

Monthly Press Review in the Field of IWRM in Central Asia: November 2014

Date	News	Reference
Kazakhstan		
10.11.14	Interstate relations The governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will improve coordination and management of transboundary water resources in the basins of rivers Chu and Talas. The project will be implemented in the framework of the project "International Waters" to improve cooperation on water resources management with regard to sustainable use and improved protection of aquatic ecosystems of the Chu and Talas river basins. Within the project three main components are planned: 1) in-depth situational analysis with improvement of management and use of water resources and associated ecosystems; 2) institutional development of the Commission, in particular, strengthening the environmental aspects of its activities; 3) improved monitoring of water quality and quantity.	Bnews.kz
19.11.14	Water issues in Kazakhstan The Chairman of the Committee on Water Resources of Ministry of Agriculture of RK, Islam Abishev, reported to Nursultan Nazarbayev on the main aspects of water economy development, as well as work on the efficient use and protection of water resources of the country. The issue of water supply in Kazakhstan was stressed by the president of Kazakhstan. During the meeting, Nazarbayev also noted the introduction of unused irrigated lands and the effective cooperation with neighboring countries in the use of transboundary rivers.	Total.kz
25.11.14	International relations President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, during his official visit to Kazakhstan said that "Construction of hydraulic structures in the upper reaches of rivers Syrdarya and Amudarya should be in accordance with the generally recognized rules of international law and obligatory coordination with the countries located in the lower reaches of these rivers". As noted in the announcement following negotiations between Presidents Nazarbayev and Karimov, water resources of transboundary rivers in Central Asia are the common heritage and benefit of the people, and the fate of tens of millions of people, the stability and prosperity in the region depend on the reasonable and equitable utilization of those rivers.	Novosti Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan		
4.11.14	Water level in the Toktogul reservoir Nurbek Elebaev, the director of the State Department for Regulation of the Fuel and Energy Complex of Ministry of Energy of the Kyrgyzstan said, "After going through the winter heating period, according to forecasts, water level in the Toktogul reservoir by April 1, 2015 will decrease to the level of 7.1 billion cubic meters of water, a critical "dead level" is at 6.5 billion cubic meters". According to him, "dead level" might cause stopping of generators, which would lead to a decrease in electricity generation. "The demand for electricity in the winter heating is 9.8 billion kW/h. Possibility of developing - 7.4 billion kW/h, the deficit - 2.4 billion kW/h. To cover the shortage of electricity is possible only through the import of 1 billion kW/h, and an increase in electricity generation in CHP Bishkek to 382 million kW/h and CHP Osh - 50.4 million kW/h," - said Elebaev.	«Knews»

5.11.14	Hydropower “The USA promises to continue supporting Kyrgyzstan in implementation of «Knews» the CASA-1000 project”, said The Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Fatema Sumar. According to her, the energy market is where each CA country can draw benefit from. Kyrgyzstan holds the region's water supply, and, thus, can export electricity via the CASA-1000 project. "The World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, which will soon join the project, hold the promise of support in these projects. Water is a precious resource for Central Asian countries, it is also important for countries located in the upper and lower reaches of rivers. Therefore, we must agree on how this water can be used in such a way to help everyone", she concluded.	«Knews»
12.11.14	Glaciers melting “Water resources around the Aral Sea basin should be used efficiently by all parties”, said Kyrgyzstan experts at a seminar on melting glaciers on November, 11-12 th in Dushanbe. Representatives of Kyrgyzhydromet and the Central Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences presented their results of research and monitoring of glaciers in Kyrgyzstan. With regard to complex nature of the problem of melting glaciers in Kyrgyzstan, the need for adaptation measures and sustainable use of water resources throughout the basin of the Aral Sea, as well as other regions outside the zones of river basins, was indicated. Kyrgyz experts also emphasized the interconnectedness of the conservation of mountain ecosystems and sustainable development of the entire Central Asian region.	«Kabar»
Tajikistan		
17.11.14	National Dialogue on Water Policy The seventh meeting of the Coordinating Council of National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in the Republic of Tajikistan took place last week in Dushanbe. The meeting was attended by a member of the Coordinating Council of the Main Department of Geology under the Government Deputy Chief of Division for Geology, Abdusalom Makhmadaliev. As noted during the event, various aspects of water resources development and financial management of water resources were discussed.	«Hovar»
Uzbekistan		
3.11.14	Results of the socio-economic development of Uzbekistan for 9 months 2014 Within the framework of the State Program for the Improvement of Irrigated Lands and Water Resources Management for 2013-2017, the Fund for Land Reclamation expended a capital of 81.4 billion of soums since the beginning of the year. As a result, a number of projects were delivered: construction and reconstruction of 739.8 kilometers of sewers, 107 drainage wells, monitoring wells in 1269 and 75.2 km horizontal closed drainage system, repair work on the 9.5 thousand kilometers of off-farm and on-farm drainage network.	Anons.uz
12.11.14	Glaciers melting “Meteorologists of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan should implement joint aerial surveys of glaciers for more accurate monitoring of their condition”, said expert of the State Committee for Nature Protection of Uzbekistan Muhammadjon Khodzhaev. “Observations on the territory of Uzbekistan show a steady warming trend. The air temperature in Uzbekistan increased by 1.5 degrees over the past 50 years. Rising humidity decreased transparency of the atmosphere. Frequent sudden	Gazeta.uz

	changes in atmospheric pressure, glaciers have melted for 23%,"- said the study group of Uzhydromet experts. Estimates have shown the risk of reducing by about one-third of the glaciation area of Western Tien-Shan in 2020 comparing to 1980. Glacial volume reduction rate ranges from 0.2% to 1% per year. By 2050, water resources in the basin of the Amudarya River may decrease by 10-15%, and the Syrdarya - by 2-5%. In conditions of warming an increase of the loss of irrigation water in areas through evaporation is expected.	
Turkmenistan		
12.11.14	Ratification of the Agreements on the Caspian Sea The ratification of the Agreements on the Caspian Sea Mejlis (Parliament) of Turkmenistan has approved and unanimously ratified two agreements on the Caspian Sea, which have been signed in September, 2014 at the summit of Caspian states in Astrakhan. It is about the ratification of the "Agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological resources of the Caspian Sea" and "Agreement on Cooperation in the field of prevention and liquidation of emergencies in the Caspian Sea."	Trend

Sources:

1. «Total.kz»
2. «Novosti Kazakhstan»
3. «Trend»
4. «Knews»
5. «Gazeta.uz»
6. «Hovar»
7. «Anons.uz»
8. «Bnews.kz»

Compilers – Graduate students of “Integrated Water Resources Management” program of German-Kazakh University:

1. Aliya Mashaeva
2. Alla Sabbatovskaya
3. Zarina Ruzmatova

Chief Editor: Atay Moldobaev - PhD student of Free University of Berlin.