



PRESS RELEASE

27-28 May 2014

Prospects for water resources management in Central Asia

ALMATY – 27-28 May, 2014 the regional conference on “Prospects for Water Resources Management in Central Asia: From Basin Approach to Regional Cooperation” takes place.

The conference brings together the high-level water management organisations from the five Central Asian countries, as well as the representatives of international organisations involved in the field of water resources management and development of regional cooperation, along with the senior representatives from the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office participate in the conference.

During 2012-2014 the “Transboundary Water Resources Management in Central Asia” Programme in the framework of the “Water Management and Basin Organisations in Central Asia (WMBOCA)” project funded by the European Union, jointly with regional and national partners, has carried out a series of projects in the field of water resources management in Central Asia. The projects aimed at improving the water management sector and strengthening the regional cooperation in the matters of transboundary water resources. For example, the active work on introducing the international practice of water resources management has been carried out in basins of transboundary rivers of the Isfara (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan), the Padshaota (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), the Aral-Syrdarya (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan) and the Murgab (Afghanistan, Turkmenistan). Along with the development of the capacity of local professionals through training and study tours, technical support has been provided in the form of procurement of technical equipment, implementation of rehabilitation and maintenance of water facilities in the above mentioned basins. The EU project completes its work in July 2014. During two years the project has carried out a considerable amount of work, the results of which are to be presented at the conference.

The regional conference is dedicated to the exchange of knowledge and best practices that TWMCa acquired during the implementation of WMBOCA projects. In so doing, the representatives of national, regional and international partners attend the conference. The conference becomes a platform to discuss the prospects and opportunities for closer cooperation in the field of sustainable management of transboundary water resources in the region.

The first day of the conference is dedicated to the consideration of political issues in water resources management, the second - the review of the work done within the framework of WMBOCA. In particular, the capacity building materials developed under the project are presented: a guidebook for basin planning, a river basin plan for the Isfara River (separately for Kyrgyz and Tajik parts of the basin), a training module for basin planning.

“Water Management and Basin Organisations in Central Asia (WMBOCA)” is funded by the European Union and implemented by [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#) acting in partnership with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). Budget of WMBOCA consists of approximately €2 million provided by the European Union and approximately €0.5 million provided by the German Federal Foreign office.

For more information, please contact Ms Saltanat Zhumakalyi kyzy, TWMCa via phone + 996 312 90 65 27, mobile: + 996 770 90 65 27, email: saltanat.zhumakalyi@giz.de or Ms Karlygash Jamankulova, Press Office of the Delegation of the European Union in Kazakhstan, via phone + (7172) 97-11-48, e-mail: Karlygash.Jamankulova@eeas.europa.eu.

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



The project is implemented by
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
GmbH

Transboundary Water Management
in Central Asia Programme
96-6, Toktogul str.
720040 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
T + 996 312 90 65 27
M + 996 770 90 65 27
I <http://www.giz.de>, <http://waterca.org>

This project is funded by the
European Union

Delegation of
The European Union
to the Republic of Kazakhstan
62, Kosmonavtov str., Astana
010000
Tel: (7172) 97-10-40
Fax: (7172) 97-95-63

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