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UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION

**REPORT, NATIONAL MEETING ON
DAM SAFETY COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA
Dushanbe, Tajikistan, October 30, 2009**

This Report is issued without official editing by the Department on Environment, Housing and Land Use of the UN/ECE Secretariat

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. A national meeting on dam safety cooperation in Central Asia was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on October 30, 2009. This meeting was organized by the UNECE in close cooperation with the Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources of the Tajik republic.

2. The meeting was held in the framework of the 2nd phase 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 within the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), and under the UNECE Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, aim to improve national laws and state regulations in the field of dam safety in the participating countries and to strengthen 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). The project is also a part of the “Environment and Security” Initiative (ENVSEC) and is financed by the government of Finland.

1. Meeting objectives

3. The immediate goal of the meeting was to exchange opinions regarding possible improvement of national legislation and national legislative base concerning the safety of hydrotechnical facilities (HTF). Another objective of this event was to discuss issues related to the participation of Tajikistan in drafting a regional agreement on the safety of HTF and cooperation in Central Asia to harmonize legislative base and streamline technical normative documents in this sphere.

2. Participants

4. In the meeting 20 representatives of the Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources, Ministry of Energy and Industry, the Energy Company “Barki Tojik” and representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Committee on Emergencies and other organizations participated, including representatives of UNDP and OSCE. Together with the UNECE Secretariat and consultants the total number of participants was 33; the full list of participants is found in Annex 1.

3. Session opening

5. The session was opened by Anvar Zoirov, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources. He heartily welcomed the participants and noted that Tajikistan stresses the importance of safety of HTF. Tens of million dollars are spent for this purpose every year from the national budget and other sources. As a result, most of the HTFs are in a satisfactory state. He noted that the unique Nurek HPS on the Vakhsh river was recently awarded a

quality certificate issued by International Commission on High Dams; this hydropower station is recognized as one of the highest achievement of engineering works in dams construction. Mr Zoirov also noted that Tajikistan, in the construction of new dams, will observe all technical regulations to ensure their safety and take into account interests of the neighboring states. New water reservoirs will make it possible to regulate the flow of transboundary rivers, which originate in the Tajik territory, and therefore improve the safety of HTF not only in Tajikistan, but also in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. In his closing words he voiced his confidence that the efforts attempted within the UN Project would facilitate improved cooperation and mutual trust with regard to safety of HTF and lead to sustainable development of the CAR countries.

6. The session participants were welcomed by Mr Khairullo Ibodzoda, a Tajik representative in the IFAS Executive Committee. He voiced satisfaction with the results of the ongoing fruitful cooperation between the IFAS and UNECE in the regional project for the safety of HTF. He stated that this project is in the interests of all the countries of the region and complies with the ASBP-2 project objectives.

7. Mr. Bo Libert, the UNECE Regional Advisor of the Environment, Housing and Land Use Department welcomed the participants on behalf of the UNECE management. He noted that the first phase of the project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” was actively supported by representatives of Tajikistan and its ministries and agencies, and the IFAS Executive Committee. These have made a significant contribution to the drafting of the two main documents concluding the first phase of the project, namely: a draft model national law on safety of HTF and a draft Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures, as well as in the preparation of a UNECE publication. Finally, he thanked the Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources for cooperation in this sphere and voiced his confidence that representatives of Tajikistan will be actively involved in the project’s second phase.

4. Approval of the Agenda

8. Mr. Bo Libert, UN/ECE Secretariat, briefed the participants on the meeting objectives, outlined the session agenda and the working schedule.

9. The following agenda was approved:

1. Opening
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Progress of the Project Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”
4. Legal aspects in the sphere of HTF safety in Tajikistan and ways of their improvement
5. On drafting the Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures and proposals for further actions.
6. On cooperation to harmonize legislation and streamline technical documentation on HTF safety in Central Asia.
7. Project work plan for 2010.
8. Review and approval of decisions and recommendations of the meeting
9. Other issues
10. Closing remarks

10. The Program of the National Meeting on Cooperation on Dam Safety in Central Asia is found in Annex 2.

B. PROCEEDINGS

11. On item 3 of the agenda Mr. Bo Libert, UN/ECE Secretariat, informed the participants on the results of the Project's first phase in 2004-2006. He noted with satisfaction that the Project 1st phase was finalised with a publication in The UNECE Water Series (UNECE publications on water issues) no 5, 2007. This publication includes documents developed during the first phase of the Project, reviews water-related infrastructure in Central Asian countries including a list of the high dams in the region and describes legal and organizational frameworks to regulate the safety of hydrotechnical facilities in Central Asian countries, including Tajikistan.

12. Mr Bo Libert also outlined the objectives for the participating countries during the second phase of the Project in 2008-2010. He stressed the objectives to establish a regional agreement on cooperation on hydrotechnical facilities between the Central Asian countries; improve and streamline national normative and legal bases on safety and improved qualification of experts to organize supervision over the safety of HTF.

13. Mr Yuri Steklov, consultant, briefed the participants on the discussion on regional cooperation on dam safety in Central Asian countries that took place in November 2008 in Almaty, and also on the results and recommendations agreed upon during this meeting. He noted that in order to implement the results of the regional meeting, meetings of temporary working groups "on harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments on dam safety in countries of Central Asia" (Tashkent, May 2009) and "on elaboration of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to the Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures" (Almaty, August 2009) have taken place. A pilot regional training course on the safety of HTF in Central Asia has been held (Tashkent, May 2009).

14. On item 4 of the Agenda, Mr Anatoly Kholmatov, a UNDP expert in Tajikistan, noted that some articles and provisions relating to the safety of HTF are found in the Water Code of the Tajik Republic, in the Rules on the Use of Water Facilities, in the Charter of "Barki Tojik" company and some other departmental rules and regulations. However, the country has neither a national law on the safety of HTF, nor a national body for this purpose. In the following discussion it was stated that one of the elements for adequate investment climate with regard to the construction of hydropower installations is a modern normative and legal basis on state regulation on the safety of HTF. Proposals were made to improve legislation on dam safety by including in such a law a number of articles with direct effect. It was also proposed to request the support of UNECE to draft a national law on dam safety.

15. Under item 5 of the agenda the meeting participants were informed on that the improved draft of the regional agreement on dam safety (September 13, 2009) and Additional draft agreement (September 24, 2009) formulated by international experts were submitted by the IFAS Executive Committee for consideration to the Tajik Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the MFAs of the other countries participating in the Project. The official opinions of the countries on these documents will be given during a regional meeting on dam safety to be held in Bishkek November 3-4, 2009. During the discussion the need for comments and

recommendations from the interested bodies and organizations on the mentioned documents was noted.

16. Under item 6 of the agenda opinions were expressed on the need to continue work to streamline technical normative basis with regard to the safety of HTF in Central Asian countries. A readiness to participate in training programs aimed at improving qualification of dam safety experts was expressed by representatives of Tajikistan.

17. Mr Sergey Shkolnikov, a Project expert, briefed the participants on the state regulation on dam safety in the Russian Federation on the basis of the relevant law. He also gave information regarding the accident on the Sayano-Shushenskaya HPS as it had been published in the official Act of the Investigation Commission.

18. Mr. Georgy Petrov informed the participants on the ongoing activities to assess technical conditions of dams in Tajikistan. Mr. Abdulloev reported on the results of technical inspection of the dam of the Nurek waterworks.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

19. The meeting participants adopted the following decisions and recommendations:

1. To underline the constructive participation of the Tajik representatives in implementing the regional UN project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”, and to give priority attention to the participation of interested ministries and organs in the further project work.

On National Legislation

2. To take into account proposals during the meeting to improve national legislation on hydrotechnical facilities. The Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources shall prepare, coordinated with involved ministries and organs, a proposal on the need to improve national legislation on state regulation of the safety of hydrotechnical facilities, and in particular, to draft a national law “On the Safety of Hydrotechnical Facilities” and submit it to the Government.
3. The Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources shall propose to the Government to establish an interdepartmental working group to draft a national law “On the Safety of Hydrotechnical Facilities”.
4. Appeal to the management of the regional UNECE project to assist in the drafting of the national law “On the Safety of Hydrotechnical Facilities” and make an expert evaluation of that draft law.

On the regional draft agreement

5. Be aware of that in the nearest future Tajik representatives of relevant authorities will be appointed to participate in the temporary working group to finalize the regional draft agreement on cooperation with respect to the safety of hydrotechnical facilities.

6. Request the Tajik MFA to organize a meeting with representatives of relevant ministries and organizations following the preliminary coordination with corresponding ministries and bodies with the purpose to consider at the national level the drafted regional agreement and to develop a coordinated position on that account.

Other issues

7. Support the proposal to hold regional training courses to improve qualification for dam safety experts with the participation of Tajik representatives.
 8. Request the management of the UNECE Project to consider the possibility to organise training courses facilitated by Russian experts in Tajikistan.
 9. Recommend the Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources to organize and disseminate information to the mass media, with the support of the UNECE Secretariat, on the activities to improve the technical condition of HTF and on the regional cooperation on the safety of HTF.
20. Participants of the session expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources for the excellent organization of the national meeting.

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30 October 2009, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

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Annex 2

National meeting on dam safety cooperation

**in Central Asia
October 30, 2009
Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

AGENDA

- 09:00 - 09:30 Registration
- 09:30 – 10:00 **Opening**
Welcome words on behalf of the Tajik Government
Mr Anvar Zoirov, Deputy Minister of Melioration and Water Resources
IFAS
Mr Khairullo Ibodzoda, A Tajik representative in the IFAS Executive Committee
UN/ECE
Mr Bo Libert, UN/ECE Regional Advisor
- 10:00 - 10:15 **Approval of the agenda**
Mr Bo Libert, UN/ECE Regional Advisor
- 10:15 - 10:30 **On the results of the 1st phase and scope of the 2nd phase of the Project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”**
Mr Bo Libert, UN/ECE Regional Advisor
Mr Yuri Steklov, consultant
- 10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 - 11:30 **State regulation in the sphere of safety of HTF in the Russian Federation**
Mr Sergey Shkolnikov, leading expert of S&R Center “HydroTechnicalSafety”, Moscow.
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Normative and legal aspects in the sphere of the safety of HTF in Tajikistan and ways of their improvement**
Mr. Anatoly Kholmatov, a UNDP expert in Tajikistan
- Safety and technical condition of dams in Tajikistan**
Mr Georgy Petrov, a research officer of the Institute of Water, Ecology and Hydropower, Tajik NAS.
- Stability of the Nurek Dam on Vakhsh river**
Mr M Abdulloev
- Representatives of concerned ministries and agencies*
Discussion, Moderator – A. Kholmatov
- 12:30 -13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 - 14:00 **On preparation of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation on Safety of HTF and proposals for further actions**

Mr Bo Libert, UN/ECE Regional Advisor
Mr Yuri Steklov, consultant
Representatives of interested ministries and agencies
Moderator – A. Kholmatov

- 14:00 – 14:30 **On the Sayano-Shushenskaya Power Station accident**
Mr Sergey Shkolnikov, leading expert of S&R Center
“HydroTechnicalSafety”, Moscow
- 13:30-14:30 **On cooperation to harmonize legislative basis and streamline technical regulations in the sphere of HTF safety in the CAR countries**
Mr Yuri Steklov, representative of the interested ministries and agencies
Moderator – R. Latipov
- 14:30-15:00 **On the plans to implement the Project in 2010**
Mr Bo Libert, UN/ECE Regional Advisor
Discussion
- 15:00-15:30 Coffee break
- 15:30-16:00 **Consideration and approval of the decisions and recommendation of the conference.**