



following equal representation of 5 countries, duration 5-7 days, depending on subject). More than 2000 persons received training over 6 years. Along with water specialists, representatives of other water-using sectors, such as energy, ecology, drinking water supply and fishery are invited to get training. Representatives of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs and Justice participate in

the workshops dedicated to water law and policies. The Training Center practices interactive training, which is based on exchange of opinions among the trainees while discussing sector's problems and challenges with the help of experienced moderators, often represented by ICWC members. This promotes mutual understanding and common ground, openness and trust.

In order to improve training efficiency and extend local coverage, branches of

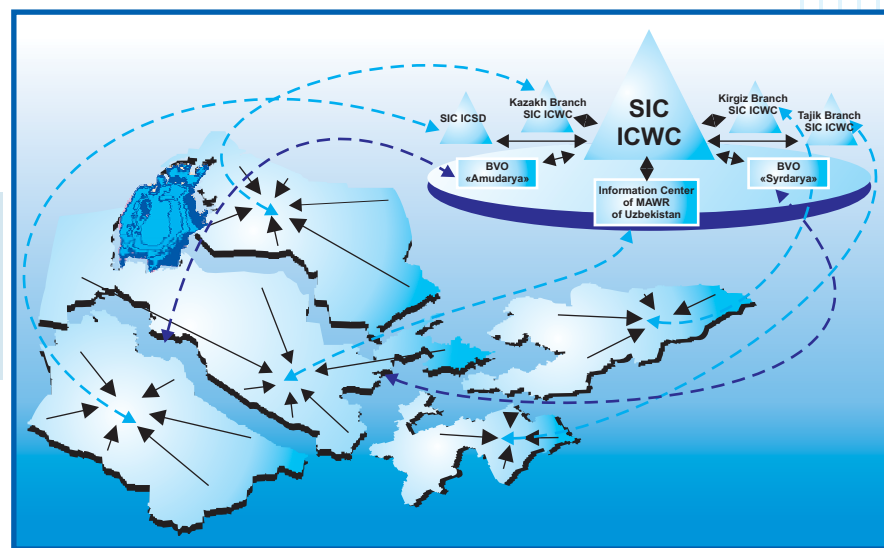
## INFORMATION ACTIVITY

In 1993, SIC ICWC joined IPTRID network (International Program of Technology and Research in Irrigation and Drainage) established by the World Bank, ICID, UNDP and FAO. Information received from all information sources is processed by qualified staff and disseminated among Central Asian countries through periodical collections. Particular role in information activity is played by the project of Central Asian

Regional Water Information Base «CAREWIB». The project activity is extended to the territory of five Central Asian states. Each state has National Coordinator plus two coordinators on the Amudarya and the Syrdarya river basins. The following was achieved during the project activities:

- Established information water-economic portal for Central Asia. Information support is provided by SIC ICWC.

- Created first version of the information system on water and land resources of the Aral Sea basin.



## SCIENTIFIC-INFORMATION CENTER OF ICWC

# SIC ICWC

Scientific-Information Center on water issues at the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia (SIC ICWC) was established by ICWC's decision of 5 December 1992. SIC is an executive body of ICWC along with ICWC Secretariat, Basin Water Organizations (BWO) of Amudarya and Syrdarya, and Coordination Metrological Center (CMC).

According to the Decision by the Heads of State and the Board of IFAS, ICWC was included in the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) and have got the status of an international organization.

SIC ICWC is collaborating with a network of scientific and design organizations of the five countries of Central Asia and has national branches in three countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan). In addition, an Agreement was signed with SIC ICSD (Ashgabad) on scientific and technological cooperation.

For additional information please visit

## REGIONAL COOPERATION

The main administrative and technical objective of SIC ICWC is preparation of regular ICWC meetings.

Besides, an analysis is made and information is prepared on items of meetings' agenda; urgent issues are initiated; regional program drafts are developed; and, implementation of decisions made is supervised. Information on all ICWC meetings is published in "ICWC Bulletins" produced by SIC and on ICWC web-site [www.icwc-aral.uz](http://www.icwc-aral.uz).

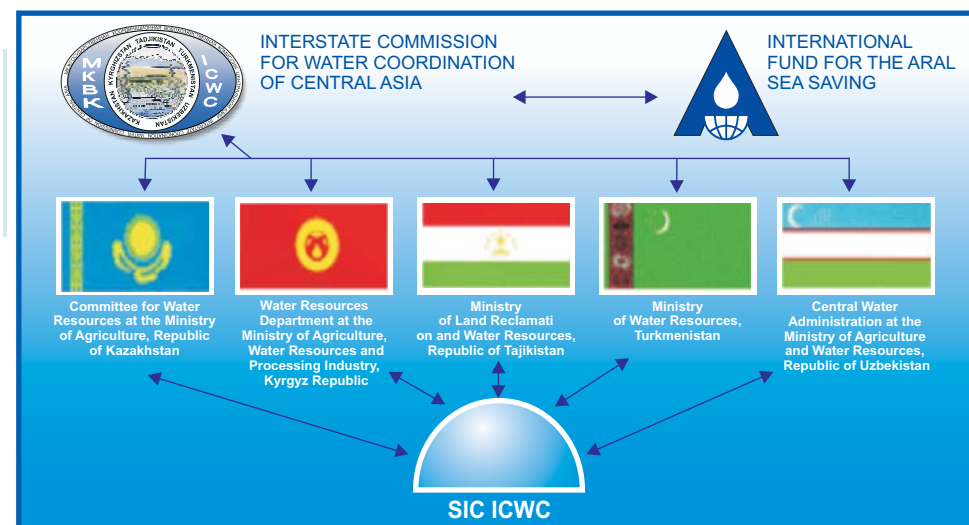
SIC also coordinates joint activities in the region; provides information to all ICWC members about all changes in the field of water management; contributes to capacity building; strengthens collaboration in water resources management and use based on the up to date world experience; initiates and coordinates regional projects; and, organizes activities of the Training Center and its branches.

For implementation of the developed drafts on regional projects, including on modernization of hydraulic structures at the Syrdarya river and the Amudarya river, SIC seeks donors.

Regional information system on water and land resources management has been created and being developed as well as the national data bases on water, land, and environment.

Base of reference on the Aral Sea basin water resources management has been created.

SIC together with its branches facilitates interagency collaboration process in the



region, taking an active part in interagency commissions, conferences, meetings on integrated water management in the Amudarya and Syrdarya basins in the interests of hydropower, irrigation and environment.

Periodically, International Exhibition for water sector and technologies and International Central Asian Scientific-Practical Conference on regional water challenges are organized and held at the International Exhibition Center "Atakent-Expo" in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Greater attention is paid to water conservation, which is dealt with in special sections of the ICWC's research agenda. Those imply development of measures for rational water use, first of all, in irrigation, identification of reserves in water use under water shortage conditions, as well as improvement of

water and land productivity.

The same issues were reflected in the international projects initiated by SIC and within which detailed monitoring and best practices dissemination have been undertaken.

A monograph "Ways of Water Conservation" in Russian and English and a number of articles in journals and collections of articles, as well as reports at workshops and conferences contribute to popularization of water conservation.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

In order to develop cooperation links, attract donors and international projects in solving the Aral Sea problems, SIC has been making their efforts for broadening and strengthening of international collaboration.

Since 1996, SIC ICWC has been a member of the following international organizations:

- Technology for Water Resources - TECHWARE;
- World Council for Water Supply and Sanitation;
- World Water Council - WWC;
- International Network of Basin Organizations - INBO;
- Global Water Partnership GWP;
- International Water Resources Association IWRA;

■ Asia-Pacific Water Forum APWF. ICWC initiated joining the International Commission of Irrigation and Drainage by all Central Asian states and establishment within ICID a special working group on the Aral Sea Basin. Participation of ICWC delegation in all the congresses of ICID has been organized with sponsor support since 1993. As nominated by the NCID of Uzbekistan,

Prof. V.A.Dukhovny was elected as Vice-President of ICID at 54th ICID Meeting in 2003. In 2006, he was elected as Honorable Vice-President at 57th ICID Meeting.

The leaders of SIC ICWC are the members of WWC Board of Governors (V.A.Dukhovny), INBO (P.D.Umarov), and APWF (V.I.Sokolov).

With the support of international organizations, study-tours of ICWC members and executing agencies' staff were organized for acquiring of best practices in water management and

irrigation to France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, USA, Canada, Spain, India, Pakistan, Australia, and Turkey over a period of several years. This promoted gradual assimilation of world's best practices into minds and decisions of water managers in Central Asian countries.

Regular cooperation is maintained with the Embassies of Canada, the Great Britain, the Netherlands, Israel, India, Indonesia, China, USA, France, Japan and the international organizations accredited in the region as well as with

UNESCO, UNDP, OSCE on water resources management, environmental aspects and other topical issues for the region.

SIC organized participation of ICWC delegation in WWF-3 in Japan and in WWF-4 in Mexico. Preparation to the Fifth World Water Forum, to be held in Turkey in 2009, has been started.

## INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

SIC ICWC coordinates international projects and is involved in their expertise and, in some projects, acts as a research co-executor.

Currently, the following regional projects are implemented under support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and coordination of SIC ICWC:

■ Integrated Water Resources Management in the Ferghana Valley "IWRM-Ferghana".

The project is implemented by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the organizations from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

■ Central Asian Regional Water Information Base «CAREWIB».

The project is implemented by a consortium comprised of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UNEP/GRID-Arendal, and the experts from the five Central Asian states.

■ Canal Automation in Ferghana Valley. The project stipulates implementation of the automation and monitoring system on three transboundary canals in

Ferghana Valley, such as Aravan-Akbura in Kyrgyzstan, South Fergana in Uzbekistan, and Khoja-Bakirgansai in Tajikistan.

Experts from those countries are involved in the project.

■ The Government of Finland and GWP support the project "Water Partnership Capacity Building in Central Asia and Caucasus".

■ The project "A Regional Model for Integrated Water Management in Twinned River Basins" (RIVERTWIN) is implemented under financing from the European Union.

Professionals from Central Asia are involved in the project.

■ ADB finances implementation of the project "Improvement of Shared Water Resources Management in Central Asia", with involvement of experts from Central Asia.

### Finished projects:

■ "Integrated Water Resources Management for Wetland Restoration in the Aral Sea Basin (North part)".

(This project under NATO Science for

Peace Program was implemented by experts from the Netherlands, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan).

■ "Integrated Water Resources Management in the Aral Sea Basin for restoration of wetlands in South Prearalie".

(This project under NATO Science for Peace Program was implemented by experts from the Netherlands, France, and Uzbekistan).

■ "Restoration of ecosystems and bio-productivity in water area of the Aral Sea under limited water".

(EU INTAS Project completed by participants from Russia, Austria, and Uzbekistan).

■ "Environmental assessment of local and joint measures to reduce socio-economic damage in Prearalie area".

(EU INTAS Project completed by participants from Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE IN WATER SECTOR

By the ICWC decision the regional training courses for upgrading skills of water professionals were organized.

The Regional Training Center was established in Tashkent city with sponsorship of international organizations.

The aim of the courses is professional training of high and medium level specialists in water and land resources management, irrigation and drainage, and environmental protection. Along with education it facilitates the regional interstate collaboration in area of water

use and management, in development of the common approaches among specialists and decision-makers.

Training of Central Asian water specialists is organized in form of workshops based on ICWC-approved annual plan (training of 20-30 persons