

The **main features** of SIC ICWC capacity building activities are as follow:

- Ensuring that **all levels of water hierarchy** are covered by **demand-driven training** tailored to setting and particular needs: training centers for water professionals, knowledge centers and extension services for farmers, special programs for rural women.
- Building new **skills and knowledge** but also fostering new **mindset and attitudes**: interactive trainings, dialogues, social mobilization.
- Enhancing linkages between **training, applied research and best practices** in the region and worldwide: study tours, invited international lecturers, joint regional and international trainings and projects to promote advanced and locally adapted experiences.
- Introducing **an innovative cycle of knowledge transfer** from knowledge generators such as research institutions through information centers where information is translated into user-friendly and easily understandable language and format to information disseminators who convey it to farmers and receive their feedback.
- Establishing **user-friendly databases** (regional and national) and **knowledge bases** (curriculums, guidelines and other practical and information materials) and connecting them to training needs.
- Providing **a platform for communication and dialogue** to foster peaceful cooperation on transboundary waters in the region.
- Investing in the future water leaders by delegating young water specialists to complete master and PhD programs at the universities of Germany (LUCA, ClinCa projects) and the Netherlands (IHEUNESCO).

## Communication and Networking

To fulfill its communicative and networking functions, SIC ICWC:

- **Partners** with national water authorities and other institutions and **participate** in joint programmes and activities;
- Engages in the work of **expert groups and task forces** on water-related issues;
- Establishes and maintains links between the international water community and the **Russian-speaking audience**;
- Facilitates **networking with global partners** such as WWC, GWP, ICID, IWRA, INBO, AIDA;
- Serves as a founding member of **regional networks** such as **Network of Water Organizations from Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia** (NWO EECCA) ([www.eecca-water.net/](http://www.eecca-water.net/)) and **Gender and Water Network of Central Asian (GWANET)** ([www.gender.cawater-info.net/](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/));
- Maintains close **connections** with embassies, development banks (WB, ADB, EBRD), development cooperation agencies (SDC, GIZ, CIDA, DFID) as well as United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNESCO, FAO).

### Today in Focus: Advancing World Water Council's mission across Central Asia and other Russian speaking areas

SIC ICWC is a WWC member since 2000. To advance WWC's mission SIC ICWC:

- **Mobilized** high level participation of five Central Asian countries in all World Water Forums, organized preparatory process, special sessions and follow-up activities for the forums;
- **Initiates** and participates in the work of WWC's task forces;
- **Promotes** awareness and information exchange on water issues in the region of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia;
- **Maintains** the Russian version of the WWC website;
- **Brings together** government officials, sector professionals and civil society in order to promote WWC's mission in the region.



## Introducing SIC ICWC

**Scientific Information Center (SIC)** as an executive body of the **Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC)** was established in 1992. ICWC is formed of the heads of national water authorities of five Central Asian states – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - committed to the cooperative management of transboundary waters in the Aral Sea Basin.

SIC ICWC is an **international organization** accredited in Uzbekistan. It has national branches in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

SIC ICWC facilitates the preparation of ICWC meetings and provides **technical and administrative support** to the ICWC activities in the region and worldwide.

SIC ICWC's **mission** is to contribute to fostering transboundary water cooperation and promoting sustainable water management in Central Asia through **information, capacity building, communication, research and expert advice.**

1992 - 2012

SCIENTIFIC-INFORMATION  
CENTER OF ICWC

SIC ICWC

## SIC ICWC in Action:



### Research and Expert Advice

SIC ICWC is engaged in various international, regional and national projects to foster **innovative research** and disseminate **best water management practices** in the region. The key **thematic areas** of SIC ICWC scientific and practical activities include:

- Integrated Water Resources Management and Improved Land and Water Productivity
- Transboundary Water Cooperation: Law, Policy, and Science
- Ecosystems Protection in the Aral Sea Basin
- Water Security, Green Growth, and Climate Change
- Gender and Water
- Scenarios of Future Water Development.

The most recent regional projects implemented by SIC ICWC include:

- *Integrated Water Resources Management in the Fergana Valley – “IWRM-Fergana”(SDC).*
- *Central Asian Regional Water Information Base – “CAREWIB” (SDC).*
- *Water Productivity Improvement at Plot Level Project (SDC)*
- *Canal Automation in Fergana Valley (SDC).*
- *Regional Research Network “Water in Central Asia”- CAWa Project (German Federal Foreign Office).*
- *Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management for Central Asia” (UNESCO-IHE).*
- *Stabilization of the Dried Bed of the Aral Sea Project, 2005-2007 and Monitoring of the Amudarya River Delta, 2009-2012 (GIZ).*



## Information

Information gathering, processing, analyzing and disseminating is central to the mission of SIC ICWC. Three main tools of SIC ICWC information mission include: 1) CAWater-Info Portal, 2) Regional Information System, and 3) Publications.

**CAWater-Info portal** ([cawater-info.net/](http://cawater-info.net/)) was created within the CAREWIB Project to facilitate water-related information flow across the region and beyond. CAWater-Info is a regional web portal that contains **regularly updated information** on water management situation and environmental issues in Central Asia. This information is provided by national water authorities and ICWC executive bodies or collected from other trusted sources and organizations. The portal has traffic of about **3 500 visits per day**. More than 1 300 email accounts are subscribed to receive the **news** from the portal on a regular basis.

The portal contains seven sections: Databases, Analytics, Tools, Knowledge Base, Water World, Projects, Maps.

**Regional Information System on Water and Land Resources Use in the Aral Sea Basin (RIS)** ([cawater-info.net/data\\_ca/](http://cawater-info.net/data_ca/)) was created to serve as a **practical tool** to assess water situation in the region based on data about available water resources, their distribution among river reaches, provinces and water-management systems, operation regimes of reservoirs and HEPS; losses, deficits, imbalances; environmental flows; water quality, etc.

In combination with a set of simulation models on Aral Sea Basin Water Management (ASB-mm), RIS can serve as a means for regional and national organizations to use the same 'information language' that increases data credibility and, ultimately, water management efficiency. The models use CAWater-Info databases that provide data on more than 150 parameters accumulated since 1980 till present.

**Publication activities.** SIC ICWC publishes periodicals and digests on ICWC activities, collections of laws and regulations, collection of scientific papers, research monographs, working papers, digests on the best international water management practices, proceedings of conferences and symposiums. SIC ICWC distributes its publications to government officials, policy makers, development partners, and scholars within Central Asia and beyond. Over the last twenty years, **more than 900 books and brochures** with total circulation of **more than 400 000 copies** have been published.

### Capacity Building

Regional Training Center to build capacity of water professionals across Central Asia was established within SIC ICWC in 1998. Since then, **more than 6 000 specialists**, benefitted from the ICWC training programs. To cover wider audience and address local needs, several national training units were organized in Kazakhstan (Almaty), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek and Osh), Tajikistan (Hodjent) and Uzbekistan (Urgench, Andijan, Fergana, Akbarabad).

Key training modules: (1) Integrated Water Resources Management, (2) Improvement of Irrigated Agriculture, (3) International Water Law and Policy, and (4) Regional Cooperation on Transboundary Waters.

