

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MEETING ON COOPERATION ON DAM SAFETY IN  
CENTRAL ASIA**

**December 3-4, 2015, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

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## **A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

1. The Regional Meeting for Cooperation of Dam safety in Central Asia was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 3 to 4 December 2015. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS), and with the assistance of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Organizational support for the meeting was provided by the Executive Board of IFAS (EB IFAS) in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

### **1. Objectives of meeting**

2. At meeting the main results of activities for safety of dams in Central Asia were reviewed, as were proposals on the priority areas for further cooperation to ensure the safety of hydrotechnical installations (HTI) at the national and regional levels. In addition, the aim of this event was to share relevant experience among participants.

### **2. Participants**

3. The meeting was attended by 24 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan; IFAS was represented by 5 participants. OSCE, World Bank, Rostekhnadzor were also represented at the meeting. Together with the staff of the UNECE Secretariat, consultants and representatives of other organizations the meeting gathered 42 people. The list of participants is found in Annex 1 of this report.

### **3. Opening of the Meeting**

4. The meeting was opened by Mr Medet Ospanov, director of EB IFAS in Kazakhstan. He welcomed the participants noting the importance of ensuring the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia. He emphasized the significant contribution made by the project "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation".

5. On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan a statement was made by Mr. Dikanshy Makysh, head of the department of state control in the sphere of use and protection of water resources of the Committee of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture. He wished all the participants of the meeting fruitful work in the solution of such important issues for the Central Asian countries.

6. Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser in his address mentioned briefly the results achieved and thanked the national project coordinators and experts for their contributions to the project. He also expressed his gratitude to EC IFAS and the OSCE for cooperation with the UNECE in the realization of project.

7. Mr. Rati Dzhaparidze, head of the department of economy and ecology program, Office of the OSCE in Astana, informed the participants about the intentions of this organization to support the activities to ensure the safety of HTI in the region and wished them successful work.

8. Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, Acting Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of IFAS welcomed the participants and noted that IFAS will make every effort to promote the realization program of the ASBP-3 and its components related to the safety of hydrotechnical installations in particular.

#### **4. Election of officers**

9. Mr. Medet Ospanov, Director of the Executive Board of IFAS in the Republic of Kazakhstan; Dzholdoshaliev Iskandar, Head of Technical Policy and Investments of the Department of Water Resources and Land Reclamation of Kyrgyzstan; Bahodur Isupov, Chairman of the Service on State Control in the Sphere of Dam Safety of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan; and Zafar Irisboev, chief specialist of the State inspectorate for control and supervision of the technical condition and safe operation of large and strategically important water facilities under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Gosvodkhoznadzor) took turns in chairing the sessions of the meeting.

#### **5. Approval of the agenda**

10. The following agenda was approved for the meeting:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and election
3. Activities of the project «Dam safety in Central Asia: Capacity building and regional cooperation ».
4. Overview of dam safety activities in Central Asia.
5. Development of cooperation in Central Asia to ensure the safety of dams.
6. International experience and perspectives to support cooperation on safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia by international organizations and financial institutions.
7. Discussion of plans for future activities to ensure the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia.
8. Recommendations of the meeting.
9. Other issues.
10. Closing of the meeting.

11. The full agenda of the Regional meeting on dam safety cooperation in Central Asia is found in Annex 2.

### **B. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

12. Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Regional Adviser informed the meeting about the activities of the project "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation", realized in 2015.

13. Under the agenda item “Review of dam safety activities in Central Asia” national coordinators of project from each of the countries of Central Asia: Mr. Medet Ospanov,

Kazakhstan; Mr Iskander Dzholdoshaliev, Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Bahodur Isupov, Tajikistan; Mr. Arslan Berdyev, Turkmenistan; and Mr Zafar Irisboev, Uzbekistan, reported on the work implemented in the sphere of dam safety in Central Asia during 2015. They also emphasized priority areas for each country for further work to ensure the safety of hydrotechnical installations. Mr Shukhrat Talipov, Acting Deputy Chairman of the EC IFAS, talked about plans of his organization in the area of the safety of hydrotechnical installations.

14. The establishment of an automated monitoring safety system of the Orto-Tokoi dam on the transboundary river Chu was reported on by the consultant Mr. Vladimir Shcherbina and Mr. Oleg Makarov, Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Medet Ospanov and Mr. Iskander Mirhashimov, Kazakhstan presented a safety evaluation of the exploitation of the Kyzylorda hydro complex. Mr. Masharif Bakiev, Uzbekistan informed about the evaluation criteria for the safety of low-pressure safety of hydrotechnical installations using the example of the Uch-Kurgan hydro complex. Mr. Tursun Ibraev, Kazakhstan informed about the activities of the International training centre for the safety of hydrotechnical constructions.

15. During the session on development of the regional cooperation Ms. Inna Kaliberda and Mr. Shukhrat Talipov presented the project documents: Guidelines for the development of a national program to ensure of low-pressure of safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia, and Instruction for the development, agreement and approval of Rules for exploitation of hydraulic structures in Central Asia.

16. Under the session on the prospects for support of cooperation on the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia by international organizations and financial institutions reports made by Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, EC IFAS; Ms. Madina Ibrasheva and Ms. Bahriniso Narzullaeva, OSCE; and Ms. Manon Kaassara, the World Bank. They informed the participants of meeting about the plans of the respective organizations to promote regional cooperation in field of safety of hydrotechnical installations.

17. During the session on international experience, Mr. Vladimir Pimenov, shared the experience of dam safety in the Russian Federation, and Mr. Sahib Hasanzade informed about the experience of the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Azerbaijan. Modern methods and technologies of safety of hydrotechnical installations, investment and regulatory framework were highlighted in the reports of Mr. Zafar Irisboev, Mr. Tulegen Sarsembekov and Mr. Igor Petrakov.

18. In a review of possible areas of cooperation to ensure the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia, the countries expressed their wishes regarding the priorities of individual areas and suggested several new directions. In particular, the development of model regulatory and technical documents in the field of safety of hydrotechnical installations was highlighted.

## B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

19. The participants of meeting adopted the following decisions and recommendations on the issues raised in the meeting:

1. To take note of the reviews of the activities on dam safety in Central Asian countries, presented by the national coordinators. Request the UNECE to contribute to the realization of prioritized directions of work identified in the reports and presented in Annex 3.
2. To note with appreciation the important role of the UNECE in the establishment of an automated safety monitoring system on the Orto-Tokoi dam. Request UNECE to continue support the development of cooperation to ensure the safety of hydrotechnical installations on Chu and Talas rivers shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
3. To express gratitude to the experts that have developed *Guidelines for establishing national programs to ensure of low-pressure hydraulic structures in Central Asia* as well as *Instructions for the development, agreement and approval of the Rules of exploitation of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asian countries*, and request UNECE to facilitate the distribution of these documents.
4. To express appreciation to representatives of the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan for the opportunity to learn about their experience of work on the safety of hydrotechnical installations.
5. To consider the prospects of possible cooperation with the new project of the World Bank «Management of water resources in Central Asia» with regard to the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia.
6. To welcome the participation in the meeting of representatives of Rostekhnadzor, as an important element of cooperation between the Russian Federation and Central Asian countries with regard to ensuring the safe operation of hydrotechnical installations. To strengthen this cooperation through other activities to exchange experiences, capacity building, as well as to provide advice on various aspects of safety of hydrotechnical installations.
7. To express appreciation to the OSCE for facilitating the meeting and for the intention to further support cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia.
8. To express gratitude to EB IFAS in Kazakhstan for the excellent organization of the meeting.

An evaluation of the meeting by the participants is found in Annex 4.

Annex 1

**СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ**

**Региональное совещание по сотрудничеству по безопасности плотин в Центральной Азии 3-4 декабря 2015 года, Алматы, Казахстан**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**Regional Meeting on Cooperation on Dam Safety in Central Asia**

December 3-4, 2015, Almaty, Kazakhstan

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## Annex 2

### **Regional meeting on dam safety cooperation in Central Asia December 3-4, 2015, Almaty Kazakhstan<sup>1</sup>**

*The meeting was held in the conference hall of the Almaty hotel  
85, Kabanbai batyr street, Almaty*

#### **AGENDA**

<b>Thursday, 3 December 2015</b>	
9.00 – 9.30	Registration of participants
9.30 – 9.50	<b>Opening of the Meeting.</b> <i>Chairman – representative of Kazakhstan</i> Welcoming statement on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Welcoming statement on behalf of UNECE. <i>Mr Bo Libert, Regional advisor</i> Welcoming statement on behalf of OSCE. <i>Rati Japaridze, OSCE Center in Astana</i> Welcoming statement on behalf of EC IFAS. <i>Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, EC IFAS</i>
09.50 – 10.00	<b>Adoption of the agenda and election of officials</b> Presentation of the participants and meeting agenda
10.00-10.30	Information on implementation of the project “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”. <i>Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE</i>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.30	<b>Overview of dam safety activities in Central Asia.</b>  <i>National project coordinators:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <i>Mr. Medet Ospanov, Kazakhstan;</i></li><li>– <i>Mr. Iskander Djoldoshaliyev, Kyrgyzstan;</i></li><li>– <i>Mr. Bakhodur Yusupov, Tajikistan;</i></li><li>– <i>Representative of Turkmenistan; (TBD)</i></li><li>– <i>Mr. Zafar Irisboev, Uzbekistan;</i></li><li>– <i>Representative of EC IFAS.</i></li></ul>
12.30-13.00	Discussion

<sup>1</sup> The Meeting is organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) and the Executive Board of IFAS (EB IFAS) in Kazakhstan. The meeting is funded by the Russian Federation and UNECE.

13.00-14.00	Lunch
	<b>Development of cooperation in Central Asia to ensure the safety of dams.</b> <i>Chairman - Representative of Kyrgyzstan</i>
14.00 – 14.10	Introduction. <i>Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE</i>
14.10 – 14.30	Establishment of a system for automated monitoring of the safety of the Orto-Tokoy dam on the transboundary Chu river. <i>Mr. Vladimir Sherbina, Consultant, Mr. Oleg Makarov, Kyrgyzstan</i>
14.30 – 15.00	Safety assessment of of the Kyzylorda hydrosystem, located on the Syr Darya River. <i>Mr. Medet Ospanov.</i> Instrumental research of a condition of hydrotechnical installations. <i>Mr. Iskander Mirkhashimov</i>
15.00 – 15.15	Criteria of safety of low pressure of hydrotechnical installations on the example of the Uch-Kurgansky water-engineering system. <i>Mr. Masharif Bakiyev, Uzbekistan</i>
15.15– 15.30	On activities of the training center for safety of hydrotechnical installations in Taraz. <i>Mr. Tursun Ibraev, Kazakhstan</i>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-16.30	Guidelines for the preparation of a national programme for the safe exploitation of low-pressure of hydrotechnical installations for countries in Central Asia. <i>Ms. Inna Kalberda,; Mr. Shukhrat Talipov, consultants.</i>
16.30-17.00	Instruction for the development, consultations and approval of rules for exploitation of hydrotechnical installations for the Central Asian countries. <i>Mr. Shukhrat Talipov; Ms. Inna Kalberda, consultants.</i>
17.00-18.00	Discussion
<b>Friday, 4 December 2015</b>	
	<b>International experience and perspectives to support cooperation on safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia by international organizations and financial institutions.</b> <i>Chairman - Representative of Uzbekistan</i>
9.30 – 9.45	Support for cooperation in the field on safety of hydrotechnical installations in the region in the framework of the Aral Seas Basin Programme-3. <i>Representative of EC IFAS</i>

9.45 – 10.00	Proposals for support of the cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia by OSCE. <i>Ms.Madina Ibrasheva; Ms.Bakhriniso Narzullaeva</i>
10.00 – 10.15	Possibilities for support of the cooperation on safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia by the World Bank. <i>Mr.Ijsbrand de Jong</i>
10.15-10.30	Recent developments in the legislation on safety of hydrotechnical installations in the Russian Federation. <i>Mr. Vladimir Pimenov</i>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-11.15	Dam safety management in Azerbaijan. <i>Mr. Sahib Hasanzade</i>
11.15 -11.30	Modern methods and technologies to ensure of safety of hydrotechnical installations. <i>Representative of Uzbekistan</i>
11.30 -11.45	Investment support of the safety of hydrotechnical installations. <i>Mr.Tulegen Sarsembekov</i>
11.45-11.55	Legal framework for dam safety (Review of the World Bank). <i>Mr. Igor Petrakov, consultant</i>
11.55 -12.30	<b>Discussion of plans for future activities to ensure the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia. Moderator (TBD)</b>
	<b>Recommendations of the meeting. Chairman - Representative of Turkmenistan</b>
12.30 -13.00	Consideration and adoption of decisions, recommendations and the report of the meeting. Closing of the Meeting.
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-18.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Consultations between delegations</i></li> <li>• <i>Meetings with representatives of donor organizations</i></li> </ul>

### Annex 3

## **List of priority areas of cooperation to ensure the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia**

### **I. Legal framework and organization on the national level**

1. The improvement of national legal acts on safety of hydrotechnical installations.
  - 1.1 Assistance in the development of the legal framework to ensure the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Kazakhstan.
  - 1.2 Support the adaptation of the model "Law on the safety of hydrotechnical installations" for Kyrgyzstan.
2. Support for the establishment and strengthening of institutions governing the safety of hydrotechnical installations.
  - 2.1. Support for the establishment of the Commission on dam safety in Kyrgyzstan.
  - 2.2. Support for the establishment of an institution for control and supervision of the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Kazakhstan.
  - 2.3. Support to Gosvodkhoznadzor Support and Training Center Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Land Reclamation through the development of training materials on safety of hydrotechnical installations and supply with diagnostic equipment.
  - 2.4. Supporting activities of the Training Centre on safety of hydrotechnical installations in Taraz (Kazakhstan).

### **II. Training on safety of hydrotechnical installations**

1. Organization of training workshops on the safety of dams, including national seminars for high-level decision-makers in the field of legislation on safety of hydrotechnical installations.
2. Training of experts and training of lecturers of training centers in Central Asia in specialized agencies of the Russian Federation. The participation of experts from the countries of Central Asia in inspections of Rostekhnadzor as observers.
3. Introduction to international experience on how to ensure the safety of hydrotechnical installations. Further support for the development and dissemination of the review "Modern methods and technologies to ensure the safety of dams and other hydrotechnical installations.

### **III. Regional cooperation**



1. Providing methodological support to countries in the development of a package of model regulations:
  - Certification, registration/inventory of hydrotechnical installations;
  - Field observations, surveys and diagnostics of the technical condition of hydrotechnical installations;
  - Provisions for the emergency stocks of materials and equipment;
  - Action Plan of the organization in charge of operations in case of emergency;
  - Technical specifications for the reconstruction of hydrotechnical installations;
  - A guidance document for collection of data on accidents at hydrotechnical installations of different classes;
  - Model provisions on the investigation of the causes of accidents on hydrotechnical installations of various types.
2. Prepare a uniform glossary with terms and definitions for the safety of hydrotechnical installations.
3. Support cooperation between national supervisory authorities on the safety of hydrotechnical installations through the joint implementation of research projects, the establishment of an internet-based information exchange network for cooperation and exchange of experience between national training centers.

#### **IV. Safety of individual dams**

1. Support for cooperation between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on the safe operation of interstate installations within the Chu-Talas Water Commission. Assistance in updating the operating rules of the Kirov and Orto Tokoi reservoirs.
2. Examination of two dams (Tasotkelskoe reservoir and Ters-Aschibulakskoe reservoir) in Kazakhstan.
3. The introduction of a modern monitoring system for safety assessment including with safety and early warning system on the example of a model object in Uzbekistan as an example for further propagation.
4. Promote the development of criteria of safety of low-pressure water intake waterworks on the example of a pilot facility in Uzbekistan.
5. Assist in the preparation of regulations by the State service on the supervision in the field of safety of hydraulic constructions in Tajikistan concerning the safety of hydrotechnical installations.
6. Joint survey of cross-border facilities by supervisory authorities of neighboring countries.

## **SUMMARY of EVALUATIONS**

### **Comments and Suggestions**

Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia  
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 3-4 December 2015

The rating is made on the basis of 18 responses on a questionnaire with the following questions\*:

#### **1. Were the presentations updated and relevant? – average rating 5.0**

##### *Comments and recommendations*

The subject of the safety of hydrotechnical installations in Central Asia is certainly relevant.

- A very great benefit from the exchange of experiences.
- It is advisable to promote more widely these problems among the political leadership of the respective countries.
- In each country, it is desirable to find a donor for the establishment of a pilot security system BING- 3.
- Unfortunately, almost no examples of regional cooperation while significant work is being done at the national level.
- There is a need for greater involvement of international partners.
- There should be more training for capacity building of specialists.

#### **2. Information included in the presentations and visual presentation – average rating 4.7**

##### *Comments and recommendations*

Reports sufficiently informative and well presented.

- It would be interesting to hear presentations of country leadership.
- It would be desirable to have a booklet with a summary of ongoing projects with contact details and address of the web page.
- It is advisable to pay more attention to innovative technologies of repair and reconstruction of hydrotechnical installations, and their design.

#### **3. Organization of the meeting – average rating 4.8 points**

##### *Comments and recommendations*

The meeting was held at a high level with provision of everything necessary for fruitful work of the participants.

- It is recommended to invite specialists-practitioners of water management organizations.
- There should be a cultural program with a guided tour of the city.

- It is recommended to organize site visits for the participants to hydrotechnical installations.

\* A 5-mark scale is used (from 1-"very badly" to 5 – "very well")