



Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For November 2017

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1. GWP CACENA Regional Council Meeting

Extended meeting of the Regional Council of the GWP CACENA was held on 6-9 November 2017 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. It was hosted by CWP-Kyrgyzstan. There was 100% quorum of RC members and CWP's delegates from all nine countries.

There were presented latest news from GWPO headquarters by François Brikke, Senior Network Officer

Then participants discussed GWP Strategy to 2020 - what we need to change at the country and regional level on the agenda of the Water Partnership Network on the Road to Water Security. In this line also was discussed GWP CACENA regional work plan for 2018 (the core budget activities)



Group photo of the GWP CACENA meeting in Bishkek

The special session was addressed to results of the Gap assessment in the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (executed by external expert Andriy Demydenko from Ukraine), and discussion of the WACDEP project work plan and budget for 2018-2019



Working moment of the meeting in Bishkek

In the second day there was discussed project on SDGs facilities for countries in 2017-2018 (Armenia and Kazakhstan). Explanations on the participation of other countries. Participants listen results of seminars in selected countries on SDG 6.5.1. IWRM presented by Country coordinators (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan)



On 8 of November the GWP CACENA partners congratulated Regional Coordinator Vadim Sokolov with his birthday. Put on traditional Kyrgyz coat

GWP CACENA Secretariat raised issues on financial discipline and audit, and also on attraction of financing at the level of countries and region (LRF). At the end of the meeting there was discussion about process of selection of new Regional Coordinator of GWP CACENA

2. Sixth meeting of the regional organizations involved in sustainable development and water management in Central Asia

On November 13-14, 2017, the sixth meeting of the regional organizations involved in sustainable development and water management in Central Asia was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. It was organized by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for the Aral Saving (EC IFAS) and Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) with the support of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) under the project “Strengthening capacity on sustainable water management at the regional, national, and basin levels”.

Representatives of the GWP CACENA Regional Secretariat and CWP of Kazakhstan, attended the meeting.

The two-day meeting programme included a detailed discussion of joint efforts, challenges and prospects, as well as plans of organizations involved in sustainable development and water management in Central Asia.



GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Vadim Sokolov presented overview of GWP programmes in Ashgabat

In particular, coordination of measures to support and update the Regional Environmental Action Plan (REAP) was discussed. The document has been approved by the IFAS Board in 2003 in five priority areas: water pollution, waste management, degradation of mountain ecosystems, land degradation, air pollution. In connection with the adoption by the Central Asian countries of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, it has become necessary to revise this document in the light of global and regional agenda.



In front of the new office of the EC IFAS in Ashgabat (with partners from CWP Kazakhstan)

The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan in his speech spoke about the preparation of the summit of the heads of the founding states of IFAS, which is planned to be held in Ashgabat in 2018, and stated about the Central Asian Water Strategy and the UN Special Program for Saving the Aral Sea.

The meeting participants discussed the implementation of the Program of Action to assist the countries of the Aral Sea basin for the period 2011-2015 (ASBP-3), the main goal of which was the implementation of long-term programs for overcoming the Aral Sea crisis, strengthening cooperation through targeted actions at the national, regional and international levels for improving the ecological and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea basin. An analysis of the implementation of ASBP-3 to understand the challenges and opportunities is a key for the preparation of ASBP-4.

As the primary tasks facing regional organizations, there is an emphasis on strengthening the coordination of the work of regional organizations among themselves and their interaction with international organizations and financial institutions. Among other things, information exchange by all participants, primarily at the regional level, is also recognized as a priority.



On 22 November GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Vadim Sokolov was invited to the Uzbekistan-24 TV channel to speak as water expert on-live

3. Central Asian International Scientific-Practical Conference “The 25 years of Water Cooperation in Central Asia: Lessons Learnt and Future Outlook”

Central Asian International Scientific-Practical Conference “The 25 years of Water Cooperation in Central Asia: Lessons Learnt and Future Outlook” was held on 23-24 November 2017 in Tashkent.

GWP CACENA Chair Guljamal Nurmukhamedova, Regional Coordinator Vadim Sokolov, Communications Officer Valentina Khaydarova, CWP-Kyrgyzstan representatives Kasiet Musabaeva and Abdybai Djailoobaev, CWP-Uzbekistan Mansur Abduraimov attended the Conference.

The Conference was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) in Central Asia, which was established on February 18, 1992 upon the initiative of water ministers and with the support of the Heads of the region’s states, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Water cooperation in Central Asia is integral to activity of ICWC, which is comprised of the heads of national water ministries and departments. As long as 25 years, ICWC has been maintaining conflict-free distribution of common water resources and ensuring service ability of all interstate watercourses and structures.

The anniversary events were organized by the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan and the Scientific Information Center of ICWC with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OCSE), and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).



At the opening ceremony, Deputy Premier of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources Mr. Mirzaev welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan.

The Conference was attended by about 250 representatives of various national, regional, and international organizations from more than 15 countries, including representatives of embassies, UNDP, German Society for Cooperation (GIZ), ADB, WB, OSCE, UNESCO, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), Geneva Water Hub, International Network of Basin Organizations, Global Water Partnership for Central Asia and Caucasus, National Water Partnership (NWP) GEF Agency of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea in Uzbekistan, Basin Water Organizations of Amu Darya and Syr Darya, Central Asian Regional Environmental Center.

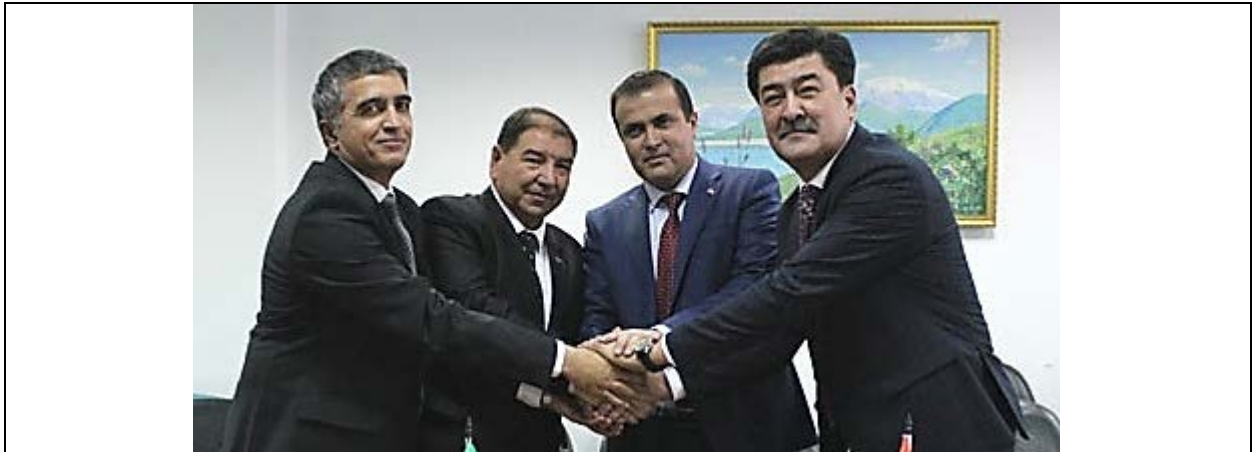


The special session was organized with participation of young water professionals to address the water use related issues.

The main objectives and tasks of the anniversary events were to:

- review the progress and demonstrate achievements made during the 25-year long activity of ICWC in the area of interstate water cooperation in Central Asia;
- increase visibility of ICWC as a regional institutional mechanism for transboundary water cooperation;
- facilitate formulation of future tasks before ICWC that would contribute to enhancement of mutually beneficial cooperation between the Central Asian countries in the field of efficient water use and protection in the region;
- revitalize development partners' attention to ICWC;
- demonstrate cutting-edge knowledge, best practices and scientific achievements in the field of water use and protection and promote innovations for sustainable water management.

The highly topical conference program included three plenary sessions and six round tables, as well as a special session. During two days, the participants had the opportunity to learn about results of activities in the sphere of Central Asian water cooperation and set milestones for further development and strengthening of close cooperation between the countries in the region.



The 72nd meeting of ICWC was also held on the 24th November 2017 as part of the conference. On the photo: leaders of water authorities from four Central Asian countries

Particular attention was paid to transboundary cooperation as an important driver of food, energy, and environmental security in Central Asia, as well as to actions to overcome growing challenges caused by depletion of available freshwater.

During parallel roundtables, the participants addressed such topical and important issues as integrated water resources management as a tool for ‘green growth’ and adaptation to climate change, improving legal framework of water cooperation and promoting water diplomacy as a prerequisite for good neighborly relationship between the Central Asian countries, enhancement of water education and professional development as well as improvement of regional and national training activities in Central Asia, financial and economic mechanisms of water management and use, and also issues related to sound water use and ecology.

CWP-Kyrgyzstan representatives made the following presentations:

1. "Gender issues of access to safe drinking water" by Ms. Kasiet Musabaeva;
2. "Water Security Indicators of the Kyrgyz Republic" by Mr. Abdybai Djailoobaev.



The round table 6 “Water Resources and Ecosystems” was co-chaired by GWP CACENA and Eco Movement of Uzbekistan

The exhibition showcased best practices and scientific achievements in the area of water conservation and sound water use, automation of waterworks facilities, metrology and up-to-date water accounting facilities.

A Symphony for Water and Peace composed progressively during two years as the Panel convened in different countries (Switzerland, Senegal, Costa Rica, and Jordan) was performed at the Gala anniversary dinner.



Plenary Session of the Tashkent Conference – adoption of the Final Resolution

Finally, the Conference adopted its resolution, see in: <http://sic.icwc-aral.uz/releases/eng/322.htm>

4. Workshop “Sustainable Water Resources Management: Innovative Approaches and Policy Options”

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and CAREC Institute hosted the Workshop “Sustainable Water Resources Management: Innovative Approaches and Policy Options” held in Jiaozhou City, Qingdao, People’s Republic of China on 27–29 November 2017. GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Vadim Sokolov took participation in this meeting to represent GWP.



Group photo of the CAREC workshop participants in Qingdao, China

This workshop attended officials managing public investment projects on IWRM, river basin management, water conservation, and/or water quality and pollution control. The workshop was offered to officials from the 11 regional countries who have worked on relevant projects funded by ADB or other donors. The total number of participants 32, including expert resource speakers and staff from CAREC Institute, ADB, GWP CACENA and IWMI.



The GWP CACENA Regional Coordinator Vadim Sokolov presented the GWP's experiences and programs.

The main goal of workshop was to learn from its good practices on IWRM and to share their own experiences. The workshop focused on techniques for basin-level IWRM to combat water scarcity. This included content on practical river basin management approaches, such as defining water rights and trading systems among competing users. It also included content on eco-compensation programs and on restoring rivers through basin-level management and investment planning.

The workshop has been proceeded during three days. During Day 1 and 2, expert resource speakers presented and facilitate discussions on topics including river basin management approaches, water conservation techniques, and eco-compensation programs. Country delegations presented their experiences with river basin management.



On Day 3, participants joined a field visit to sites of the ADB Qingdao Water Resources and Wetland Protection Project and heard presentations by the project team

5. Public Lesson on IWRM

Date: 3 November 2017

Venue: Gyandja town, Azerbaijan

Organizer: CWP-Azerbaijan

Participants: Teachers and students of the State Agrarian University of Azerbaijan (Total: 30 people)

Purpose: raising awareness and role of young specialists in solving problems in the field of water resources and building capacity to prevent these problems.

Public Lesson topics: basic principles of integrated water resources management; water quality estimation; the difference between water consumers and water users; water protection zones; biological treatment of wastewater; responsibility, established by the Legislation, for violations in the use and protection of waters; legal basis for water resources management; the need for integrated water management construction, etc.

During the lesson the main attention was focused on discussing the need to specific actions on the part of young specialists in the event of any problems in the field of water resources protection. The speakers noted that water resources act as important factors in locating the productive forces and socio-economic development of society. Today one of the main tasks is the protection of water resources and ensuring the transition to their integrated management.

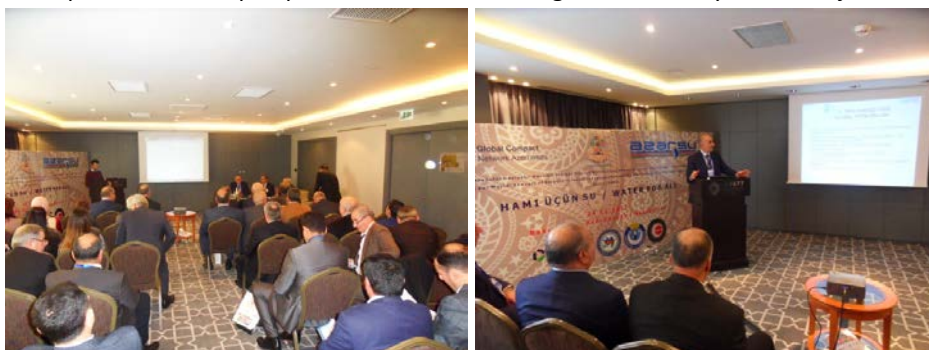


6. Scientific-Practical Conference "Sustainable Development Goals"

Date: 24 November 2017

Venue: Baku, Azerbaijan

CWP-Azerbaijan Chair Mamed Asadov made a presentation "Water Security of Azerbaijan and Role of Water Management to Ensure it: Adaptation of Water Management to Global Climate Change". He informed participants on implemented and perspective works to ensuring water security in Azerbaijan, IWRM and GWP CACENA activity.



7. Meeting on Kura-2 project

Date: 28 November 2017

Venue: Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University, Baku, Azerbaijan

Organizer: Kura-2 project (UNDP/GEF)

Participants: Teachers and students of the Azerbaijan Architecture and Construction University; CWP-Azerbaijan partners.

CWP-Azerbaijan Chair Mammed Asadov made a presentation on rational use and implementation of IWRM principles in Azerbaijan. The Kura-2 Project Manager Mary Metus informed the audience about the planned works within the project, its significance, and participation of students in the project trainings. International expert Ahmed El Said in his presentation gave information on water management in Egypt, on international experience in water management of transboundary rivers.



8. Training on Development of project proposals for grant program

On November 12-13, 2017, local government representatives, community active groups' members and heads of 6 communities of Ararat marz (Aygavan, Berqanush, Burastan, Khachpar, Poqr Vedi, Vedi) selected in the framework of USAID-funded PURE-Water project, participated in the training on Development of project proposals for grant program.

During the two-day training, the participants learnt how to formulate the goal, objectives and results of the project proposal, how to justify the project, project feasibility, as well as the need to use water-saving and energy saving technologies in the project proposal. Other topics included in the training were project sustainability, risk reduction, innovation,

management and funding. The organizers of the training highlighted the importance of making the proposal competitive, as well as proving its importance and benefit for the residents. They also encouraged the participants not to withhold, but to ask questions, to be persistent.

The participants had the opportunity to work in groups and make presentations of their work.

ASPIRED project representatives also introduced the requirements for submission of the project proposal, as well as the required documents.

Heads of communities thanked the organisers and evaluated the training as constructive and useful.

The project is implemented by UFSD - Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development in cooperation with Country Water Partnership NGO and YSU Environmental Law Resource Centre.



9. Training on “Participatory Budgeting and Transparent Governance”

On November 21, 2017, in the framework of USAID-funded PURE-Water project, Participatory Budgeting Expert Gevorg Yeghiazaryan, conducted a training on “Participatory Budgeting and Transparent Governance” for Vedi, Pokr Vedi and Aygavan communities. The training was held at Vedi Town Hall and incorporated heads of the abovementioned 3 communities, their respective financial officers, heads of staff, representatives of Community Working Groups and PURE-Water project team. The main topics covered at the training included the concept of a community budget, its purpose, types of budgets, the 12 principles for proper democratic governance on the local level, types of democracy, the principles of indirect (representative) and direct (participatory) democracy, etc. The importance of organizing public hearings, as a means of ensuring transparent governance and public participation in decision making processes, was stressed out by the trainer. The training sessions in the other project communities will continue over the up-coming weeks. All the 12 trained communities will further on receive hands-on support and guidance by the Expert in the organization of the public hearings in their respective communities.



10. World Toilet Day 2017

Every year the November 19th is celebrated as a World Toilet Day. The day has been celebrated since 2001, when toilet issues and problems were discussed and the importance of these problems were emphasized during the conference held in Singapore.

In the framework of the day various events are held in many countries focusing public attention on the toilet availability and cleanliness issues. Armenia has joined this event too. "Country Water Partnership" ecological, scientific NGO held trainings in Aygavan rural community school on November 23, 2017.

The theme in 2017 is Wastewater: "Where does our poo go?". The representatives of CWP Armenia asked this question and then they represented the "Poo 4-steps journey": containment, transport, treatment, reuse or disposal.

The goal of the training was to raise public awareness on sanitation and sanitation conditions. The training introduced the importance of the sector and problems that can arise from improper toilet conditions. It was referred to the fact that Armenia has adopted the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and 6th goal - clean water and sanitation. Armenia is committed to its implementation. Our every day life mistakes were presented during the trainings, e.g. hand-washing with no soap, and throwing household stuff into the sewer system. At the end of the training children directed questions to the trainers. Information leaflets and eco bags with thematic images

were distributed among the children.



11. Country Water Partnership Armenia Youth Network first Meeting

"Country Water Partnership" scientific, ecological NGO held a Country Water Partnership Youth Network meeting at "3 Article Club" on the 8th of November, 2017. The meeting was attended by young water professionals, young representatives from Armenian UN Association, representatives from "Country Water Partnership Armenia" and by students.

CWP Armenia representatives introduced Global Water Partnership as an international network, Central Asia and Caucasus Global Water Partnership (CAC GWP) Regional Council activities and implemented projects and Country Water Partnership Armenia activities in the first part of the meeting. The second part of the meeting was dedicated to the discussion of "GWP Youth Engagement Strategy" and its strategic goals:

Strategic goal 1: Catalyze change in policies and practice.

Strategic goal 2: Generate and communicate knowledge.

Strategic goal 3: Strengthen partnerships.

Then, GWP Youth Network members discussed how The Network can seek opportunities for innovative cross-regional collaboration and partnerships.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. CWP Armenia Youth Network clarified its priorities,
2. CWP Armenia Youth Network decided to develop the work plan for the Network during the next meeting

12. Workshop on CWP-Armenia Youth Network Strategy and Work Plan

Country Water Partnership” scientific, ecological NGO held a Workshop on Country Water Partnership Armenia Youth Network Strategy and Work plan on November 24-25, 2017.

Young water professionals who have huge work experience in IWRM, young representatives from Armenian UN Association, “Country Water Partnership Armenia” representatives, “Country Water Partnership Kyrgyzstan” representative, students and other stakeholders took part in this Workshop.

In the first day of the Workshop “GWP Youth Engagement Strategy” and GWP 3 strategic goals (1.Catalyse change in policies and practice, 2.Generate and communicate knowledge, 3.Strengthen partnerships)were represented and discussed.

Workshop participants represented Water Sector Public Advocacy issues in Armenia, Water Sector Public Advocacy issues by the example of Burastan community, Lack of public knowledge in the water sector, Water and energy saving innovative technologies issues in rural communities of Armenia by the example of Griboyedov community.



At the end of the first day Workshop participants made a Skype Call with Water Youth Network members.

The second day of the Workshop was very interactive and constructive: Working group discussions were made on Administrative, Fundraising issues and working directions of CWP Armenia Youth Network.





13. Tenth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health

Date: 15 - 16 November 2017

Venue: Geneva, Switzerland

The Working Group took stock of the progress in the implementation of the water, sanitation and health-related Sustainable Development Goals in the pan-European region and discussed how to benefit from the Protocol's practical framework to facilitate their achievement. It also review the implementation of the programme of work for 2017-2019 and provided guidance on its further development.

Source: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43631>

CWP-Georgia Chair George Dzamukashvilki took part in the meeting.



14. Meeting of NGOs in Georgia

Date: 24 November 2017

Venue: Tbilisi, Georgia

Participants: 9 NGOs representatives

Organizer: CWP-Georgia, Georgian Greens Movement

Purpose: to initiate dialogue with decision-makers on optimization of ministries (including the Ministry of Environment Protection and Nature Resources) announced by the Cabinet of Ministers of Georgia.



CWP-Georgia believes that the merger of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources with the Ministry of Agriculture bears the risks associated with the Conflict of Interest.

Meetings with representatives of the European Union and the Parliamentary Committee were initiated by Ms. Nino Chkhobadze, a member of the Board of the CWP-Georgia.

CWP Georgia is actively involved in the process of preparing a conference on this issue, which will be held in December with participation of ministries and civil society. The meeting was

attended by George Dzamukashvili and Nino Chkhobadze.

15. National Seminar "Awareness raising on climate change and information exchange in the Chu / Talas river basins"

Date: 21 November, 2017

Location: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Organizers: UNDP/GEF project

Participants: representatives of the Department of Water Resources of the Kyrgyz Republic, the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Emergencies of the KR, heads of local authorities, as well as representatives of civil society.

Goal: Discussion of issues and problems of climate change in the Chu / Talas river basins with an emphasis on information exchange.

Opportunities for CWP-Kyrgyzstan in planning relevant activities in the Chu / Talas river basins on 2018-2020 were identified.



16. Wetskills Water Challenge Programme

Date: 19 October – 4 November, 2017

Location: Netherlands

Organizers: Wetskills Foundation, Waternet, Waterboard, ZuiderzeeLand

Goal: finding innovative solutions for current water-related challenges.

Representative of the Youth Wing of the CWP-Kyrgyzstan took part in the Amsterdam International Water Week.

For two weeks, 23 participants from around the world worked in mixed teams on cases of governments, companies, knowledge institutes and water authorities from home and abroad. The participating students and young professionals came from all over the world, such as Oman, Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, Honduras, Israel, South Africa, and Indonesia. They were guided by water professionals from the Netherlands. It was the fourth time the challenge for young water professionals took place in the Netherlands and was again hosted at the Amsterdam International Water Week.



17. Training Workshop on IWRM/IUWM

Date: 14-16th of November 2017

Venue: Western Mongolia, Ubs province

Organizer: Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Participants: CWP-Mongolia, 8 River Basin Organizations, and local government bodies (Total: 150 people).

Prof. Basandorj made a presentation about GWP activity, IUWM and water security at the global level.

Participants discussed IWRM progress and the Questionnaire on SDG6.5.1 was provided.

Many RBOs would like to join the GWP as a member, and develop partnership as well.





Ubs lake basin - the World Heritage part

18. Meeting on WASH and SDG6.1/6.2 implementation

Date: 21th of November 2017

Venue: Mongolia hotel, Conference room, Ulaanbaatar

Organizer: CWP-Mongolia, Ministry of Health/MOH/ and UNICEF

Participants discussed water supply and sanitation in schools and hospitals. UNICEF made a presentation on activity improvement and a future plan on SDG6 and WASH. MOH made a presentation about water safety and suggested to provide wastewater safety. The National Joint Monitoring Group on WASH was established, and CWP-Mongolia will focus more on better water management and open ways to more involvement of young generation in water management.



19. National workshop on SDG6.5.1

Date: 30th of November 2017

Venue: Ulaanbaatar

Organizer: CWP-Mongolia, Ministry of Environment and Association of Hydrology

Number of participants - 30

(National report will be delivered soon).



20. Round Table on discussing the mobile application "Tomchi" ("Drop")

Date: 1 November 2017

Venue: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Organizer: SDC

Participants: Tashkent Institute of Engineers of Irrigation and Mechanization of Agriculture (more than 60 people).

Purpose: to discuss technical parameters of app, technology used, its practical application.

CWP-Uzbekistan representatives took part in the discussion.

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The Global Water Partnership's vision is for a water secure world. Our mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.