



Global Water
Partnership

Astana Ministerial Conference 2011: Seminar

September 23, 2011, Friday, 13:00-15:00

Economic growth and water: an integrated approach helps

Subtitle:

Solutions to water problems lie in other sector interventions: why apply IWRM?

Rationale:

Most of the world's development goals – from reducing hunger and poverty to improving health and protecting biodiversity – depend on the effective management of water. More water is needed for food. Industries require an adequate and reliable supply of water for their products. Water pollution and environmental degradation have imposed huge costs on economies. Countries that promote tourism as a vehicle for economic growth find their economies in risks when tourists learn that once-famous rivers and beaches are no longer safe. Yet despite the evident challenges and the political commitment to manage water resources wisely, responses have been weak and inadequate.

The challenges described above illustrate why water is attracting more political attention, but they also highlight water's complexity and the need for an integrated approach to guide the use, management and development of water resources in different global contexts.

While the implications in fields such as energy, industry and transport are clear and are driving technological innovation and economic and environmental reform, the implications for the water domain are not as well recognized. A key policy challenge is to understand how water can be managed in a more sustainable manner in its different physical and social contexts to contribute to the development of the emerging "green economies". In short, how can we make greening economy goals "more blue"?

Key message:

Water resources management can only be successful if it engages with the many different sectors that use, impact or are impacted by water. An effective national water resources management institution must have strong linkages with all levels of national administration as well as with key water users, local water management institutions and related stakeholders so that it can contribute to their decision making.

Facilitation



Dr. Letitia Obeng, Chair of GWP (left)

Yusup Kamalov, Chair of GWP Central Asia and Caucasus (right)



Speakers (15 minutes presentation by each presenter)



1. Prof. Nariman Kipshakbaev, GWP Kazakhstan, former Minister of Water Resources, currently Director of Kazakh Branch of SIC ICWC

IWRM – a tool for balancing multiple uses of water: Kazakhstan's experience with IWRM national plan development and implementation



2. Nino Chkhobadze, GWP Georgia, former Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, member of the of the International Advisory Council REC Caucasus

Challenges of stakeholders' involvement at local level: lessons learnt from Caucasus region



3. Prof. László Miklos, Technical University Zvolen, Slovakia, former Minister of Environment and member of the Slovak Parliament

Spatial planning as an integrating tool for IWRM plans: experiences from an EU member state



4. Prof. Luka Kajfež Bogataj, Biotechnological faculty Ljubljana, Slovenia, climatologist and winner of Nobel Prize of Peace together with Al Gore and a group of climatologists

Climate change as a problem of national and international security rather than an environmental issue

Discussion