

Monthly press review in the field of IWRM in Central Asia: December 2013

Date	News	Link
Kazakhstan		
19.12.13	By 2050, according to Professor of North Kazakhstan State University (NKSU) Natalia M. Kozybayev Beletskaya, the deterioration of water resources is expected. Studies conducted by the Institute of Geography of the Ministry of Education and Science, for several years have shown that Ili Alatau glaciers by 2050 may disappear. Number of lakes is decreasing, according to monitoring of this year, today in Northern Kazakhstan 2328 lakes with a total area of over 10 hectares are situated, while 20 ago there were about 4000.	Tengrinews.kz
19.12.13	Astana and Beijing intend to sign agreements on sharing 24 transboundary rivers between two countries. Earlier, chairman of China during his visit to Kazakhstan made a concrete statement on taking into account national interests of Kazakhstan in the consideration of water issues. Advisory council created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources is developing recommendations.	Kazakhstan Today
24.12.13	The presentation of the State program of water management, developed by the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MoE) is held. It proposes the creation of two national companies, one company will be under MoE and will deal directly with the construction and management of water infrastructure of national level, while another one in housing sector under Ministry of Regional Development will build and manage regional distribution network. Water Resources Committee gets rid of excess load and can qualitatively engage its direct duties on control and inspection.	Tengrinews
Kyrgyzstan		
21.12.13	Minister of Energy and Industry Osmonbek Artykbaev commented Uzbekistan fears about the construction of hydropower plants cascade in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Minister stressed that the site of the Toktogul HPP is designed to ensure effective management and proper supply of resources to downstream countries. In this regard, Kyrgyzstan understands the responsibility on Naryn river. Minister Artykbaev noted that with the opening of CASA-1000 and Datka-Kemin power lines profitability of investments in further development of water resources will be guaranteed..	Биржевойл идер
Tajikistan		
4.12.13	Tajikistan hopes Japan to help in the issue of water management. Tajik Ministry of Economic Development and Trade has developed a project on "Integrated Water Resources Management", which will cover the upstream countries of Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers (Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan). The project includes the study of water resources (surface water, groundwater, glaciers, assessing long-term forecasts of demand for water, etc.). The purpose of this project is to create a coordination centre for water resources management.	ИА Авеста
5.12.13	Tax Committee under the Government of Tajikistan has arrested accounts of "Sangtuda-1". The reason - tax debt of 52 million somoni (over \$10.8 million). Sangtuda-1 has reserves for functioning within five to seven days, then further operation of HPP will become impossible, it can stay approximately for 5-6 months. Stop of HPP operation will force company management to send employees of "Sangtuda -1" to lengthy administrative	Фергана.нетс

	leave, 95 percent of whom are citizens of Tajikistan. It would entail an increase of social tensions.	
7.12.13	According to Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan Pulod Muhiddinov funding of CASA-1000 project is already defined. In early 2014, funding for the project will approve the Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank. Recall that the project will cost \$970 million. It is assumed that Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan will supply Afghanistan and Pakistan up to 1300 MW of electricity in the summer.	Afghanistan.ru
Uzbekistan		
20.12.13	World Bank experts say that crop yields in Uzbekistan in 2050 due to rising temperatures may fall by a third, which would have significant damage to the food industry. World Bank proposes to prevent the effects of climate change to expand the number of species of crops, diversifying the list of crops, invest more in water resources and provide farmers with proven and reliable information about expected weather conditions.	Биржевой лидер
20.12.13	In Tashkent, the results of the project "Plan of Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Efficiency for Zarafshan River Basin" are presented. The study showed a lack of awareness of children and adults in matters of health and hygiene of pilot settlements in areas of Pastdargom and Samarkand region. The study developed measures and created educational and informational materials for appropriate training to improve the level of public awareness on issues of disease prevention and health protection.	Mail.ru
Turkmenistan		
16.12.13	Turkmenistan to build plant for seawater desalination on the Caspian coast, the corresponding resolution was signed by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at government meeting. The document authorizes the Ministry of Water Resources of Turkmenistan to sign a contract with the Turkish company "Polimex" on construction in Turkmenbashi area of seawater desalination installation with capacity of 50,000 cubic meters of water per day. Shortage of drinking and irrigation water hampers the development of the western region, it was also decided to abandon production in the west of the country the main crop - cotton.	Gazeta.uz
27.12.13	Caspian countries (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan) in 2014 will not engage in commercial fishing of sturgeon. The solution to not carry out in 2014 industrial catch of sturgeon in the Caspian Sea was accepted by littoral states representatives within the 34th meeting of the commission on water and biological resources of the Caspian Sea.	РБК
Afghanistan		
09.12.13	The Asian Development Bank will provide \$100 million to Afghanistan to repair irrigation systems. Funds will focus on the rehabilitation of infrastructure of Archie and Shahravan channels, strengthening river basin management and the creation of new institutions on rational use of water resources. It is also expected to reconstruct irrigation system of 74 thousand hectares in the provinces of Takhar and Kunduz, which would increase productivity by 122-155%.	Aghanistan.ru

Sources:

1. Informational Agency «Kazakhstan Today»
2. Informational Agency «Биржевой лидер»

3. Informational Agency «Tengrinews»
4. Informational Agency «РБК»
5. Informational Agency «Gazeta.uz»
6. Informational Agency «Фергана.news»
7. Informational Agency «Avesta»
8. Informational Agency «Afghanistan.ru»
9. Portal «Mail.ru»

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