

Monthly Press Review in the field of IWRM in Central Asia: September 2014

Date	News	Reference
Kazakhstan		
17.09.2014	<p>Security of hydro objects</p> <p>A round table discussion dedicated to the subject of “Measures to improve security of hydro technical structures in Kazakhstan” took place in the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan.</p> <p>Economy of the Central Asian countries is closely linked to the usage of transboundary water resources.</p> <p>River runoff of the region is near to being overregulated by the cascades of water storage reservoirs, while the basins of the transboundary rivers are now managed water systems. However, hydrotechnical constructions regulating the flow were built 30-40 years ago. Roundtable participants noted that today there is a need for development and adoption of the law on the safety of hydraulic structures, which will settle the legal regulations on the safety of hydraulic structures.</p>	Press-service of Ministry of Agriculture
26.09.2014	<p>Conservation of Biodiversity</p> <p>About 1 million of carp fingerlings, silver carp and grass carp grown in Kamyshlybashskom hatcheries were released into waters of the Aral-Syrdarya basin. During this year, 207 million tenge was provided for growing 14.8 million of fingerlings and 420,000 of yearlings carp and herbivorous fishes under the state program “Preservation and Restoration of Fish Resources and Other Aquatic Animals” in order to conserve biodiversity in the Aral-Syrdarya basin. In total, during the year 2014 state companies are planning to release more than 168 million pieces of fry of valuable fish species (sturgeon , whitefish, carp and herbivorous) in their natural habitat.</p>	Press-service of Ministry of Agriculture
Kyrgyzstan		
11.09.2014	<p>Transboundary issues</p> <p>According to the International Crisis Group, in order to solve the problem of transboundary water resources usage between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, it is necessary to give up the practice of using water and hydropower resources as instruments of political pressure and focus on reaching a number of mutually beneficial agreements. In the report “Water Burden for the Central Asia” it was noted that growing problems of energy security and public discontent in Kyrgyzstan became the main catalysts of the country’s political instability. In case of non-participation of Uzbekistan in the process of solving of water energy issues, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan must work in bilateral procedure.</p>	«Knews»
16.06.2014	<p>Hydropower</p> <p>676 hectares of irrigated land is to be provided for the construction of the Naryn HPP cascade. The Minister of Justice, Almambet Shykmamatov, submitted amendments to the law "On the Introduction of a Moratorium</p>	«Knews»

	on the Transfer (transformation) of Irrigated Land to Other Land Uses and Types of Land" which prescribes that the ban does not include construction of large hydropower production facilities. The Director of Department of Cadaster and Registration of Real Estate Property (State Registration Service), Narynbek Isabekov, explained that the land for the construction of the Naryn HPP cascade will be submitted in 3 stages. "Total 3250 hectares will be allocated, 676 hectares of which are irrigated lands. They need to be transformed," said Isabekov.	
16.09.2014	The energy crisis According to the Minister of Energy, Orosmonbek Artykbaev, blackouts in the country will not take place. The minister hoped to get out of the crisis by limiting supplied volumes of electricity to the population. In fact, authorities have determined the limit by overcoming which certain regions will be restricted access to electricity. These sanctions affect the owners of three-phase input that in the next few days are going to seal electric boilers for heating. Moreover, for the service of electricity supply, this category of citizens will now pay more - 1.2 soms per 1 kWh instead of the previous 0.7 som. Kyrgyz authorities relied on the help of power engineers from Kazakhstan who promised to help neighbors in Central Asia with electricity. It was about the supply of 500 million kWh in the dead of winter. Later it turned out that the Kyrgyz Republic needed 1 billion kilowatts in order to complete the heating season.	«NEWS-ASIA»
25.09.2014	Hydrological indicators of Chu river basin Analysis of actual water condition of Chu river basin as a whole (the ChuKochkorka, Chon-Kemin, Kegety, Alamedin Alaarcha, Sokuluk, Aksu and Karabalta) showed that the water content of these rivers for the period from April to August of this year amounted at 65% from the norm, as reported by the press service of the Department of Water Resources and Irrigation. The lowest water content was observed in June (48-57%) and during the second decade of July and early August (57-64%). On selected rivers and in some decades water content in rivers did not exceed 40%.	«Gazeta.kg»
Tajikistan		
02.09.2014	World Bank report on Rogun HPP World Bank experts have confirmed the viability and height of the Rogun dam. World Bank published a summary of 12 reports of the expert groups on construction of the Rogun HPP in Tajikistan. According to reports, feasibility study for the Rogun project was carried out by a consortium Coyneet Bellier (France), Electroconsult (Italy) and IPA (UK). Another separate but parallel study to that Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been developed by another consultant (Poyry Energy Ltd., Switzerland). According to the source, the World Bank Group agrees with the general conclusions of the study as to what is required for the construction of high Rogun dam (the height from 300 m to 335 m, normal water level of 1255 and 1290 m), located above the Nurek dam (300 m) on the Vakhsh cascade, and is technically feasible, while the	«Avesta»

	environmental and social consequences of construction of such a dam can be adequately mitigated.	
4.09.2014	Rogun HPP Commissioning of the Rogun HPP will allow the rest of the Vakhsh cascade hydropower plants to reach their full capacity. Presently, the Vakhsh HPP cascade, as well as the Nurek reservoir, are of seasonal character. Due to their small capacity, they cannot accumulate a sufficient amount of water for a year round power generation according to their designed capacity.	«Avesta»
30.09.2014	Speech at the UN In the course of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Prime Minister of Tajikistan, Kohir Rasulzoda, gave a speech. He mentioned a number of pressing issues in his speech and called for strengthening of cooperation on regional water resources. K. Rasulzoda stated that "the reduction of fresh water, which is caused by climate change could create additional difficulties in achieving sustainable development, thus exacerbating the situation. First, it can occur in semi-arid and arid regions with high level of water stress". The head of Tajikistan government also said that along with the construction of medium and small hydropower plants, his country also performs research on the topics of solar and wind energy use.	East time
Uzbekistan		
3.09.2014	Transboundary water resources management In the evening of September 1 st , Uzbekistan renewed provision of irrigation water to the habitants of downstream zone of Kara-Suu district of Kyrgyzstan, reported 24.kg with the reference to the head of village authority, Azizbek Aitkurbayev. "There is water coming to us by Savai canal. But 10 days ago our neighbors stopped the water supply without any giving explanation. Because of lack of water we were 5 or 6 days late with the irrigation works for winter crops", explained the head of the village authority. It should be noted that water coming to Kyrgyzstan along the Savai canal was stopped without any warning on the 20th of August by Uzbekistan. Irrigation water comes from Uzbekistan water storage reservoir Kempir-Abad (Andijan) along the canal which was already built during Soviet period and goes along and across the state border. As a result, about 2908 hectares of the agricultural land remained without water.	«Ferghana.ru»
03.09.2014	Uzbekistan's position on Rogun HPP Final reports of the World Bank on the Rogun project (12 documents) were published September 1, 2014. One of them focused on answering questions, comments and pretensions of the interested parties, most of them (more than 120) came from Uzbekistan. The meeting of the representatives of Central Asian states' governments dedicated to discussing the report "The Key issues for further consideration of the proposed project on the Rogun HPP" took place. At the meeting the first	«Ferghana.ru»

	deputy of prime-minister, finance minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. Rustam Azimov, accused the World Bank of “ignoring most of [Uzbekistan’s] arguments and reasoned positions regarding widescale technogenic, environmental, social, and economic threats of the Rogun HPP project”. His speech was ended with an announcement that “Uzbekistan will never support this project”.	
28.09.2014	Uzbekistan’s Position on Water Issue In course of political discussion at the 69-th session of the UN, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Abdulaziz Kamilov, expressed concern about threats to international security. He invoked not to hurry with withdrawal of the international forces from Afghanistan and spoke up for the proper and rational use of the water resources of the transboundary rivers in Central Asia, including rivers Amudraya and Syrdarya.	«ECOPortal»

Sources:

1. Press service of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan
2. «NEWS-Asia»
3. « Ferghana »
4. «Avesta»
5. «ECOportal.uz»
6. East time
7. «Gazeta.kg»
8. «Knews»

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

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

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