

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN EXPERT PLATFORM (CAEP) FOR WATER SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE STUDIES

July 9, videoconference

Meeting's saying: "*Water managers saved the regional unity, now they are to revive this unity*"

Ch. Uzakbaev

Participated:

Chairman of CAEP: S. Ibatullin (Kazakhstan)

Country representatives in CAEP: A. Ryabtsev (Kazakhstan), Ch. Uzakbaev (Kyrgyzstan), Ya. Pulatov (Tajikistan), V. Sokolov (Uzbekistan)

International organizations: Prof. V. Dukhovniy, D. Ziganshina, A. Galustyan (SIC ICWC)

Agenda

1. General information on planned projects and activity for CAEP development (Prof. V. Dukhovniy).
2. Information on progress on establishment of CAEP at present stage (D. Ziganshina).
3. Organizational matters (S. Ibatullin).

On the first item, Prof. Dukhovniy made a short presentation of ongoing projects:

(1) Research program of the Center for Central Asia Research of Corvinus University (Budapest) "Water as a driver of sustainable recovery: economic, institutional and strategic aspects of water resources management in Central Asia" aimed to address economic, financial, and strategic aspects of water cooperation in CA. Series of workshops is planned under the project. Our task is to prepare materials for discussion.

(2) "Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land nexus in Central Asia" as part of the International Climate Initiative 2020 (supported by the Government of German). The project will also strengthen the regional knowledge base and build research capacity, including expert knowledge on nexus in support of policy making. The kick-off meeting was held among the

project partners - OECD, EBRD, UNECE, SIC ICWC (June 24-26). The meeting results and project materials will be disseminated among partners and the project's preparatory project will be started soon.

The CAEP members are to once again discuss organizational matters and upcoming work plans.

On the second item, D. Ziganshina told about the progress in organization of CAEP and support from authorized organizations, in particular in Uzbekistan. She informed that as a trial work within the framework of CAEP, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UN, SIC ICWC experts would summarize and analyze the statements made by official representatives of CA countries at the UN GA. The aim of the work is to identify what issues were raised by the countries during the general debates, what initiatives were proposed, how the issues changed over time, as well as what issues were not properly reflected.

On the third item, S. Ibatullin requested national team leaders to determine the final composition of experts from the countries in all focus areas and present a brief summary for each expert. In particular, it is necessary to involve national experts in the following areas not yet covered:

- Kyrgyzstan: political adviser, agriculture, water law;
- Tajikistan: political adviser, agriculture, water law;
- Turkmenistan: hydropower, economy, agriculture, hydrology;
- Uzbekistan: agriculture.

The chairman also made proposals on the beginning of work of expert groups. In particular, experts are invited to develop plans for policy briefs that include:

- (1) analysis of the situation in each focus area, with particular emphasis on economic aspects;
- (2) problems in given sector;
- (3) solutions, scenarios of sectoral development, with account of water;
- (4) possibilities for development and application of economic mathematical modeling;
- (5) staffing problems: present state and needs by 2035-2040.

National team leaders are invited to elaborate on:

- (1) possibilities of transferring Siberian rivers to CA;
- (2) ways and possibilities of establishing a water-energy consortium of CA.

During the discussion, V. Sokolov, A. Ryabtsev, Ch. Uzakbaev, Y. Pulatov supported the initiative and proposals on organization of CAEP activity. Mr. Sokolov noted that on the threshold of the second anniversary of IFAS Summit in

Turkmenistan it would be desirable for each country to get analysis of progress.

Necessary additional materials and requests on organizational issues will be sent to national team leaders in the regular course of work.