



## Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea

<http://www.ec-ifas.org>

### INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

April, 2007

*International Decade of Actions «Water for Life» 2005 – 2015*

*«Faced with the treat of climate change and mounting pressure on the world's freshwater resources, the 21<sup>st</sup> century water governance challenge may prove to be among the most daunting faced in human history»*

From the 2006 Human Development Report, UNDP

#### The 1-st. session of Steering Committee of APWS

On March, 29, 2007, in Tokyo, Japan has taken place the first session of Steering Committee of Asian-Pacific Water Summit. Session passed under presidency of President APWF, Chairman of Steering Committee APWS, Ex-Prime minister of Japan, Mr. Ioshiro Mori. Members of the Committee have taken part in his work, special representatives of region, representatives of the Embassies accredited in Tokyo, and mass-media.

The main goal of the meeting was discussion of the project of the Program of Summit, prepared by Steering Committee of APWF and the list of invited participants.

The program of carrying out of session included morning and evening sessions, press conference and an audience with a prince of Japan - Naruhito.

Within the framework of morning session the video-presentation about APWF, then speech of the President of APWF, Chairman of Steering Committee of Summit Mr. Ioshiro Mori has taken place. Members of SC and representatives of regional and international organizations gave the welcome addresses and brief presentation of existing problems of region. In his performance, the member of Steering Committee of the Summit, Acting Chairman of EC IFAS Mr. Rakhimov S. has stressed on questions of crisis of Aral Sea, and the problems, which are connected with it in basins. He had been made the offer on inclusion of the given question in the program of Summit, which could play the important role in the decision of these problems in the Central Asia. Problems of basins of the Aral Sea also have been reflected in performances of Chairman of Global Water Partnership of Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson and Chairman of Steering Committee APWF of Mr. Tomy Kokh. It is necessary to notice, that to crisis of Aral Sea and the problems of basin connected to attention of participants of a meeting and mass-media during session and have been given to taken place press conference.

The project of the program of Summit which is prepared by Chairman of Steering Committee APWF has been submitted to participants of a meeting. On results of discussions the decision is accepted, that members of Steering Committee of Summit will present the remarks and offers concerning the project of the program to Secretary APWF before the following session of Steering Committee (the beginning in August 2007.). The project of the program of Summit includes opening ceremonies and the closings, two plenary sessions, three thematic sessions, memorial speech. Also within the framework of Summit the organization of two and multilateral meetings with participation of the stakeholders and other actions corresponding to his subjects is stipulated.

On results of work of the Summit acceptance of two final documents is planned: Recommendations of 1st APW Summit and Declaration Beppu. Projects of these documents will be prepared in process of approach of Summit.

On the second question the prospective list of invited participants prepared by Secretary APWF has been submitted to members of SC. Heads of the states of Asian-Pacific region (Heads of the water-economic organizations, Ministers of Finance, etc. will be in structure of official delegations under the discretion of the Governments), members of SC of the Summit, vice-presidents of Steering Committee, representatives of the leading organizations and subregional coordinators, representatives of the stakeholders will be invited to Summit. On results of discussion of the given question it has been marked, that the list is preliminary, and members of SC, Summit will present the comments and offers to next session of SC. Participation at Summit will be only under invitations.

Within the framework of a meeting press conference also has taken place with the

#### All about water

##### DID YOU KNOW...? FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT WATER AND CIVILISATION

Nearly all the great civilisations of the world have evolved around water, which provided the key not only to supplying freshwater, but also to agriculture, trade, transport and defence. Civilisations such as that of the Roman and Venetian Empires, the Omayyad Dynasty and the Egyptian Civilisation were all founded on their access to water, which provided their population with the means to both survive and expand.

In both the past and present, human progress has been conditional on advances in water science and their application through engineering and technology for the benefit of society.

The art of the bath and its social importance were so great in ancient Rome that, by the end of the Republic (first century B.C.), supplying water and building bath facilities had become major questions in the life of the city. The construction of spectacular public baths, by successive Roman emperors, was a way of impressing citizens with the power and prestige of their rulers.

In ancient Rome, wastewater was carried away in a series of sewer drains emptying into the Cloaca maxima, a former stream in ancient times that had been transformed into a drainage channel, probably during the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

The amount of water distributed in ancient Rome has been estimated at about 1 million m<sup>3</sup> per day. Supplied to the centre of the city by aqueducts, the water flowed out into the numerous public fountains where collecting basins had been built. These fountains were the source of water for the whole city,

the participation of members of SC and journalists, represented the leading world editions.

During a day the audience has taken place in the Imperial palace of Japan with prince of Japan - Naruhito. His Excellency welcomed members of SC of the Summit and shortly talked to everyone, mentioning problems of water and an environment.

During discussion of problems of basin of Aral sea with members of Steering Committee and representatives of the international organizations it was offered to organize within the framework of Summit the "Round table" with participation of Heads of the states of basin of Aral sea and heads of the leading international organizations (UNESCAP the United Nations, the Japanese Water Forum, the World Water Advice ...) and financial institutions (WB, ADB, IDB, the Japanese Bank on the international co-operation...) on discussion of the mentioned questions to give a new pulse in improvement of ecological and social and economic conditions in region by means of the greater attraction of investments.

## CENTRAL ASIAN-GERMAN DIALOGUE OF MEANS OF MASS

On March 29-31, 2007 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) has been taken place the conference devoted to the Central Asian-German dialogue of means of mass in context of the new development of the Central Asian strategy of the European Union, under presidency of Germany in Advice of EU.

In the given action to which was promoted the embassies of Germany in the countries of the Central Asia participated representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Germany, Executive committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, the nongovernmental organizations, and mass media.

All work connected to preparation and carrying out of conference passed under the direction of Mrs. Barbara Kupert (institute of external cultural communications, Stuttgart).

On March 30, with the introductory report: "On the way to the Central - Asian strategy of the European Union" Mr. Rolf Schultz, the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Berlin has acted.

Further questions and prospects of more intensive cooperation of EU with the countries of the Central Asia have been discussed in the field of education, economy, policy, a role of mass media in illumination of rapprochement of EU with CA.

At conference the section devoted to calls of interstate cooperation in CA and their illumination by regional mass-media was rather interesting. Here questions of scope and opportunities of regional cooperation in CA have been covered by support of Europe, available successes and lacks, prospects of creation of water-power, transport and food consortia, struggle against desertification, the decision of problems in the Aral Sea basin, global changes of a climate and consecration of these problems in mass-media of CA, Germany and EU.

In particular on this section there were the presentations devoted:

- "Competition instead of cooperation. Problems of regional cooperation in CA" (Beate Eshmet, institute of Orientals, Halle city)
- "Water processes of the Aral Sea basin: interrelations, problems and possible decisions" (Anatoly Holmatov, Technical director of Executive Committee of IFAS).

The majority of participants have marked, that in spite of available lacks in regional cooperation, nevertheless CA is of the developing single whole integrated in Евразия. At level CA it is carried out as a whole the interstate water-division without conflict.

At conference a big attention also has been given to the policy of safety, the concept of stability in CA. With the most important messages on social questions and public relations have acted Mr. Tim Epkenhans, director of Academy of OSCE in Bishkek, Mr. Karomatullo Olimov, the State Adviser of the President of Republic Tajikistan. Wide discussion on the problems of formation of a civil society and its mutual relations with the state, Central - Asian NGO, freedom of speech, varieties of opinions and independence of mass-media at a choice information, the state supervision and self-regulation of mass-media, and also press conference have finished conference which undoubtedly had great value in dialogue of Germany, EU and CA, strengthening of interaction and cooperation.

for drinking, hygiene, putting out fires, or just for the enjoyment and pleasure of the citizens.

The first Roman aqueduct was built in 312 B.C. under the censor (Roman public official) Appius Claudius Caecus. Three more were built during the Republic in order to distribute water to the centre of the city. Connecting cities to water supplies was a characteristic trait of the entire Roman Empire. Some of the remains of Rome's mastery over water may still be seen today in the aqueducts near Segovia and Tarragona in Spain, at Istanbul and Antioch in Turkey, Catania in Sicily, and in the Gard bridge in the south of France.

Water was essential to the survival of the city of Rome. When the Goths swept down through Italy in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, one of the first things they did to break down the defences of Rome was to destroy its water supply. This lack of water continued to prevent Rome from recovering its former glory until the Renaissance, when new architects managed to restore the water supplies to Rome, allowing the city to be repopulated and expand once more.

Without the Nile River, an immense desert would extend from the Red Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. This river is responsible for the high population density of this region, and for the intermingling of cultures which has always characterised the area. People migrating from arid lands over the centuries found refuge on the banks of the river god . The Nile brought the water that allowed life to exist, making communication and crop irrigation possible. Each year, its muddy floods fertilised and regenerated the land.

During the time of the Pharaohs, the Nile was worshipped as a divinity, and there was even a bureau to measure flood levels so that the proper amount of taxes could be levied on farmers. The higher the flood, the more the land was expected to produce.

In the valleys from Moche to Lambayeque situated in the northern Peruvian desert, the Chimú civilisation which flourished from A.D. 750 to 1450 depended on a system of raised irrigation canals. This northern zone was in its heyday, the most populous region of the central Andean coast. Both the river valleys and the inter-valley deserts were cultivated with the aid of irrigation networks. The canals were earthen or stone-lined aqueducts that carried the water from the mountains over the desert.

*Source: UNESCO*