, made a report on Item 3 of the Agenda on the results of the execution of the first phase of the Project “ Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” 2004 - 2006. He noted with satisfaction that the first phase of the Project was finalized by a publication (UNECE Water Series No 5, 2007). This publication includes the documents developed within the framework of the first phase, an overview of the water resources infrastructure of Central Asia including a list of large dams in the region and a description of existing

legal and organizational frameworks of regulation of HS safety in Central Asia countries including Turkmenistan.

12. Mr. Bo Libert also described the tasks for the Participating Countries in the execution of the second phase of this Project in 2008-2010. He stressed that future cooperation of Central Asia countries would aim at the conclusion of the Regional Agreement on the Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydrological Structures; improvement and harmonization of technical normative documents in the field of hydraulic structures and capacity building of specialists monitoring the safety of hydraulic structures. He also informed the participants about the results of the Regional Meeting on the Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia held on 12-13 March 2008 in Tashkent commencing the implementation of the second phase of the Project. He stressed the fact several recommendations of this Meeting were not executed within the timeframe specified by the Participating Countries including Turkmenistan. In this regard, he expressed the concern that the untimely execution of decisions taken and recommendations may lead to being behind of the plan of the execution of the Project and the possible termination of its funding.

13. Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant, familiarized the Participants with the discussions under the main items of the Agenda of the Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia, 12-13 March 2008, Tashkent, as well as the conclusions and recommendations approved at that Meeting (Attachment 3).

14. Under Item 3 of the Agenda it was noted that the improvement of the legislation of Turkmenistan on the safety of hydrological structure was required. Moreover, several of the provisions of the Model HS Safety Law that were prepared within the framework of the UN Project could be used in this work. It was stressed that the establishment of a specialized institution responsible for the functions of state supervision for HS safety including dams and river dikes should be provided for in the updated legislation.

15. Under Item 5 of the Agenda it was stressed that the conclusion of a the Regional Agreement on the Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydrological Structures would promote the development of relations between Central Asia countries in this important field.

16. Under Item 6 of the Agenda the opinion was expressed that updating of normative and technical documentation in the field of HS safety was very important for the country. Moreover, it was highlighted that in the conditions of Turkmenistan a particular attention should be focused on issues of technical regulation of earth dams and dikes. Also, the necessity of training and capacity-building of specialists'

providing HS safety operation was highlighted. For this purpose a possible support by the UNECE Project was welcomed.

C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

17. The Participants of the Meeting made the following decisions and recommendations on the issues discussed:

1. To positively assess the contribution of the representatives of Turkmenistan in the implementation of the regional UN Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” and to prioritize further participation of authorities and institutions concerned in this project.

2. That the Ministry of Water Resources should propose to the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan to establish an inter-departmental working group on the preparation of the draft National Law on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures.

3. That the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Water Resources should appoint their representatives in the regional international working group on the revision of the draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures. To arrange a process of discussion of the draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Safety of Hydraulic Structures within the framework of the intergovernmental working group mentioned in paragraph 2.

4. That the Ministry of Water Resources should speed up the appointment of their representatives in the regional international working group on approximation of normative technical documentation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia.

5. That Ministry of Water Resources and SIC ICSD IFAS should facilitate the distribution of information on the regional cooperation in the field of safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia with the assistance of UNECE.

6. That the Ministry of Water Resources and SIC ICSD IFAS will annually hold meetings on the safety of hydraulic structures with the participation of ministries and departments concerned.

7. To support a proposal on the conduction of regional training refresher courses for specialists in the field of the safety of hydraulic structures in

Central Asia with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources of Turkmenistan.

18. The Participants of the Meeting expressed their thanks to the Ministry of Water Resources and SIC ICSD IFAS for the excellent organization of the meeting.

СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ

Национальное совещание по сотрудничеству по безопасности плотин
в Центральной Азии
12 июня 2008 года, Ашгабат, Туркменистан

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The National Meeting on the Cooperation in Dam Safety in Central Asia
12 June 2008, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

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4.	Ханмамедов Маметгулы – директор института «Туркменсувылымтаслама»	Hanmamedov Mametguli - Director. “Turkmensuvilymtaslama” Institute	Tel. 351835 Fax. 351835
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10.	Гелдиев Нурлы Байрамович - заместитель начальника по эксплуатации ПО «Балкансувходжалык»	Geldiev Nurly Bairamovich - Deputy Head for Exploitation of “Balkansuvkhojalyk” IA	Tel. 53887 Fax.
11.	Мамедов Акмырат Гурбанмырадович - начальник отдела водопользования ПО «Дашогузсувходжалык»	Mamedov Akmyrat Gurbanmyradovich - Head of Water Use Department, “Dashoguzsuvkhojalyk” IA	Tel. 47411 Fax.
12.	Османов Омар Хамраевич – начальник управления «Амударьякенарберкидиш» ПО «Лебапсувходжалык»	Osmanov Omar Khamraevich - Head of Administration, “Amudaryakenarberkidish”, “Lebapsuvkhojalyk” IA	
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**The National Meeting on the Cooperation in Dam Safety
in Central Asia
12 June 2008
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

PROGRAM

- 09:00 - 09:30 Registration of Participants:
- 09:30 – 10:00 **Opening of the Meeting**
Speech of welcome on behalf of the Government of Turkmenistan
(by agreement)
Speech of welcome on behalf of UNECE
Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser
- 10:00 - 10:15 **Adoption of the Agenda and election of governing bodies of the Meeting. Presentation of the Meeting Program:**
Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser
- 10:15 - 10:30 **On the results of the execution of the first phase of the Project “Dams Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” and the contents of the second phase of the Project:**
Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser
- 10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 - 11:40 **Normative and legal frameworks and organizational forms of the governmental regulation in the field of hydraulic structures safety in Turkmenistan and their potential improvement**
Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant
Representatives of ministries and departments concerned
Discussion
- 11:40 - 12:30 **On the elaboration of the regional agreement on the cooperation in the field of the safety of hydraulic structures and proposals on how to organize discussions**

on this issue at a regional level.

*Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant
Representatives of MFA, Ministry of Water Resources,
Ministry of Nature, Ministries of Justices and other
ministries and departments concerned
Discussion*

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:30 **On the cooperation in harmonization of the legislation base and approximation of technical normative documentation in the field of dam safety in Central Asian countries**

*Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant
Representatives of ministries and departments concerned
Discussion*

14:30-15:00 **On the work plan for Project implementation in 2008**

*Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser
Discussion*

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-16:00 **Consideration and approval of decisions, recommendations and a report of the Meeting.**

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

To impose a coordination of all actions aimed at the fulfillment of these recommendations of the Meeting on the national Coordinators of the countries:

Kazakhstan – Ospanov M.O.

Kyrgyzstan – Djoldoshaliev I.A. (by agreement)

Tajikistan – upon appointment by the Government

Turkmenistan – Ballyev K.B. (by agreement)

Uzbekistan – Kamalov T.K.

The Participants of the Meeting took decisions on the issues discussed and recommendations to undertake the actions as follows:

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

a. To continue the work on a revision of the Draft Regional Agreement on the Cooperation in HS Safety taking a text of the draft agreement containing in Attachment 7 of UN ECE publication “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” as a basis.

b. Upon revision of the draft Regional Agreement to take into consideration alterations and additions proposed by Tajikistan (draft agreement version dated 3 March 2008) as well as proposals made in a process of discussion on this issue.

c. To establish a temporary working group on revision of the draft Regional Agreement comprised of one representative of MFA and one or two representatives of national departments dealing with the issues of the governmental regulation of hydraulic structures safety in each of the countries, IFAC representatives and EUROASIAEC as well as the international Consultants of the Project.

d. To request the national Coordinators of the countries together with the state bodies concerned as well as representatives of IFAC and EUROASIAEC participating in the Meeting to present to UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) before 15 April this year the nominees to be included in a temporary working group on a revision of the draft Regional Agreement.

e. To the temporary working group to prepare before 1 May this year the updated Draft Agreement to introduce for consideration to each Participating Country in accordance with established procedure.

f. To note with satisfaction a proposal of Uzbekistan on its willingness to be a leading country on a revision of the Regional Agreement and to accept with thanks IFAC proposal on the coordination of actions in this regard. To request the national Coordinators to inform UNECE (Mr. Bo Libert) of the opinions of the relevant countries in respect of these proposals in term before 15 April this year.

II. On the Model National Law “On Hydraulic Structure Safety”:

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

b. To request UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo. Libert) and EC IFAS to send letters agreed upon with the national Coordinators to the Governments of relevant countries with the information on the preparation of the Model National Law on HS Safety and recommendations on the possibility for the use of this Law or its particular sections for the improvement and formulation of the national normative and legal frameworks on the governmental regulation of HS safety.

III. On the Establishment of the Regional Training Center:

a. To positively assess a proposal of Uzbekistan on the establishment of the Regional Training Center on dam safety with the use of capabilities provided by GosVodKhozNadzor Training Center and to note with gratitude Uzbekistan’s intention to provide premises to conduct training courses and to assume a part of the administration costs on their organization.

b. To recommend for the purpose of approbation of training programs of specialists responsible for the provision of HS safety to conduct the pilot regional training courses on the GosVodKhoznadzor base not later than 1 quarter 2009.

c. To request UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) to find funds, if possible, for partial financing of the pilot regional training courses from

the Project budget or to assist in the mobilization of financial funds for these purposes from any other sources.

IV. On the Scientific and Technical Cooperation:

- a. To establish a working group on agreement of normative technical documentation in the field of HS safety in Central Asia countries.
- b. To request the national Coordinators together with the state bodies concerned to present to UNECE Secretariat (Mr. Bo Libert) before 15 April this year the nominees to include in a working group on the approximation of normative technical documentation in the field of HS safety in Central Asia countries mentioned in paragraph a above.
- c. To express gratitude to Mr. Dmitry Radkevich for the provision of an electronic base of legislative and normative legal acts of the Russian Federation as well as scientific and technical materials on HS safety. To distribute the materials transferred among the departments concerned of the Participating Countries.

Y. On the Work Plan for 2008:

- a. To accept the refined Project Plan for 2008.
- b. To Receiving Organizations to initiate actions on the organization of actions planed with UNECE Secretariat and EC IFAC assistance.