

Report
of the regional workshop on Capacity Building in the Integrated Water Resources
Management and Planning in Central Asia”

jointly held by SIC ICWC and UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
(Netherlands)

9 – 11 March 2011, Tashkent
The Park Turon Hotel

The SIC ICWC organized the third regional workshop within the framework of the joint program Capacity Building in the Integrated Water Resources Management and Planning in Central Asia with the support of International Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE). The workshop had the following objectives:

- to demonstrate readiness of future national trainers to organize and hold national workshops in each country;
- to involve representatives of higher educational institutions (HEIs) in the work of the Joint Program and further development of training material.

The workshop was attended by 36 people (detailed list of participants is attached).

After Mr. P. Umarov opened the workshop, project managers from SIC ICWC and UNESCO-IHE welcomed the participants.

During his speech, prof. V.A. Dukhovny thanked Mr. Joop de Schutter for supporting this project. Considering that this is the final regional workshop and that national trainings will be conducted in each country afterwards, prof. V. Dukhovny emphasized the need to summarize the work done during the entire period. The following training materials on four main areas were developed by efforts of SIC ICWC leading experts:

1. Integrated water resources management (IWRM);
2. Improvement of irrigated agriculture (IIA);
3. International water law and policy (IWLP);
4. Regional cooperation in transboundary rivers (RCTR).

These materials have been previously disseminated to future national trainers and representatives of the five Central Asian states to study the possibility of adjustment to local conditions. After discussing these materials at the first regional workshop (7-16 June 2010, Tashkent), participants were to prepare their proposals and recommendations for the second regional workshop (26-30 October 2010). Unfortunately, participants made only minor additions to training materials and provided few recommendations for adjusting them to national trainings in their countries. To enhance review of training materials and to improve organization of national trainings, along with coverage of students - future specialists, workshop leaders invited not only representatives of water agencies selected by ICWC Members, but also of HEIs. Their involvement in the training process at the national level will undoubtedly be of mutual benefit and enrich both training program and educational program of HEIs.

Prof. V. Dukhovny mentioned about joining of Afghanistan in participatory process of water cooperation. So, in November 2010, experts of Kabul University participated in international-scientific symposium “Water in Central Asia”, which was dedicated to water issues in Central Asia and organized jointly with the German Federal Foreign Office. The representatives of Afghanistan also participated in the European Parliament meeting, which

was attended by representatives of all Central Asian states as well. Moreover, prof. Dukhovny expressed hope that Afghan representatives will participate in the Regional Conference for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian countries “Towards the 6th World Water Forum - Cooperative Actions for Water Security” to be held in May 2011, and invited everyone to participate in the event.

The main objective of the workshop was to prove possibility of holding the national training by each national team using the training material provided by SIC ICWC, and taking into account the particularities of each country. Mr. Joop de Schutter envisaged under the project financial support to conduct five national workshops upon readiness of national teams. SIC ICWC experts will attend national workshops as observers in order to elaborate with the support of all project participants a program for development of national trainings.

Taking into account the huge need for training, in the framework of three major Fergana Valley projects implemented within the borders of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, over 12 thousand people have been trained so far, including both middle and lower level (WUAs) representatives, who need to be trained in the fundamentals of legal and organizational activities, water use planning and financial stability.

Prof. Dukhovny told the participants that at his insistence ASBP-3 has introduced a component on establishment of a training network in Central Asia.

In his speech, Mr. Joop de Schutter stressed the importance of HEIs in building capacity in water sector, especially given the need to manage water resources in Central Asia, which should be based on the international legal framework for transboundary water resources management. In this regard, it is very important to train a new generation of water sector specialists.

Central Asian countries have shared water resources. This condition requires improving the regulatory framework for governing regional relations in water sector using international experience. It is therefore very important to organize this kind of event, where one can discuss and establish these rules that should be based on research and development. In this connection, it is necessary to ensure the sustainability of these training courses and conduct training at the advanced level.

Mr. Joop de Schutter supported the idea of creating the training network in Central Asia under the ASBP-3 capacity building component and involvement of Afghanistan in the work of the Joint Programme.

It is necessary to enter into cooperation for capacity building both at regional and international levels. Currently, the international community is concerned about the situation in Central Asian region, which makes it possible to get support for training development.

According to Mr. de Schutter the objective of the workshop is to develop practical ideas about establishment of regional training center on water, which will create the necessary conditions for young professionals to build their careers in water sector. These proposals could be presented at the Regional Conference for EECCA countries “Towards the 6th World Water Forum – Common Actions for Water Security”.

The workshop proceeded with speeches of keynote speakers (according to the workshop program) for each country, where they briefly presented their vision of organization and holding of national training workshops.

Nurgazy Mamataliev, Director, Kyrgyz branch of SIC ICWC made a presentation on the potential of the country and possibility of organizing national workshop. He mentioned about availability of training centers with necessary conditions for organizing workshop. One of such centers, designed for trainees in the northern region of the republic, is located in the

building of the Committee on Water Resources and Land Reclamation. The building of the Osh Basin Water Management Authority (BWMA) has two training centers for trainees in the southern region, including one established under financing of IWRM-Fergana Project (SDC), the other under On-Farm Irrigation Project (World Bank). In addition, each Rayon Water Management Administration (RWMA) also has training rooms to train representatives of WUAs, including farmers.

At present, representatives of HEIs are invited to the process of training of trainers with specialists of water management organizations. Among them Roza Bekboeva, PhD, Head of the Department of Hydraulic Engineering in Mountain Area, Faculty of Natural Resources Management (NRMF), Kyrgyz National Agrarian University and Elena Drugaleva, PhD, Head of the Department of Land Reclamation and Water Management.

In his presentation Subkhonkul Davlatov, representative of Tajikistan, listed the factors that will predetermine the possibility of holding national workshops:

1. Upcoming reforms in the agricultural sector.

The Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan developed and presented the following draft documents:

- amendments and additions to the Water Code;
- new draft Law on Drinking Water Supply in Tajikistan;
- Draft Decree of the Government of Tajikistan on Agrarian Reform.

For the moment, there are three options for reform of the Ministry developed by the FAO representative office in Tajikistan, World Bank and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources. Considering that decree adoption by the Tajik Government takes a long time, Mr. Davlatov proposed to move the national workshop in Tajikistan from September - October 2011 to January - February 2012.

2. Stages of conducting national workshops and number of participants

Mr. Davlatov proposed to hold a national workshop in two stages. The first stage envisages holding training for central bodies of the Ministry, heads or deputy heads of oblast and rayon departments of water resources (15-20 people), while the second stage for (WUAs) and local government employees involved in the water sector (15-20 people).

3. Financing.

Mr. Davlatov indicated that 11.5 thousand USD would be required at each stage of the national workshop. This amount takes into account the expenses only for nationals of Tajikistan. In particular he highlighted the issue of remuneration of national trainers, since it is out- of- service training. Upon completion of Mr. Davlatov's speech, Mr. Joop de Schutter proposed to include capacity-building component in the reform programme of the Ministry of RT.

Nariman Kipshakbayev, Director, Kazakh Branch of SIC ICWC, in his presentation described water situation in the country and expressed his desire to organize a national workshop.

Durdy Ataev provided the training material to be used during the national workshop, where particular attention will be given to role-plays.

Jalolov Masharipov, representative of Uzbekistan made a presentation in which introduced participants with a plan for organization of a national workshop.

Having heard all keynote speeches, prof. V. Dukhovny summarized the readiness of the Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek national teams to conduct workshops. Yusup Rysbekov, leader of

IWLP block, noted the negative impact of a change of trainers on their readiness to organize the training.

Further to the above keynote speeches, Chingizbek Uzakbaev, Deputy Chairman, State Committee on Water Resources and Land Reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic addressed the workshop participants. Commenting on the importance of organizing training for water specialists and highly appreciating SIC ICWC efforts on preparing training modules for all thematic blocks, he noted that the theme “Water-saving technology” requires more detailed consideration, as it represents the highest priority for the region. Mr. Uzakbaev supported the idea of Mr. Joop de Schutter to establish a regional training center, and proposed to open Water Energy Academy in Bishkek.

As the workshop proceeded, speeches of future national trainers for each of the blocks followed: IWRM, IIA, IWLP and RCTR.

Presentations on IWRM block

From Kazakhstan Nariman Kipshakbayev represented IWRM block. After his presentation there began a discussion about the activities of rayon water organizations mentioned by Mr. Kipshakbayev.

Nurgazy Mamataliev (Kyrgyzstan) made a presentation on “Principles of IWRM in the Akbura River basin”, where proposed to include the results of the IWRM-Fergana in the training material of IWRM block. Mr. Mamataliev highlighted the results of horizontal (across sectors) dissemination of IWRM and the need for its vertical implementation through application of “bottom up” and “top down” principles.

Dr. Krishna Prasad stressed the importance of using flexible approach in preparing the modules.

Nazir Mirzaev, leader of IWRM block gave an example of differences between IWRM in Central Asian states due to existence of rayvodkhoz (RWMA) in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, partly in Kazakhstan and absence in Uzbekistan. The rayvodkhoz activities contradict to hydrographic approach. Concerning dissemination of IWRM, Mr. Mirzaev adhered to the opinion that one should use top down approach, i.e. training of trainers who in turn will train representatives of the lower level.

Abdukhakim Sattorov (Tajikistan) made a presentation on “Prospects of IWRM Development in Tajikistan”, which highlighted water situation in the country, an action plan for IWRM implementation, including financial, economic and organizational measures, as well as the organization of national training.

Dr Krishna Prasad gave an opinion that while organizing the training it is necessary to pay attention to the followings:

- evaluation of training and specialists who have completed the training;
- issuance of certificates that will be universally recognized in water sector;
- recognition of training courses.

Durdy Ataev presented his vision of organizing a national workshop on IWRM block in Turkmenistan.

The presentation by Vokhidjon Akhmadjonov (Uzbekistan) analyzed in detail the contents of IWRM block and introduced themes to be added:

- stages of extension of socio-economic aspects of IWRM;
- legal basis of water users’ participation in water management process;
- water quality management.

Moreover, Mr. Akhmadjonov shared his experience in organizing trainings (consisting of three consecutive stages) in Uzbekistan that can be used in organizing national training under this programme. In February 2011 the Cabinet of Ministers released a special protocol, according to which the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan together with HEIs and research institutes conducts on-site training. This process is divided into three stages. The first stage includes the training of BISA, ISA and oblast specialists. The presentation topics are related primarily to issues of water saving, water management and irrigation water use. At the second stage, these trainers train college teachers. In stage three college teachers train representatives of farms.

Presentations on IIA block

Prof. Almas Tleukulov, Kazakh National Agrarian University represented IIA block with a presentation on “Scientific methods of improving irrigated agriculture and measures for increasing the productivity of irrigated lands”. Mr. Tleukulov also mentioned that since 2005 Kazakh National Agrarian University has been preparing water professionals, whereas since 2010 offering PhD courses and assured that both Kazakh National Agrarian University and Kazakh National Technical University named after K. Satpaev have all the necessary conditions for organizing national training.

Elena Drugaleva, Head of Department of Land Reclamation and Water Management, Kyrgyz National Agricultural University said that it is necessary to shorten the training material, process it for delivery to the audience in a competent manner and prepare the final work upon the training completion and issuance of certificates. Meanwhile, Bekboeva Roza noted the importance of selection of teaching methods, which should vary depending on the audience.

Ilkhom Ikromov, Assistant for Hydraulic Engineering Department, Tajik Agrarian University briefed the audience with the proposals to combine the topics 1 and 2 of module 1 in IIA block and rename as “Current state and development of irrigated agriculture, and their features depending on climatic conditions”, as well as to add topic 1.2 “Meliorative condition of irrigated lands, causes of deterioration and ways of improvement”.

Abdulkhakim Salokhiddinov, Pro-rector for Research, Head of Water Management and Ecology Department, Tashkent Irrigation and Melioration Institute (TIMI) and Murodov Rustam, PhD candidate, Agricultural Reclamation Department, TIMI highly appreciated the initiative for involvement of HEIs in the training project for water professionals and proposed to integrate the prepared materials in TIIM curriculum.

Nazir Mirzaev supported the opinion of HEI representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic on the importance of assessing students by testing or using other assessment methods, as well as shortening the training material and establishing efficient delivery mechanism. With respect to establishing a regional training center at the suggestion of Mr. Joop de Schutter, Mr. Mirzaev considered it appropriate to improve the existing training centers.

Abdubaly Kadyrbekov in his presentation gave a vision of the organization of training on IIA block at the national level in the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Kadyrbekov presented target groups and content of the block. Moreover, it is planned to attract other experts to conduct training at the oblast and rayon levels. Yusup Rysbekov and Mikhail Horst supported this idea, since one person cannot be expert in all topics. Dr. Krishna Prasad said that national trainers should conduct trainings.

Daler Kholmatov (Tajikistan) made a presentation on “Organization of a workshop at the national level” and showed the target groups, contents of IIA block, duration of training, venue, as well as provisional budget. During the discussion, the question was raised about the

trainers' remuneration. Durdy Ataev spoke about the contents of IIA block, while Djalol Masharipov presented target groups and contents of the block for the national training.

Mikhail Horst, leader of IIA block highlighted good job of the representatives of Turkmenistan to provide feedback on training materials. Mr. Horst also expressed his opinion concerning heads of WUAs, who do not have enough experience, which is indicated as one of the eligibility requirements to participate in the training by the majority of national trainers.

According to Eelena Drugaleva it is necessary to have a differentiated approach for different levels, use interactive teaching methods and assignments to groups. Ms. Drugaleva noted that to obtain efficient results from a 5 day course it is necessary to shorten the amount of training material, for example by combining certain modules and topics. Moreover, there should be a baseline control of knowledge in the form of tests, assignments, interactive methods. Some modules contain a large amount of reading material, including the one taught at HEIs, so it is required to revise the material and select the one that has more practical applications. She further added that it is advisable to divide the entire material by levels (e.g. arrange topics by levels).

Roza Bekboeva considered it necessary to provide feedback, conduct quizzes, pay special attention to the delivery method and extensively use the resource base of HEIs, 4 research institutes and GIS Center.

Prof. Rakhmonkul Rakhmatilloev, Department of Irrigation and Drainage Systems Operation, Tajik Agrarian University also supported the view on the presentation of training materials in a comprehensive manner and their usefulness not only for training of specialists, but also for training future specialists in HEIs.

Abdulkhakim Salokhiddinov also mentioned the need for using training materials in the curriculums of HEIs. According to Mikhail Horst, the material should be available for the low level and translated into national languages, whereas Yusup Rysbekov emphasized the role of educational methods in the organization of training.

Presentations on IWLP block

Ekaterina Sakhvaeva made a presentation on "Vision of the Kyrgyz Republic on training of trainers and conducting national training workshops". The participants were familiarized with the training course programme and target groups. Ms. Sakhvaeva made a proposal to develop a glossary provided by Yusup Rysbekov in the block content if required, and invited Yusup Rysbekov to participate as a trainer in the national workshop of the Kyrgyz Republic. According to Ekaterina Sakhvaeva IWLP and RCTR blocks should be combined.

Subkhonkul Davlatov in his speech on IWLP block said that to conduct national training in Tajikistan it would be necessary to keep all the modules provided by Yusup Rysbekov, except those that were impossible to adjust to the local conditions.

In his presentation Durdy Ataev showed the contents of IWLP block, although, he did not make any proposals and recommendations on the training material. In turn, Djalol Masharipov described the importance of this area in Uzbekistan, identified the target group, the regions where experts would be invited from and a preliminary budget.

Summing up the presentations on IWLP block, Yusup Rysbekov suggested that the leaders of 4 blocks had to make a brief presentation, which would indicate the right direction for national trainers in the organization of training.

Dr. Krishna Prasad stressed the importance of identifying learning objectives that define the content and priorities.

According to Roza Bekboeva training material developed under this project will be useful for HEIs as well, so it would be advisable to introduce IWLP course into their curriculums. To fulfill the objective basic methodological material needs to be published. Moreover, it was noted that there are courses to prepare lawyers in different areas, but none of the Central Asian countries prepare specialists in the field of international water law.

Rakhmonkul Rakhmatilloev supported the ideas of translating the training materials into local languages and involving teachers for a mutually beneficial exchange.

Rustam Murodov suggested that before the training, students must provide their vision of training in order to compare them with the results of training upon its completion. He also noted about importance of involving experts from the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan.

Presentations on RCTR block

From Kazakhstan Nariman Kipshakbayev presented the RCTR block. He underlined the importance of developing Water Doctrine of CA.

From Kyrgyzstan Ekaterina Sakhvaeva presented the content of RCTR. Given that almost all rivers in Kyrgyzstan are transboundary, this block is of paramount importance for them. Commissions have been created on the joint management of transboundary rivers: Chu – Talas Commission, commissions on Kyrgyz-Tajik, Kyrgyz-Uzbek water issues. At the same time, it is planned to establish the Interstate Basin Council.

Anatoly Sorokin, leader of the Block RCTR reminded participants of the ASBmm model, which allows to create different scenarios of water situation in the Aral Sea using mathematical tool. The model has not completed yet, in 2011 popular version will be available on-line.

Rakhmonkul Rahmatilloev stressed the importance of creating awareness, which necessitates studying the experience of cooperation within ICWC, developing the idea of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Shaping public opinion, according to Anatoly Sorokin, is no less important factor, in this regard the activities of the regional database CAREWIB plays a crucial role.

From Turkmenitsana Durdy Atayev presented the content of block RCTR.

Anatoly Sorokin argued that Block RCTR acquires special importance due to the fact that Afghanistan is planning to irrigate about 1 million ha and construct the reservoir.

Nariman Kipshakbayev proposed to involve students in the process of solving regional issues through their participation in conferences and forums dedicated to discussion of regional cooperation in transboundary rivers management. It is important to ensure involvement of the future water leaders in addressing issues of regional cooperation.

Elena Drugaleva supported the idea of engaging students, and also proposed to create a student forum where one can exchange views and experiences.

Rakhmonkul Rakhmatilloev expanded scope of student forum to the regional one.

In the end of the workshop, Mr. Joop de Schutter made a presentation on “Water Resources Management, Water Infrastructure Management and Environmental Management Capacity Building Network Development in Central Asia. Future Development Institutional Requirements”. Objectives of the network:

- To support the development of the Knowledge Network and Knowledge Base in the field of Water Resources, Water Infrastructure and Environmental Management in addressing the human resources and institutional capacity building needs at regional, national and local levels;

- To develop and strengthen a decentralized Training Capacity and Delivery System in Water Resources, Water Infrastructure and Environmental Management including a.o. the following main subjects:
 1. Integrate Water Resources Management (IWRM);
 2. Improvement of Irrigated Agriculture (IIA);
 3. International Water Law and Policy (IWLP);
 4. Regional Cooperation in Transboundary River Basins (RCTR).
- To develop and deliver demand oriented course programs and related modules by trained academic and professional staff of the participating knowledge centres for specific target groups at various (high, secondary and local) levels in different formats (diploma courses, workshops, role plays, certificate courses, field instructions, etc.) and using different education and training formats and technologies such as specialized manuals, guidelines, blended learning approaches, e-Learning, etc

Short Term Actions:

- Finalize training course material; Adjust training material per country; Organize national training workshops (can the trainings really be shared on different levels> this requires much more work); Who will actually do it? Organize feedback on results.
- Agree to the objectives for the network; formulate rules, rights and obligations for partnership; finish partnership list (SIC-ICWC, BVO's, Universities, Specialized Institutions); Organize coordination and participation; Include Afghanistan.
- Formulate project proposal(s) for continued network activities for capacity development in the field of water resources, water infrastructure and environmental management and obtain (international) funding.
- Further develop network knowledge and capacity sharing through the formation of communities of practice (CoP's) around specific topics. Engage professionals.
- Development of a marketing strategy; development of a business and strategic plan for the network in order to secure sustainability.
- Establish special website of the capacity development network including the knowledge map and the many various products related to capacity development.

As well as involvement of colleges, institutes and all stakeholders.

Mr. Umarov concluded the regional workshop. Responding to the questions during the workshop, Mr. Umarov highlighted the following points:

- optimum number of participants in the national workshops is 20 people;
- financing of national workshops no more than envisaged by the project;
- training of professional trainers ready to work in all four areas with specialization in blocks 1 and 2, and blocks 3 and 4;
- (trainer) agree with the proposal of organizing capacity building training courses aimed at public speaking, psychology and ethics;
- the main thing is to recognize that training is needed, above all for Central Asian countries and seek support for this understanding in own country;
- ensure the availability of training material; it must be comprehensible for each target audience;
- clearly define the learning objectives, as results of the ongoing training depend on them;
- provide for remuneration of national trainers; it is possible, but within own budgets;
- translation of training material into local languages can be done at own expense;
- flexibility in preparation of modules allows trainers to adjust contents of courses depending on local conditions and intended audience;

- ensure recognition of certificates upon completion of these training courses and increase their value to the level of diplomas.

All participants have positively assessed the idea of involving representatives of HEIs to the Joint Programme. Nevertheless, the main objective of the workshop was not achieved, since national trainers (except Tajikistan) could not fully demonstrate their readiness for conducting a national training due to the followings:

- change of trainers (during 3 regional workshops);
- lack of national plans for holding professional development courses, adjusted to local conditions;
- lack of training material with content adjusted per country;
- lack of specifically developed teaching methods and assessment for each level.

In connection with abovementioned, IHE UNESCO and SIC ICWC can not give consent to the allocation of funds for national training before addressing these shortcomings. For organization of follow-up activities national teams should:

- appoint senior officials for arranging all the necessary work for organization of training;
- prepare organizational arrangements that demonstrate staff training plan for selected areas, readiness of staff- trainers and training material adjusted to national conditions;
- in determining trainers take into account engagement of University staff, especially those participated in the regional trainings, especially as some of them (teachers of Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek universities) have shown high potential and willingness to participate in this project.

In provision of educational material and after its approval for the national training, financial support will be provided for continuing improvement of training material and conducting research in support of development of regional capacity building program. Taking into account the need for professional approaches for building capacity of water resources management in Central Asia, and achieving project objectives, it is important to establish cooperation at all levels and among all water management organizations.

The workshop finished its work, reserving the right to the national teams to continue its efforts to develop proposals for organization of national workshops for training future trainers and establishing continuing training system for water management specialists.