



the CAPACT Project

newsletter

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For more up-to-date information, please visit the CAPACT website at:

www.unece.org/ie/capact

Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia (CAPACT)

Dear Madam/Sir,

This is the first newsletter of the CAPACT Project. We are now six months into project implementation, and the first meetings have been held in Central Asia. UNECE will issue two or three Newsletters per year until the end of the project so as to make it possible for a broader circle of stakeholders and interested persons to follow the work and activities of the project.

If you need more detailed information, the link to the dedicated Project website is: <http://www.unece.org/ie/capact/> This website is available in both English and Russian languages.

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Short Summary

UNECE, UNESCAP and UNEP, have developed the CAPACT Project in collaboration with energy and environmental authorities in Central Asia. Funding comes from the UN Development Account <http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount>

The Project will help to identify the appropriate combustion technologies for the cleaner use of coal in the region, and it also aims to raise the awareness of air quality management within the institutions in Central Asia. The Project deals specifically with implementation of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP).

The duration of the Project is 3 years starting from mid-2004.

Countries eligible to participate in the Project are: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan



Progress Report

o Project Working Group, to which all Central Asian countries have been invited to nominate senior officials, has been established to oversee the Project. The first meeting, which was held in Almaty on 10 November, highlighted the importance and potential for future effective policy making in the joint work and dialogue between environmental and energy experts/officials in the region.

o Under Work Package 1, Kazakhstan was selected to be the pilot country for the development of a National Concept for implementing selected protocols to the LRTAP Convention. The Kazakh Scientific Institute of Environment and Climate has been tasked with the development of a National Programme for air quality management and for implementing selected LRTAP Convention protocols as well as a corresponding Implementation Plan. A desk study that will provide the basis for the work in Kazakhstan is available on the CAPACT website.

o Under Work Package 5, a Seminar on Clean Coal Technologies (CCTs) was held in Almaty from 10-12 November with participation from environmental and energy sectors in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Key Conclusions

o The project is very timely in view of the ambitious plans of some countries for the increased use of coal;

o Energy and environmental sectors need to work together in order to find the appropriate policy measures and technical solutions that would allow for increased use of coal without causing negative environmental and health effects; and

o Clean coal technologies are available that can and should be used in Central Asia.

Looking Ahead to the First Half of 2005

o A monitoring station will be selected in Central Asia that will complement the European EMEP network and link to Asian air monitoring networks. The Project will fund an upgrading of this station

o A National Programme for air quality management and for implementing selected LRTAP Convention protocols in Kazakhstan will be developed.

o Regional meetings are tentatively scheduled for 14-17 June 2005 in Almaty: on air quality management and the international legal framework, as well as the energy pricing reforms needed to develop the CLRTAP National Programme and to facilitate investments in the sub-region for deployment of CCTs.