



REPORT¹
UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)
16th session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources
18 November 2008, Almaty, Kazakhstan

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The 16th session of the SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on Water and Energy Resources took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 18 November 2008. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
2. 59 participants took part in PWG session, including delegations from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation. Representatives from UNDP, Eurasian Bank of Development, EurAsEC, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Kazakh Research Institute of Power Engineering named after Sh. Ch. Chokin and the Executive Committee of IFAS. The list of participants is attached. (Annex 1)
3. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Joldoshbek M. Nazarov, First Deputy Director General, Joint-Stock Company Electric Power Plants from the Kyrgyz Republic and opened by Mr Paolo Garonna, Acting Executive Secretary of UNECE.
4. Participants approved the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the session
 2. Selection of officials
 3. Adoption of the agenda
 4. Review of the implementation of the cooperation strategy to promote the rational and efficient use of water and energy resources in Central Asia:
Review of work plan implementation
 5. Review of the relevant decisions of the SPECA Governing Council
 6. Dam Safety in Central Asia
 7. Other matters
 8. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

¹ This report has been issued without official editing.

5. The Programme of the 16th session of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources is attached. (Annex 2)

B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Participants approved the following conclusions and presented the following recommendations for consideration by the SPECA Coordinating Committee and the SPECA Governing Council:

Agenda item 4: Review of the implementation of the cooperation strategy to promote the rational and efficient use of water and energy resources in Central Asia: Review of work plan implementation.

2. Having heard the report by ESCAP on the outcome of the theme study for the 64th session of the Commission on Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the PWG welcomed the participation of countries in the upcoming meeting “Energy efficiency opportunities in Central Asia including SPECA countries” which aims to further develop a plan of action under the Baku Initiative for Energy Efficiency and Conservation. The specific focus of the meeting will be on end-use of energy in the residential and public, particularly relating to building design and appliance labeling and standards. The report for this meeting is attached (Annex 3). Participants of the PWG agreed to support and approve further work based on the recommendations of this meeting.
3. The PWG noted the activities undertaken in 2007 and 2008 under the Chu-Talas Rivers Commission following its inauguration in July 2006. The participants of the PWG noted that these activities have been effective in supporting cooperation to improve the management of water resources in the Chu and Talas rivers.
4. Participants of the PWG welcomed information on the Central Asian Regional Water Information Base Project (CAREWIB) which aims to improve information exchange in Central Asia with regard to water and environmental issues. The regional internet portal for this project provides a new tool to access existing information that has been difficult to obtain previously. During the second phase of the project, access to information was strengthened particularly with respect to data collection and dissemination at national levels, the production of regular publications, capacity building to integrate CAREWIB into decision-making processes at the national, regional and international levels, and supporting the sustainability of the project in the future.
5. The PWG took note of the efforts to enable subregional cooperation and inputs to the planning stage of projects under consideration likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across national borders. The participants of the PWG recognized that the Environmental Impact Assessment Convention is in principle an effective tool to negotiate and prevent possible cross-boarder environmental impacts.
6. The PWG reviewed the outcome of the International Conference “Water Unites – Strengthening Cooperation on Water Management in Central Asia” held in Almaty on

17-18 November 2008. The participants of the PWG took note of the Chairperson's report from the International Conference held in Almaty which included highlighting the importance to develop regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management further, the need to improve institutional capacities to manage river basins for selected transboundary rivers, and national pilot projects for improved water management.

7. The PWG also noted the efforts by ESCAP to support subregional cooperation in enhancing water security and transboundary cooperation in accessing water resources in Central Asian countries. These activities are outlined in paragraphs 8 to 10.
8. ESCAP convened a regional workshop on "Institutional changes required to achieve MDG on sanitation" in Macao, China from 4 to 6 November 2008. This regional workshop was part of the contribution of ESCAP to the implementation of the International Year of Sanitation. The experiences of the region and findings from the regional workshop to be used to provide inputs to the preparation of the UN Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly session in 2009.
9. ESCAP has recently started the implementation of the project to promote the "Development of Eco-Efficient Water Infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific". The first regional workshop of the project was held in Seoul from 10 to 12 November 2008, with participation of national and international experts from 22 countries, including three countries of Central Asia: Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The project will be implemented in a two-year period and scheduled for completion in July 2010. Most of the national experts participating in the regional workshop expressed their interest in participating in the implementation of pilot projects in their respective countries. ESCAP also intends to promote the development of small hydropower projects as part of this project to support the Berlin Water Process.
10. The PWG noted that ESCAP has been requested to undertake activities to support the effective monitoring of investment and results in water and lead a regional effort to promote cooperation on this subject. It is expected to continue in the coming year in preparation for the second Asia-Pacific Water Summit.

Agenda item 5: Review of the relevant decisions of the SPECA Governing Council

11. The PWG noted information on the third session of the SPECA Governing Council held in Moscow on 20 October 2008. A number of updates of SPECA activities were reviewed and noted including a report on the implementation of the 2008-2009 SPECA Work Plan, and the progress towards establishing regular and substantial coordination of activities between SPECA and other programmes and organizations supporting regional economic cooperation in Central Asia.
12. The Governing Council also adopted the decision to invite the Executive Secretaries of UNECE and ESCAP to undertake joint visits to SPECA capitals to discuss additional ways to strengthen the Programme. Recommendations from the President of Kazakhstan were noted along with the request for regional commissions to elaborate concrete proposals for submission by SPECA member countries for the possible inclusion in the next session of the SPECA Governing Council or

Coordinating Committee. The Council also noted the information provided by the secretariats on a joint UNECE-ESCAP SPECA office in Central Asia.

Agenda item 6: Dam Safety in Central Asia

13. Having heard presentations on the activities under the action plan on Dam Safety in Central Asia approved by the PWG during the 15th session, participants noted with satisfaction the meetings held in 2008 to build national legislation and institutions, collaboration and standards for dam safety between Central Asian countries. The PWG further endorsed the recommendations to develop a regional agreement that would be discussed on 19 November 2008 during the Dam Safety in Central Asia meeting. The report for this meeting is attached (Annex 4).

Agenda item 7: Other matters

14. No other matters were raised under this agenda item.

Agenda item 8: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

15. The PWG adopted its report on 18 November 2008.

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Chairman of the PWG on Water and Energy Resources,
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18 November 2008, Almaty

SPECA Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources, sixteenth session

18 November 2008
Almaty, Kazakhstan

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13 November 2008

**UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)
16th session of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 18 November 2008**

PROGRAMME

- 14:45 – 15:00 Registration of participants
- 15:00 – 15:15 Opening session
- Speech of welcome on behalf of UNECE and ESCAP
 (*Mr. Paolo Garonna, acting Executive Secretary, UNECE*)
- 15:00 – 15:10 Election of officers
- 15:10 – 15:15 Adoption of the agenda (*Chair*)
- Session 1. Review of the implementation of the cooperation strategy to promote the rational and efficient use of water and energy resources in Central Asia: Review of work plan implementation**
- 15:15 – 15:25 Review of energy activities in 2008 including progress towards the implementation of the Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation (*Mr. Kohji Iwakami, Energy Security Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP*)
- 15:25 – 15:35 Review of water activities including projects in the Chu and Talas river basins, the CAREWIB project and the project on EIA in a transboundary context (*Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Advisor, Mr. Anatolii Ryabtsev and Mr. B. Koshmatov*)
- 15:35 – 15:45 Review of other activities including the meeting “Water Unites – Strengthening Cooperation on Water Management in Central Asia” (*Mr. Marton Krasznai, Regional Advisor, UNECE, Mr. Le Huu Ti, Chief, Water Security Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP*)
- 15:45 – 16:00 Discussion
- Session 2. Review of the relevant decisions of the SPECA Governing Council**
- 16:00 – 16:15 Review of the relevant decisions of the SPECA Governing Council (*Ms. Elvira Mynbayeva, Special Unit on Countries with Special Needs, ESCAP*)

16:15 – 16:30 Discussion

16:30 – 16:45 Tea Break

Session 3. Other matters

16:45 – 17:45 Activities of the Dam Safety in Central Asia project in 2008 (*Mr. Bo Libert, Mr. Yuri Steklov, Mr. Dimitrii Radkevich and Mr. Timur Kamalov*)

17:45 – 17:55 Discussion

17:55 - 18:00 Other matters

Session 4. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations

18:00 - 18:15 Discussion

18:15 – 18:30 Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

**Workshop on Energy Efficiency Opportunities in Central Asia
including SPECA Countries**

18-21 November 2008, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Final Report

I. Background and organization

1. The Workshop on Energy Efficiency Opportunities in Central Asia including SPECA Countries was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 18 to 21 November 2008. The Workshop was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in collaboration with the JSC Kazakh Research Institute of Power Engineering named after Sh. Ch. Chokin. The Workshop programme is attached (Annex I).
2. The Workshop was attended by 24 participants comprising Government officials, specialists and experts from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as representatives of the UNDP (Kyrgyzstan), and IFAS (Kazakhstan and Tajikistan). The list participants is attached (Annex II).
3. The Workshop was opened on 18 November 2008 by Mr Paolo Garonna, Acting Executive Secretary of the UNECE.

II. Summary of Discussion

Session 1 - Energy efficiency potential in SPECA countries

4. An overview of the ESCAP theme study on energy security and sustainable development was provided by ESCAP, followed by an introduction to financing opportunities for energy efficiency action in Central Asia presented by UNECE. A detailed analysis of regional energy efficiency and energy saving potential of economies, including all SPECA countries, was presented by Ms. Valentina Kasymova, who reported the results of her studies concerning opportunities for collaboration to achieve a number of energy efficiency action on a subregional level. The host institution presented the activities undertaken in Kazakhstan.
5. Discussions focused on technical issues related to the lack of opportunities for data exchange, lack of systematic monitoring and inefficiency of energy-saving policies in SPECA countries. It was highlighted that actions for implementing energy efficiency needed to consider different sectors, as well as best practices of other countries, including strengthening of institutions and raising public awareness of energy efficiency advantages, when developing national policies. On a subregional level, there was a need for further collaboration on mutual data exchange, harmonization of legal and regulatory instruments and energy-pricing policy, including the development of a Central Asian energy market. It was recognized that mutual cooperation for mutual benefits could help produce energy which is clean and renewable and that action will be required now to realize these benefits

over the next two to three decades. During the discussions, opinions were voiced on the need to develop a regional vision and strategy for energy efficiency, as well as to establish the institutional framework for cooperation within SPECA countries.

Session 2 – Energy efficiency labeling and standards

6. Mr. Tienan Li provided an introduction to the benefits of standards and labeling and the experience of China. Specific policy and institutional arrangements were also introduced during a further presentation.
7. Country representatives shared their perspectives related to the promotion of energy efficiency standards and labeling. Most Central Asian countries have state standards on energy which were practiced in the former Soviet Union. Countries recognizing the need to promote energy efficiency have noted the necessity to update and upgrade the standards as well as institutional capacity in certifying various equipment and appliances used in their country.
8. Some of the major constraints identified included (1) lack of access to financing; (2) lack of incentives to promote and enforce standards; (3) lack of knowledge and awareness of the consumers towards standards and labeling; (4) lack of human resources; (5) lack of measuring devices; (6) weak legislations; and (7) lack of laboratories to test products.
9. The Workshop noted that introducing Standards and Labeling will be a long process in gaining the confidence of consumers and manufactures, but may not necessarily be an expensive programme. For Central Asia, the suggestion for undertaking a collaborative approach towards testing and certification was noted.
10. One recommendation which was strongly supported by participants was the establishment of a network of energy efficiency centers in Central Asia to pursue energy efficiency initiatives including the promotion of standards and labeling. Such centers could support policy makers and serve as a counterpart with international organizations.

Session 3: Sustainable building design

11. A presentation on sustainable building design was provided by Mr. B. Mohanty. This included the technical aspects of sustainable building design along with the economic, institutional and policy environment that could support these activities. This was followed by a detailed discussion on how these designs could be applicable to Central Asian countries. Some of the issues highlighted were: (1) the need for and provision of appropriate incentives to the private sector; (2) revision of the existing building standards, which were developed during the former Soviet Union period; (3) further information sharing on good practices from other countries; (4) the need to scientifically demonstrate the benefits of sustainable building design through pilot projects; and (5) the need to consider different aspects of energy pricing which encourages energy efficiency but also considers the ability of the population to afford the service.
12. One proposal arising from these discussions was the possible development of a regional project on creating a harmonized building code for Central Asia. It was also suggested that pilot projects and the target of implementation of these building codes should be Government and public buildings. It was also indicated that a concurrent project could be

run to mobilize the private sector to develop a voluntary rating tool for buildings. Any project should also incorporate a strong educational component. Some of these activities, particularly relating to coordinating education, could be implemented by energy efficiency centers in each country.

Session 4 – The way forward

13. During the meeting, potential options for developing a regional energy efficiency strategy were raised. Though some participants had reservations specifically related to the difficulties of achieving regional agreement, there was a general consensus that a basic concept could be developed indicating the current situation with energy efficiency and possible goals. Participants displayed considerable commitment for cooperation, though some consider that the focus for developing energy efficiency plans of action should start at the national level and build towards a regional strategy/guideline. However, it was noted that policies may be easier to harmonize and collaboration would be easier if a regional strategy/guideline were developed first. It was generally decided that a brief concept could be prepared and if supported, further steps can be taken to develop a regional strategy/guideline.
14. During the final session, a number of break out groups analyzed issues needed to consider implementing sustainable building design and standards and labeling programmes. These groups specifically discussed and analyzed the problems and existing measures taken by other stakeholders related to these issues in identifying the niche area. Groups were requested to develop a solution including a number of activities, a source of funding and a strategy to secure political and financial support. The discussions were then presented to all Workshop participants. A summary of these presentations have been attached (Appendix III).

III. Conclusions and recommendations

15. It was recommended that activities be undertaken to facilitate the establishment of a network of energy efficiency centers in Central Asia to pursue energy efficiency initiatives, assist decision makers and serve as a counterpart with international organizations.
16. It was also recognized that a regional concept could be developed on energy efficiency which would help guide their national energy efficiency programmes. The concept would include information on the current situation in SPECA countries and possible activities or goals over the next five years. Over a long term perspective, this could be developed into an energy efficiency strategy for the region.
17. It was recommended that a project be developed to promote sustainable building practices in the region along with a number of demonstration projects within public buildings. The project would need to incorporate a strong educational component which could be implemented by energy efficiency centres. It was also suggested that a project could be developed and implemented concurrently to mobilize the private sector to make a business case and develop a voluntary rating tool for buildings.
18. The Workshop participants agreed to extend their cooperation and seek government support by providing further information and data to develop project profiles.

19. The Workshop requested the secretariat to report on the progress of these recommendations to the Project Working Group at its 17th session.

IV. Acknowledgement

20. The participants expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat and host organization, the JSC Kazakh Research Institute of Power Engineering named after Sh. Ch. Chokin for successfully organizing the Workshop.

V. Adoption of the Report

21. The Workshop adopted its report on 21 November 2008.

Annex I

PROGRAMME
WORKSHOP ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY OPPORTUNITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA
INCLUDING SPECA COUNTRIES
18-21 NOVEMBER 2008, ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

Time	Activity	Person
Day 1 – 18 November 2008		
18:30	Opening session and welcome to participants	
<i>The purpose of this session is to introduce participants and create an atmosphere open to discussion for the remainder of the workshop.</i>		
18:30-18:40	Opening statement	ESCAP/UNECE
Day 2 – 19 November 2008		
08:30-09:00	Registration of participants	
09:00-09:30	Presentation and adoption of the agenda	ESCAP
	Brief introduction to the workshop	ESCAP
09:30- 12:00	Session 1 – Energy efficiency potential in SPECA countries	
<i>The purpose of this session is to introduce the idea and concept of energy efficiency and the potential in central Asian countries. Major challenges and the creation of an enabling environment will be covered, and an open facilitated discussion will aim to stimulate participants to identify specific issues within their respective countries and begin considering possible actions to address these issues. The key outcome of this session should be a list of challenges and potential options for overcoming these challenges. An overview of the existing policies, supporting institutions and potential stakeholders could also be included.</i>		
09:30-09:50	Sustainable Energy Security for Asia and the Pacific	Mr. Kohji Iwakami, ESCAP
09:50-10:10	Energy efficiency market creation - Financing energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation	Mr. Adam Sek, UNECE
10:10-10:40	Energy efficiency as a factor of promoting the sustainable development in Central Asia	Professor Valentina Kasymova
10:40-10:55	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:55-11:10	Discussion – challenges of implementing energy efficiency in Central Asian countries	Participants
11:10-11:30	Promotion of energy efficiency in Kazakhstan	Kazakh Research Institute of Power Engineering
11:30-12:00	Discussion – possible activities required to implement an energy efficient policy in Central Asian countries	Participants
	Analysis – key sectors/activities for energy efficiency in Central Asian countries	Participants
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30 – 16:30	Session 2 – Energy efficiency labelling and standards	
<i>The purpose of this session is to introduce the concept of labelling and standards for appliances and review the policy, institutions and financing that provided an enabling environment in other countries. A facilitated discussion should follow the initial presentation which should aim to challenge participants to think of concrete actions that would be undertaken to develop an energy efficiency labels and standards in their country. The key outcome of the discussion would be a set of issues and possible activities.</i>		

13:30 – 15:00	Presentation of case studies of effective programmes in other countries, the enabling environment and impacts	Prof. Tienan Li
15:00 – 15:20	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:20 – 16:30	Specific issues related to energy efficiency standards and labelling – costs and recovery, available technology, etc.	Participants (Facilitator: Prof. Tienan Li)
	Analysis and discussion on creating enabling environment and implementing activities in Central Asian countries	
Day 3 – 20 November 2008		
09:00-12:00	Session 4: Energy efficiency in public buildings	
<i>The purpose of this session is to introduce examples of eco efficiency in buildings and review the policy, institutions and financing that provided an enabling environment. A facilitated discussion should follow the initial presentation which should aim to challenge participants to think of concrete actions that would be needed to integrate energy efficiency in buildings in their country. The key outcome of the discussion would be a set of issues and possible activities.</i>		
09:00 – 10:30	Introduction to sustainable building design and planning	Prof. B. Mohanty
	Presentation of case studies of energy efficiency in public buildings	Prof. B. Mohanty
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:50 – 12:00	The supporting policy, institutional, programmatic and financial environment	Prof. B. Mohanty
	Analysis and discussion on creating enabling environment and implementing activities in Central Asian countries	Participants (Facilitator: Prof. B Mohanty)
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30 – 15:00	Breakout groups discuss the creation of an enabling environment and required actions specifically for labelling and standards or buildings	Participants in 2 to 4 groups
15:00 – 15:20	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:20 – 16:30	Presentation of results from breakout group discussions	
Day 4 – 21 November 2008		
9:00 – 12:00	Session 4 – The way forward	
<i>The purpose of this session would be to discuss possible ways forward and activities that could be undertaken by countries with the assistance of international organizations. The outcome of this session would ideally be a statement of commitment from participants along with several concrete ideas and activities that could be undertaken. The overall purpose would also be to motivate participants and assist ESCAP and ECE develop a programme to implement energy efficiency in buildings and labelling and standards. Possible actions to fall under the Baku Initiative could also be highlighted to enable us to develop a programme of activities.</i>		
09:00 – 09:20	Recap on outcome from previous days' discussion	ESCAP
09:20 – 10:00	Discussion – feasibility of activities, potential for greatest short term impact, long-term activities	Participants
10:00 – 10:20	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:20 – 11:00	Discussion – feasibility of activities, potential for greatest short term impact, long-term activities	Participants
11:00 – 11:30	Adoption of the report	ESCAP
11:30 – 12:00	Summary and close	ESCAP
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	

Annex II

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

in collaboration with

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)
and
JSC KAZAKH RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF POWER ENGINEERING
NAMED AFTER SH.CH. CHOKIN

Workshop on Energy Efficiency Opportunities in Central Asia including SPECA Countries

18-21 November 2008
Almaty, Kazakhstan

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Annex III

Summary of group presentations

Group A: Energy Efficiency Centres

Barriers to energy efficiency:

1. High energy consumption of utilities and industries
2. Poor regulation
3. Insufficient funds from the State for energy efficiency and energy conservation
4. Lack of stimulus and incentives
5. Lack of informative campaigns

Existing measures by stakeholders:

1. State support of energy efficiency measures (addition, modification and revision to the Energy Saving Law)
2. Some energy efficiency programs exist but these are fragmented
3. International/bilateral funding for energy saving programmes

Proposed solutions:

Goal: To improve energy efficiency utilization and application of energy technology, means and materials

Objectives:

1. Decrease of losses of energy at all stage of production and consumption in all sectors
2. Sufficiency of energy
3. Improve energy efficiency in industry
4. Support the development of energy efficiency legislation
5. Develop fiscal and economic instruments to support energy efficiency activities

Types of activities:

1. Provide information and advisory services to all target groups (decision makers, specialists, civil organizations, NGOs, population, youth, children)
2. Evaluation and monitoring of the measures for energy efficiency
3. Raising awareness, advertising and improving the consciousness of the population

Results/Impact:

1. Improve energy efficiency through the introduction of planning and forecasting of the energy consumption in industries and trace the results through evaluation
2. Improve the energy efficiency of buildings
3. Standards and labelling - improvement of sales of certified appliances

Sources of funding:

Government, donors, international organizations, partners

Strategy to secure political support:

1. Insufficiency of interest of the State bodies, consumers, poor understanding and consciousness of all stakeholders. Develop an information campaign and improve the effectiveness of training.
2. Hold large activities with the decision makers.

Comments:

- Focus on appliances (standards and labelling) before industry and buildings
- Training and promotion is very important but you need to promote something. Must have energy efficiency standard and labelling program first.
- Policy and financial support very important; EE standards cannot be realised without policy and financial support.
- Short-term perspective: Awareness, Advice, market transformation; try not to do too many things at once; develop a business case and involve the business sector.
- Medium-term perspective: Innovative financing and labelling/regulation

Group B: Promoting Sustainable Building Practices

Existing problem to be addressed:

- Lack of relevant standard and norms
- Lack of funding of green building
- Lack of trained personnel
- Absence of sufficient information
- Unawareness of officials on types of green building

Existing measures, if any:

- Laws on energy and water savings in all countries, but poor and inactive (no sub-legislative act, no effective regulation)
- Several objects and building technologies are there, but not publicized enough

Solutions:

- Develop regulation on scientific , financial basis
 - o Development of relevant standards and regulations (requires the goodwill of officials and funding)
- Funding sources for green/energy efficient buildings (to cover additional costs)
- Need for State support (convince the State agencies of the importance)
- Raise awareness of public, training of personnel
- Development of scientific and technical basis

Activities:

- Construction of pilot projects and objects
- Construction of energy efficient public and government buildings and demonstrate the benefit to private developers

Impact:

- Need to develop the criteria economic effectiveness
- Raising awareness about the positive results achieved
- Attracting funding

Possible sources of funding:

- Government
- Private sector
- International institutions
- CDM

Proposals:

- Develop a number of measures including standards and labelling

- Financial benefits and others should be demonstrated (develop a business case for the private sector)
- Need for regionalizing the approach (no need to work country by country)
- Exchange of opinions and experiences
- Establish Energy Efficiency Centres which will assist further

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

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

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 18-19 November 2008

A. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on November 18-19, 2008. The Meeting was organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in close cooperation with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) and Executive Board of Directors of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EBD IFAS).
2. The Meeting was held within the framework of Phase II of the “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” Project being implemented by UNECE. The project is carried out under the supervision of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia and within the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). It is aimed at the improvement of the national legislation and state regulation in the field of dam safety in participating countries and strengthening of the regional cooperation in this field. The project is implemented in the context of the Programme on improvement of environmental and socio-economic situation in Aral Sea Basin-2 for the period of 2003 to 2010 (ASBP-2) implemented by IFAS. It is also a part of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) and is financed by the Government of Finland with partial financial support of Government of Russian Federation.
3. Opening of the meeting and the first plenary session were held in the framework of the 16th session of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources of SPECA countries. Meetings of the Working Group for development of a Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to Hydraulic Structures’ Safety and the Working Group for Harmonization of Regulatory, Legal and Technical Documentation on Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian countries were held concurrently. The meeting was concluded with a plenary session.

1. Objectives of the Meeting

4. The Meeting was to decide on further actions to harmonise the key provisions of respective national regulatory documents and technical specifications regulating safety of hydraulic structures, as well as to continue development of a Regional Agreement on cooperation in this field. In addition, the objective was to exchange corresponding experiences between the participants.

2. Attendance

5. 19 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan took part in the Meeting; IFAS was presented by 3 participants. The Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) and Eurasian Development Bank were also represented at the Meeting. 31 participant included in the list of Appendix 1 to this Report took part in the Meeting together with staff members of UNECE Secretariat, consultants and representatives of other organizations.

3. Opening of the Meeting

6. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE. He briefed the participants of the Meeting with the objectives of the project, results of its first phase (2004-2006) and the tasks laying ahead to implement the second phase of the project (2008-2010). He also noted that the core financing of the project is provided by the Government of Finland, and additional funding is provided by Government of the Russian Federation.

7. Mr. Timur Kamalov, Chairman of the State Inspection for Control and Supervision of the Technical Condition and Safe Operation of Large and High-Security Waterworks under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Gosvodkhoznadzor) welcomed the participants of the Meeting. He drew attention of participants to the particular importance of ensuring the safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian countries, noted the interest of Uzbekistan to cooperation in this area, and in particular, to conclusion of a Regional Agreement on Cooperation, thereupon he wished success to all.

4. Election of Officers

8. Ms. Jyldyz Sarybaeva, Head of International Economy Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Georgy Petrov, head of Hydroenergy Laboratory under the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan; Kurbangeldy Ballyev, Department Head in the Research Center of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (SIC ISDC) IFAS, the representative of Turkmenistan, and Timur Kamalov, chairman of “Gosvodkhoznadzor” of Uzbekistan took their turns in chairing the sessions of the meeting.

5. Approval of the Agenda

9. The following agenda of the Meeting was approved:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of officials.
3. Approval of the agenda of the Meeting.
4. Reports of current results of “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” Project and its further tasks.
5. Session on development of the Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures.
6. Possibilities of assistance to the stakeholder countries in improvement of their National Legislations on Safety of Hydraulic Structures.
7. Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments on dam safety in countries of Central Asia.
8. Consideration and approval of the Work Plan for 2009.
9. Development of recommendations of the Meeting.
10. Miscellaneous.
11. Conclusion of the Meeting.

10. The Programme of the Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia is attached in Appendix 2.

B. PROCEEDINGS

11. Under Item 4 of the agenda, Mr. Bo Libert presented the results of activities completed under the Project in 2008. He remarked that in addition to the Regional meeting in Tashkent, held in March 2008, National workshops were held in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Besides, he noted, within the framework of this Regional Meeting, the first meetings of Working Group on development of a Regional agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures and the Working Group on Harmonization of

regulatory, legislative and technical instruments for Safety of Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia shall be held. He also pointed out that the future cooperation of the countries of Central Asia would be aimed at the conclusion of a Regional Agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures; improvement and harmonization of the national regulatory and legal frameworks for safety of hydraulic structures, and advanced training of specialists in organizations supervising the safety of hydraulic structures.

12. Under Item 5 of the agenda, Mr. Yuri Steklov, Consultant, presented a version of the draft agreement as of 10 October 2008, prepared with consideration of comments and suggestions received before that date. Representatives of all participating countries expressed support for further work on the draft agreement and suggested a number of changes and proposals. Representatives of Uzbekistan shared an amended draft agreement, coordinated at the national level with ministries and departments. Several participants expressed their views that the cooperation body, would that be either a commission or a Hydraulic Structures Safety Center as the draft agreement provides for, would be useful to establish under the auspices of IFAS.

13. Under Item 6 of the agenda, the participants of the Meeting informed about the work completed in 2008, aimed at improvement and establishment of the national laws regulating the safety of hydraulic structures in countries of Central Asia. It was noted that the Model National Law on Safety of Hydraulic Structures, developed during the first phase of the project, was used for this purpose. The meeting took note of information that the assistance to the interested countries in developing their national legislations on Safety of Hydraulic Structures will continue in 2009 in form of advisory services or examination of draft national laws.

14. Under Item 7 of the agenda, Mr. Dmitriy B. Radkevich, consultant, introduced the participants to the concept of a coherent system of normative legal and normative technical instruments governing the safety of dams and other hydraulic structures in countries of Central Asia. He also reported that, in order to implement this concept, lists of such instruments currently in force in countries of Central Asia and Russia had been prepared, and a model of legislative, regulatory and legal acts and regulations of technical management for the region had been proposed. He then suggested for consideration of the participants a proposal of a possibility for developing national legislation on safety of hydraulic structures in the form of relevant technical regulation, which could reflect all provisions of the Model Law on Safety of hydraulic structures accepted by specific country, and specify the basic requirements of technical nature.

15. Under Item 8 of the agenda, Draft Work Plan for 2009 was presented and discussed. The participants' attention was drawn to the fact that the Plan provided for two meetings for each working group – Working group for development of Regional Agreement and Working Group on Regulatory, Legal and Technical Management of Safety of Hydraulic Structures.

C. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

16. The participants of the Meeting made decisions on the discussed issues and recommended to take the following actions:

I. Concerning the support for improvement of National Legislations on Safety of Hydraulic Structures

To continue extending the support within the framework of the project to the countries interested in improvement of national legislation based on the model law on Safety of Hydraulic Structures in form of advice or independent examination.

II. Concerning the development of documentation for regulatory and technical management of Safety of Hydraulic Structures:

1. To accept the concept of development of a harmonized system of regulatory legal and technical instruments Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian countries as a basis.
2. To note the fruitful work of the experts of the countries of the region and consultants in development of the draft model list of regulatory, legal and technical documentation.
3. To recommend to develop a model version of the technical regulation on Safety of hydraulic structures within the framework of the project.
4. To ask the consultants of the project to introduce the working group with the regulatory and technical documentation on Safety of hydraulic structures, which exists in the Russian Federation.

III. Concerning the Draft Agreement on Cooperation with respect to the Safety of Hydraulic Structures:

1. To continue the work on the draft regional agreement on cooperation with respect to the Safety of Hydraulic Structures, based on the version of October 10, 2008 with structural changes, taking into account all the comments and suggestions.
2. To have consultant of the Project together with the Working Group prepare for December 10, 2008, an amended version of the draft regional agreement. To have him send this version to the National Coordinators for its consideration in due course.
3. To request the National Coordinators to present before 1 March 2009 the comments and suggestions to the developed version of the draft agreement coordinated at the national level.
4. To ask Management of the Project (UNECE) to approach the Executive Committee of IFAS with the proposal to expand the cooperation on Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia.

IV. Concerning the Work Plan for 2009:

To approve the Project Work Plan for 2009 (Appendix 3).

Miscellaneous

17. The participants expressed their gratitude to Government of Finland and Government of Russian Federation for their support of the Project.
18. To note with satisfaction the intention of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to support the efforts of Central Asian countries to ensure the safety of Hydraulic Structures within the framework of the new project.
19. To express gratitude to the Executive Board of Directors of IFAS in Kazakhstan for the excellent organization of the meeting.
20. The list of materials distributed at the Regional Meeting is attached in Annex 4.

СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ

Региональное совещание по сотрудничеству по безопасности плотин в Центральной Азии
18-19 ноября 2008 года, Алматы, Казахстан

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Almaty, Kazakhstan, November 18-19, 2008

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**Regional Meeting for Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia
18-19 November 2008, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 18 November 2008

Venue: *Meeting Hall of the city Akimat (Mayor's Office), Republic Square 4*

Opening of the meeting and the first plenary session were held in the framework of the 16th session of the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources of Special Program of the UN for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

16:00 - 16:30 Registration of Participants

First Plenary Session

16:30 - 16:50 **Opening of the Meeting**

Welcoming statement on behalf of UNECE,

Progress of "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation" Project and further tasks for its implementation

Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE

Welcoming statement

Mr. Timur Kamalov, Chairman of Gosvodkhoz nadzor, Uzbekistan

16:50 - 17:30 Discussion

Wednesday, 19 November 2008

Venue: *Conference Hall of Almaty hotel, 85 Kabanbay Batyr str.*

Simultaneous meetings of Working Groups

Working Groups on development of a Regional agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia

Chairman – Mrs. Jyldyz Sarybaeva, Kyrgyzstan

Working Group on Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments for Safety of Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia

Chairman – Mr. Georgiy Petrov, Tajikistan

9:30 - 9:45 Introductory word and proposals concerning the activities of the Working Group

Mr. Yuriy Steklov, Consultant

Introductory word and proposals concerning the activities of the Working Group

Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Advisor, UNECE

9:45 - 10:00 Current situation of national legislations on Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian Countries.

Mr. Yuriy Steklov, Consultant

Structure of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments with regard to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Russian Federation

Mr. Dmitriy Radkevich, Consultant

10:00 -10:15	Discussion	Review of existing regulations and legislation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian Countries <i>Mr. Oleg Makaraov, Kyrgyzstan</i>
10:15 - 10:45	Development of an agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia <i>Mr. Yuriy Steklov, Consultant</i>	Suggestions on standard structure and list of regulatory instruments to support the Safety of Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia. <i>Mr. Dmitriy Radkevich, Consultant</i>
10:45 -11:00		Coffee-break
11:00 -12:30	Discussion	Discussion
12:30 -13:00	Adoption of recommendations of the Work Group	Adoption of recommendations of the Work Group
13:00 -14:00		Lunch Break

Second Plenary Session

Chairman – Mr. Kurbangeldy Ballyev, Turkmenistan

14:00 -14:15	Report from the Working Group on development of a Regional agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian Countries <i>Chairman of the Group - Ms. Jyldyz Sarybaeva, Kyrgyzstan</i>	
14:15 -15:00	Discussion	
15:00 -15:15	Report from the Working Group on Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments for Safety of Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia <i>Chairman of the Group - Mr. Georgiy Petrov, Tajikistan</i>	
15:15 -16:00	Discussion	
16:00 -16:30		Coffee-break

Second Plenary Session

Chairman – Mr. Timur Kamalov, Uzbekistan

16:30 -16:45	Work Plan for 2009 <i>Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Adviser, UNECE</i>	
16:45 -17:30	Discussion aimed at development of decisions and recommendations of the Meeting	
17:30 -18:30	Reviewing and adopting the Decisions, Recommendations and Report of the Meeting Conclusion of the Meeting	

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Plan of Work for the Second Phase of the “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation” Project

1. National Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia, Tajikistan, Dushanbe, March 2009 – 1 day
2. Meeting of the Working Group on development of a Regional agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian Countries Tajikistan, Dushanbe, March 2009 (immediately after the National Meeting) – 2 days
3. Training
Uzbekistan, Tashkent (or Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek or Russia, Moscow), April 2009 - 3 days
4. Meeting of the Working Group on Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments for Safety of Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia
Uzbekistan, Tashkent (or Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek or Russia, Moscow), April 2009 (immediately after the Training) – 2 days
5. Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation in Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, November 2009 - 3 days
 - i. Meeting of the Working Group on Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments for Safety of Hydraulic Structures
 - ii. Meeting of the Working Group on development of a Regional agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asian Countries
 - iii. Plenary sessions

**List of materials distributed at the Regional Meeting on Dam Safety Cooperation
in Central Asia
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 18-19 November 2008**

1. “Dam safety in Central Asia: building potential and regional cooperation” Publication, United Nations, 2007.
2. Draft agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia as of 10.10.2008, with comments.
3. Structurally changed and amended Agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia as of 10.10.2008, with comments.
4. Draft Charter (Articles of Association, Resolution on establishment) of the International Commission for the safety of hydraulic facilities in Central Asia as of 10.10.2008.
5. Draft Charter of the Regional Center for the safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia, as of 10.10.2008.
6. Draft agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia, submitted by Uzbekistan.
7. Proposals to the Draft agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia, presented by A. G. Zyryanov, Kyrgyzstan.
8. Proposals to the Draft agreement on Cooperation with respect to Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia, presented by G. N. Petrov, Tajikistan.
9. The concept of Harmonization of regulatory, legislative and technical instruments, governing the Safety of Dams and other Hydraulic Structures in countries of Central Asia.
10. The list of legislative and regulatory instruments, as well as technical regulations of Russian Federation.
11. Consolidated list of legislative and regulatory acts and regulations of Central Asian countries on Safety of Hydraulic Structures with annotations.
12. Work plan for the second phase of the «Dam safety in Central Asia: building potential and regional cooperation» Project for 2009.
13. Proposals for training courses under the project.