



PRESS RELEASE

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Final training and public hearing on the Isfara River Basin Plan

BATKEN (April 29, 2014) –The final fifth training on basin planning for the working group of the Isfara river basin planning development and implementation is held today. The members of the working group represent water management, environmental protection, sanitary, epidemiological, economic agencies, local administration and water users. The training on basin planning is conducted in the framework of “Water Management and Basin Organisations 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.

The trainings on basin planning have been held since 2012. During this time, the participants have learned a lot - from learning the basics of basin planning to development of a plan based on international practice and with regard to local legal and institutional aspects. As a result, during the fifth training the participants approve the final results of their activity during previous four trainings – the Isfara River Basin Plan. The plan includes the analysis and evaluation of the current and prospective situation of the basin, the list of priority problems, the long-term vision of the basin and the mechanisms for the implementation of measures aimed at solving existing problems.

In order for the Basin Plan to be realizable in a timely and consistent manner, it is important to act in collaboration, along with constant monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process. Thus, in the fifth training, participants develop the progress indicators of the implementation and share the responsibilities for carrying out the activities of the Plan. They also forecast the required financial resources to implement the plan and identify possible sources.

The role of the public in the basin planning is of high importance, because residing in the territory of the basin, public can track and communicate the existing problems and recommend possible solutions. They can also monitor the quality of implementation of the Basin Plan and propose timely suggestions for its improvement. In order to involve the public to the implementation process of the Isfara River Basin Plan at an early stage, the programme organises a public hearing, where members of the working group will present a plan to representatives of the general public. Public hearing will be held in Batken on April 30, 2014. It is expected to involve representatives of the local administration, NGOs, media and aiyl districts *Aksai, Aktatyr, Samarkandek and Karabak* which are located in the basin. The Kyrgyz Republic’s Plenipotentiary representative in the Batken region, Zh. Razakov, will give an opening speech. Also, it is expected to have the representatives of the Swiss Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic at this hearing.

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