



PRESS RELEASE

Small Basin Council in Aralsk: Access to Drinking Water on the Agenda

9 April 2013

ARALSK – Second Small Basin Council for Smaller Aral irrigation area to take place on 10 April 2013 in the framework of “Water Management and Basin Organizations in Central Asia (WMBOCA)” project funded by the European Union and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme.

During the Council, access to drinking water for the population of Aralsk and Kazalinsk districts will be discussed as well as reconstruction of the drainage system on the left shore area of Kazalinsk district, abandoned drainage systems, works on headwork construction on the Aksay river, cleaning of its tributaries, strengthening of bulkhead. Draft provision on the Small Basin Councils is on the agenda as well.

Representatives of the Aral-Syr Darya Basin Inspection, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, akimats and maslikhats of Aralsk and Kazalinsk districts, water management organizations, fishery and environment sectors, scientists and water users will take part in the Council.

Format of the Small Basin Councils allows discussion of the relevant issues on all levels: from representatives of authorities to the people living in the irrigation area.

During the first Small Basin Council (SBC) in November 2012, the participants defined 2 out of 6 Aral-Syr Darya basin irrigation areas as the pilot ones for establishment of SBCs. List of SBC members for irrigation area Small Aral was defined: representatives of state authorities, scientists, non-governmental organizations and water users.

Establishment of the Small Basin Council for sub-basins (relatively smaller territories of the Aral Sea basin) created platform for the work on water allocation and related issues for specific settlements. In case of above-mentioned SBC, these are the issues of drinking water access, water supply for irrigation, etc. for the people living in Aralsk and Kazalinsk districts.

Media are invited to attend the Council to take place on 10 April 2013 (registration begins at 09:30), at the following address: Aralsk city, Conference Hall of Akimat, Aralsk district, Shkolnaya Str., b. 33

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