



Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus (GWP CACENA)

Report

For September 2019

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1. OPENING CEREMONY OF IRRIGATION DROPPING SYSTEM

Within the frameworks of USAID-funded PURE-Water project, on August, the "Let's drink efficiently" idea team of Citizen Scientists installed valve and irrigation dropping system fixed to drinking water fountain that located at the Vedi Cultural Center. The system saves about 3-3.4 m³ of drinking water.

On September 7, the team presented the irrigation dropping system and organized landscape flowering at the Vedi Cultural Center. Representatives of Vedi Municipality, Cultural Center, active youth and residents, as well as schoolchildren participated in the event.



2. WORLD CLEAN-UP DAY AND WATER MONITORING DAY CELEBRATED IN POQR VEDI



"Armenia is one of the exceptional countries that are rich in groundwater resources. It is of high strategic and economic importance for the country. At the same time, there are big risks and problems connected with the non-efficient use of these resources. We are hopeful that USAID's partnership with the Government of Armenia, local authorities and other stakeholders will prevent further reduction of these strategic groundwater resources and

contribute to their restoration in the near future," said Lyla Bashan, Director of USAID's Sustainable Development Office in Armenia.

The event was made possible through the cooperation and support of USAID and Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia in the framework of PURE Water project.



3. AN INFORMATIVE MEETING-DISCUSSION ON EMMP PREPARED FOR COMMUNITY'S IRRIGATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

On September 12, within the framework of USAID-funded PURE Water project, an informative meeting-discussion was organized in Vedi community hall regarding the EMMP prepared for the During the informative meeting, the possible impacts and mitigation measures that must be implemented by the construction companies were presented to the community residents, particularly those residing near the construction sites and the pipeline installation roads.

After the presentation, an active discussion took place during which the community residents raised their concerns related to the implementation of construction activities. Further, during the project construction phase, the project team will visit the construction site, get acquainted with the construction process, as well as the measures taken by the workers for maintenance of safety rules and removal of construction and household waste.



4. WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY



On September 18, within the frameworks of "European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries" project (EUWI+), "Country Water Partnership" NGO organized the event on World Water Monitoring Day in Gegharkuniq marz.

Teachers and schoolchildren from different communities of Hrazdan river basin (Kotayk, Armavir marzes) and Sevan basin (Gegharkuniq marz) participated in the event.

During the summer, they conducted water monitoring of open surface water bodies located in their communities, using the simple monitoring toolkits which were provided by the project. During the event, the schoolchildren presented the results of the summer assignment and exchange the data they had received. They also told the stories and interesting facts about water. Water quantity measerments were carried out at Tsovaguygh observation post (Dzknaget) with the professional support of the representatives of Service of Hydrometeorology and Active Influence on Atmospheric Phenomena SNCO.



5. The National Civil Society Platform meetings

Date: 25 and 30 September 2019

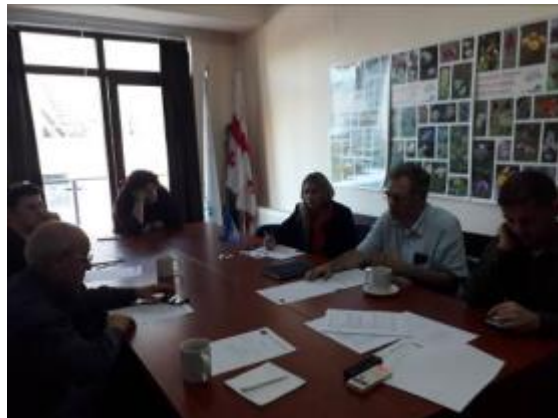
Place: Tbilisi

Organizers: the National Platform of the Civil Society Forum

Participants: 2 groups of the National Civil Society Platform, including the Greens Movement of Georgia and CWP-Georgia (12 and 10 people accordingly)

Purpose: to discuss the implementation of obligations under the Association Agreement of Georgia with the European Union.

The environmental issues were also raised. CWP-Georgia informed participants on the status of consideration of the new Water Law. The issues of hydropower were raised. Nino Chkhobadze raised the issue of expanding the representation of the environmental sector in the Platform Council.



6. Meeting of the Georgian Civil Society Congress



Date: 26 September 2019

Place: Tbilisi

Organizers: Civil Society Congress

Participants: 50 organizations, including CWP-Georgia

A meeting of the founders of the Georgian Civil Society Congress was held in the conference hall of the National Library of Georgia. About 50 organizations gathered to mark the 30th anniversary of the Congress.

Participants exchanged experiences and informed the audience about their activities in the context of SDGs and the

Agreement on the Association of Georgia with the European Union.

CWP-Georgia informed participants about the GWP latest events, in particular, the inclusion of the country presented by CWP-Georgia into the SDG6 Support Program.

7. Meeting on the National Marine Environment Strategy and Action Plan (NMES&A)

Date: 27 September 2019

Place: Tbilisi

Organizers: Ministry of Environment and Agriculture of Georgia

Participants: 40 people from all the sectors, including CWP-Georgia

A meeting of stakeholders was held at the conference hall of the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture of Georgia within the framework of the project "Support to implementation of the Environmental provisions of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement".

The Ministry gathered representatives from all sectors to discuss **the Work document "Description of the Georgian Part of the Black Sea - input for the Proposal for the National Marine Environment Strategy and Action Plan (NMES & A)"**.

The basis of this document was input provided by experts of the Georgian Government, Academia, the business community and NGOs.

Objectives of the 27 September meeting:

- Discuss the outcomes of the information on the marine environment
- Discuss the Current and Good Environmental Status of Georgia's marine environment. How to attain that and what measures, policies are needed and what funding should be provided to reach this goal?



Suggestions and clarifications made by the meeting will be reflected in the document. CWP-Georgia chairman George Dzamukashvili took part in the work as the working group member.

8. Roundtable “Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation”

Date: 10-11 September 2019

Place: Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan

Organizers: CWP Kyrgyzstan under support of UNECE

Participants: Institute "Gidroproekt", Russia; State Agency for Water Resources under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic; JSC "Electric Stations"; State Inspectorate for Environmental and Technical Safety; "Water Automation and Metrology"; JSC "Kyrgyzsuudolboor"; Secretariat of the Chu-Talas Commission from the Kyrgyz Republic; CWP-Kyrgyzstan (Total: 21 people, incl. 5 women).

Purpose: Discussion of issues to improve the regulatory and institutional framework for ensuring the safety of hydraulic structures.

The participants discussed the results of the project "Development of recommendations for improving the legal and institutional framework for ensuring the safety of hydraulic structures in Kyrgyzstan".

When discussing the issue "On the development of additional by-laws regulating the issues of ensuring the safety of hydraulic structures in Kyrgyzstan", participants recognized the need for a comprehensive inventory of the Kyrgyz Republic's regulatory acts directly or indirectly related to the issues of ensuring the safety of hydraulic structures and their subsequent correction and additions.

The following presentations were done:

1. "Progress and further implementation of the project "Dam Safety in Central Asia: Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation" by Erkin Orolbaev, UNECE consultant;
2. "Regulatory framework and organizational forms of state regulation in the field of dam safety in Kyrgyzstan and their possible improvement" by Iskender Dzholdoshaliev and Kirill Valentini;
3. "Experience of the Russian Federation in the legal and organizational support of the safety of hydraulic structures" by Vladimir Scherbina, consultant;
4. "Safety Control of Responsible Hydraulic Structures at the "RusHydro" Company" by Ekaterina Kobochkina, Deputy Head, RusHydro.





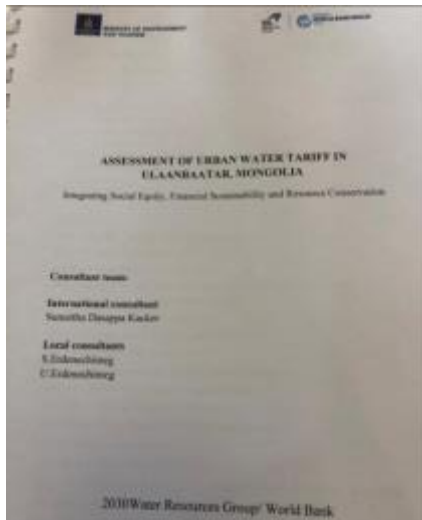
9. Seminar “Urban Water Tariff and Integrating Sustainability Concerns”

Date: 30th of September 2019

Place: World Bank office, Ulaanbaatar

Organizer: the World Bank group

Participants: CWP-Mongolia, Ministry of Environment, government agencies, private sector, WRG2030 (Total: 12 people).



The discussion was focused on urban water tariff changes initiated by CWP-Mongolia.

The changes of water tariff structure were suggested as follows:

- ✓ Transition to an Increasing Block Tariff Structure;
- ✓ Integrate Water Use Fee with water charges;
- ✓ Rationalize and simplify rates;
- ✓ Levy Water Use Fee on all consumers (limited exceptions);
- ✓ To be collected by USUG/Main water supply agency of Ulaanbaatar city/, OSNAAUG /Organization of water distribution in apartments and buildings/ and PWCs;
 - ✓ To be transferred to Tuul River Basin Authority; and used only for implementation of water resource development and management initiatives.

It was suggested also to improve the Water Database to be used by the water sector.



10. Launching the pilot project in Azerbaijan

Date: 24 September 2019

Place: the Saatli region, the Jafarkhan experimental reclamation station

Organizer: the Kura-2 project

Participants: UNDP representative, a project manager, international experts, employees of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Emergencies, design and research institutes, farmers, workers of municipalities, water user associations, CWP-Azerbaijan, etc.

Currently, the Kura-2 project is being implemented in Azerbaijan through the UN GEF with the participation of national and international experts. The goal is the harmonious use of water resources of the Kura River between Azerbaijan and Georgia. In order to implement the principles of integrated water resources management and develop adaptation measures to climate change, a pilot project on drip irrigation is provided within the Kura-2 project.

It was decided to conduct the pilot project in the Saatli region on the territory of the Jafarkhan experimental reclamation station, which is well equipped with an irrigation and reclamation network. The pilot project provides 2 options: the drip irrigation of cotton (2.5 ha) and orchard (1.5 ha). The launching of the pilot project took place on September 24 in the Jafarkhan experimental reclamation station.

The CWP-Azerbaijan partners took part in this event. CWP-Azerbaijan Chairman Mammed Asadov informed participants about the importance of using advanced technologies for irrigation of crops in the context of climate change.

Within this project, it is planned to conduct trainings and seminars for municipal workers, farmers, etc.



11. Meeting on the Verkhne-Shirvan Canal reconstruction

Date: 27 September 2019

Place: Kurdamir district, Azerbaijan

Organizer: CWP-Azerbaijan

Participants: the public of the Kurdamir district, the Ujar and Akhsuinsky districts, employees of the Su Yapi project company (Total: 34 people).

Participants were informed about the importance of reconstruction of the Verkhne-Shiran Canal, as well as the issue of compensation to residents because of reconstruction works.



12. CWP-Tajikistan partners meeting

Date: 01 September 2019

Place: Dushanbe

Organizer: CWP-Tajikistan

Participants: CWP-Tajikistan partners (Total: 9 people).

Purpose: raising awareness on use of the knowledge base and best practices on implementing SDGs, and progress of implementation of the action plan 2019.

Participants considered issues related to the water and environmental science; capacity building and disseminating knowledge and best practices; the role of CWP-Tajikistan in implementing the principles of integrated water

resources management and global water initiatives of Tajikistan, as well as fulfillment of the Action Plan 2019, organizational issues and re-election of the senior staff of CWP-Tajikistan.



13. International Conference “Water Security: New Technologies, Strategies, Policies, and Institutions”

Date: 16-18 September 2019

Place: Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Organizers: American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and the Center for Water Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)

Purpose: Discussing water security and its importance for food security, conflict mitigation, and economic development.

Participants: More than 200 people from international organizations, academies, research institutes and centers, public organizations, business sector, as well policy- and decision-makers.

The following aspects of water security and how they can be achieved was discussed:

- ✓ Application of new technologies such as remote sensing, big data, and artificial intelligence,
- ✓ Development of strategies, policies, and institutional reforms, and
- ✓ Enhancement of resilience under changing climate, population growth, and urbanization.

CWP-Tajikistan Chairman Yarash Pulatov made a presentation “Water resources, water use and water cooperation of Tajikistan: problems and solutions”. A memorandum has been concluded between the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Center for Water Resources Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Department of Water Resources of the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

More information:

https://www.awra.org/Members/Events_and_Networking/Events/INTERNATIONAL_CONFERENCE_Water_Security_New_Technologies_Strategies_Policies_and_Institutions.aspx

<http://english.igsnr.cas.cn/>



14. International Workshop "Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development Strategies in Arid regions under a Changing Climate"

Date: 5-10 September 2019

Place: Tashkent

Organizers: IWMI, the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Geology and Mineral Resources, Institute HYDROENGEO, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and Hydrosolutions Ltd, Switzerland and financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Goal: to identify strategies for water resources management, in particular groundwater resources and sustainable development in arid regions in the context of global climate change, and exchange experiences with international experts, as well as discuss pressing problems of water resources management and ways to overcome them.

Participants: more than 50 participants from governmental and international organizations representing more than ten countries.



Along with presentations, interactive games and a study tour were included in the program to highlight the importance of the topic in the region. Participants got certificates.

CWP-Uzbekistan Chairman Mansur Abduraimov took part in the conference.

More: <https://www.facebook.com/IWMICA/>



15. XV International Scientific/practical Symposium/exhibition "Clean Water of Russia – 2019"

Date: 23-27 September 2019

Place: Ekaterinburg, Russia

Organizers: FSBI RosNII VH with the support of the Federal Agency of Water Resources and Government of Sverdlovsk oblast.

Participants: Researchers of the leading scientific institutions of Russia and the neighboring countries, water experts and officials from executive power bodies of the Russian Federation constituent members, water users, ecological NGOs, as well as ecological supervision agencies (Total: 300 participants from 16 countries).

Water safety as a factor of sustainable development was the main topic of the symposium.

CWP-Uzbekistan Chairman Mansur Abduraimov took part in the conference.

More information:

<http://sic.icwc-aral.uz/releases/eng/341.htm>

<http://www.ecca-water.net/content/view/19240/51/lang.russian/>

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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.