



Promoting regional water sector dialogue and cooperation in Central Asia through knowledge networking, partnerships and education



International Conference
March 3 – 4, 2021, Zoom online

Agenda

March 3, 2021 (12:00 – 16:00 Almaty time)

Day 1: “Many hands make light work” - capacity development, networking and building partnerships programs and initiatives in CA

12:00 – 12:15 Introduction and Setting the Stage

Welcoming remarks from the WB CAWEP Manager and development partners

Themes for discussion on Day 1:

- On-going and new capacity building programs and projects for water in CA
- Regional cooperation among universities and curricula unification
- Gender aspects in water sector and youth support activities

12:15 – 13:45 Session 1: Overview of regional partnerships in water sector and major international capacity building initiatives

Presentations (10 min each):

- CAWEP CA Knowledge Network – how to eat an elephant: overview of approaches and activities. *Ms. Julia Komagaeva, Country Operations Officer, the World Bank*
- EU – overview of the EU programs and projects in CA countries. *(Speaker – tbc)*
- SDC - overview of the SDC water sector capacity building under the Blue Peace Central Asia initiative. *Ms. Stephanie Piers de Raveschoot, Water Programme Manager, the Division Global Programme Water GPW within the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)*
- UNESCO - working in the area of science, education and capacity building on water in CA region. *Ms. Kristine Tovmasyan, UNESCO*
- USAID – new Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment (WAVE) project overview. *Mr. Richard Volk, Chief of Party, USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity*

General Discussion and interventions from the Floor (35 min)

13:45 – 14:00 Coffee break

14:00 – 15:30 Session 2: Networking platforms and Communities of Practice (CoP) as instruments enabling people-to-people dialogue, cross-country collaboration and joint action

Presentations (10 min each):

- CAREC – Partnership with the WB CA KN around the Academic Network and student competitions – how effective partnerships yield long lasting results. *Ms. Saltanat Zhakenova, Climate Change Specialist, The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)*
- Syr-Darya Basin Women Forum of Tajikistan – mission and activities. *Ms. Shohida Tulieva, Forum Coordinator*

- CAY4Water Network overview of activities. *Ms. Lyazzat Syrlybayeva and Ms. Cholpon Aitakhunova, Network regional coordinators.*
- EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on IWRM in Central Asia as intersectoral multistakeholder platforms to drive water reforms: lessons learned from more than 10 years of operation and future prospects. *Mr. Alisher Mamadzhanov (PhD), Environmental Affairs Officer, European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNCE)*
- EU-Central Asia Network on Water Science and Technology (Central Asian Water Regional Science Diplomacy: A Stakeholders' Platform). *(Speaker tbc)*

Discussion and interventions from the floor (30 min)

15:30 – 16:00 **End of Day Wrap-up**

March 4, 2021 (12:00 – 16:00 Almaty time)

Day 2: Linking education, science and practice as a strategic direction for improving the quality of water education in CA

12:00 – 12:15 **Introduction for the Day 2**

Themes for discussion:

- Education and student research – experience and lessons for CA universities and think-tanks
- Linking education with labor market needs – how to engage with future employers upstream
- New education modalities and prospects of online education in water sector

12:15 – 14:00 **Session 1: Panel Discussion on Demand and Supply in Water Education in Central Asia**

Keynote speaker 1: What type of modern young water professionals is required by the water sector – practical insight (10 min) *Mr. Anatoly Ryabtsev, Doctor of Technical Sciences, General Director of “Kazgiprovodkhoz” Project Design Institute LLP, Director of the International Water Center (Water Hub), Kazakh National Agrarian Research University.*

Keynote speaker 2: Overview of supply and demand in water education in CA countries – the SDC study results (10 min). *Ms. Bota Sharipova, Consultant, SDC.*

Panel Discussion and Insight from practitioners, university and academia fellows – How students could and should be engaged (5 – 7 min each):

- The importance of official ministerial (sectoral) request (expression of demand) for young water specialists in the context of a COVID-19 crisis. *Mr. Saghit Ibatullin, Prof., DS, Head of the CA Regional Academic Expert Group, Taraz State University, Kazakhstan*
- Experience in linking education and applied research in Kyrgyz Republic. *Ms. Elena Drugaleva, Head of the Chair “Amelioration and Water resource management”, The Kyrgyz National Agrarian University n.a. K.I. Skryabin (KNAU)*
- Issues of preparation and provision of scientific cadres to research and applied structures of Tajikistan. *Mr. Dilshod Umarov, General Director of GU TajikNIIGiM, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.*
- Lessons of experience in conducting applied research on the example of the takyr restoration project in Turkmenistan – how to better structure educational process, development of analytical skills and scientific work skills among students. *Mr. Batyr Mamedov, Head of the Secretariat of the International Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD), IFAS*
- Ensuring integration of education, science and practice in Uzbekistan water sector education cycle based on the experience of TIAME. *Mr. Abdulkhakim Salokhiddinov, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Prof., Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, TIAME, Uzbekistan*
- Insight from Afghanistan. *Mr. Noor Ahmad Akhundzadah, Dean of Faculty of Environment, University of Kabul*

Discussion and interventions from the floor (15 min)

14:00 – 14:15 **Coffee break**

14:15 – 15:45 **Session 2: Pushing the frontiers and searching for innovative approaches to water and climate change challenges**

- Lessons of experience on approaches to teaching process during the pandemic imposed lockdown:
 - WB CA KN – organizing virtual training seminars on approaches to design and teaching online courses. (10 min) *Mr. Vitaly Nagornov, Senior Researcher at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)*
 - Reflections from the TIIAME experience. (10 min) *Mr. D. Khodzhaev, associate professor, Head of the educational and methodological department of TIIAME*
 - Reflections from Afghani universities - tbc
- Central Asia Climate Information Platform (CACIP) helping stakeholders to access, analyze, and visualize public-domain data. (10 min) *Mr. Zafar Makhmudov, Executive Director, The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)*
- International experience with online training programs
 - Teaching online the WASH course at the GKU. (10 min) *Dr. Maryna Peter, FHNW - University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland*
- UNESCO - facilitating the exchange of expertise and knowledge within the region (and with outside) through the UNITWIN -university twinning and networking- program. (*Speaker – tbc*)
- CA country experience in delivery of joint programs and dual diploma programs with international partners:
 - Experience in organizing and conducting programs at TIIAME.(10 min) *Mr. Alim Pulatov, Prof., Head of EcoGIS Center TIIAME, Uzbekistan*

Interventions from the Floor (20 min)

15:45 – 16:00 **General Discussion and Conference Closing Remarks**