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

Newsletter 2, February 2006

Dear Madam/Sir,

This is the second newsletter of the CAPACT project. We are one and a half year into project implementation, and about one and a half year is remaining.

If you need more detailed information, the link to the project website is: <http://www.unece.org/ie/capact/>. You are also welcome to contact UNECE (bo.libert@unece.org, evgeniy.nadezhdin@unece.org) for further information.

A short summary of the project:

The UNECE and UNESCAP have developed the CAPACT project in collaboration with energy and environmental authorities in Central Asia. Funding comes from the UN Development Account. The project will help to identify appropriate technologies for a cleaner use of coal, and aim to raise the capacity 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). Project duration is 3 years starting from mid-2004. Countries eligible to participate in the project are: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Progress in 2005:

- ◆ A Concept for the Kazakh National Programme/Implementation Plan for air quality management and for implementing selected LRTAP Convention protocols was discussed in two national workshops: one in Almaty and one in Astana. The Ministry of Environment in Kazakhstan has approved the Concept and the National Programme is presently being developed;
- ◆ Kazakhstan will get support from the project to establish the first EMEP monitoring station in Central Asia. This station will complement the European EMEP network and link to Asian air monitoring networks. The procurement of equipment for 75,000 USD is underway;

- ◆ A second regional Workshop was held 12-14 October 2005 in Almaty. Additional funding from the UNECE made it possible for 14 experts from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and countries in the Caucasus to participate. The themes discussed during the meeting were:
 - Air quality management and the international legal framework, and
 - Economic, legal, environmental, institutional, and regulatory policy measures supported by appropriate energy pricing reforms needed for deployment of appropriate, cost-effective and commercially available cleaner coal technologies.
- ◆ Material and conclusions from the Workshop can be found on the project website including:
 - An analytical review "Economic, legislative and institutional problems in the promotion of clean coal technology utilization in Central Asia" that includes long-term energy scenarios (business as usual, natural gas and hydro-coal).
 - A concept for the establishment of an air monitoring and air quality management information system for Central Asia.
 - A study "Criteria development: selecting projects in the field of cost-effective energy-efficient clean coal technologies in the Central Asia countries. Training programme for their utilization".

To look ahead for in 2006:

- ◆ The establishment of an EMEP monitoring station in Kazakhstan - the first EMEP station in Central Asia.
- ◆ Development of a National Programme for air quality management and for implementing selected LRTAP Convention protocols in Kazakhstan.
- ◆ The third regional project Workshop in Almaty in the autumn. The themes will be emission inventories, monitoring and modelling, and appropriate pricing reforms to facilitate investments for deployment of clean coal technologies.
- ◆ Translation of Implementation Guidelines for new CLRTAP Protocols and the EMEP Manual to Russian.
- ◆ A training course on the development of energy efficiency projects for improved air quality management and deployment of appropriate clean coal combustion technologies for heat and power generation from solid fuels that will start in June.