



Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea

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

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

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

«Among many things which I have understood, becoming the president, there was a central role of water in the social, political and economic affairs of the countries, continent and the world».

Nelson Mandela, World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002.

The 2 nd Steering Committee Meeting of APWS

On August 6, 2007 in Tokyo has taken place the 2 nd Steering Committee Meeting of the 1 st Asian-Pacific Water Summit. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of APWF President, the Chairman of the Steering Committee of APWS, the former Prime minister of Japan Mr. Yoshiro Mori.

In the meeting work have taken part the Committee members, special representatives of the region, representatives of the Embassies accredited in Tokyo, and mass-media. The President of Global Water Partnership (GWP) Mrs. Margaret Katlej-Karlsson, the President of the World Water Council (WWC) Mr. Lui Foshon, the President of the Korean Water Forum Mr. Khan Seng-Su, the Vice-president of ABD Mr. Likun Jin, the Minister of water resources of India Mr. Sajf-ud-din Soz and other high-ranking officials have participated at the meeting as well. The Central Asia was represented by the Acting Chairman of EC IFAS Mr. Sulton Rakhimov and the Chairman of the Water Resources Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Anatoly Ryabtsev.

The meeting agenda comprised of the morning plenary session and program session. At the plenary session by the Secretary of APWF was presented the presentation on preparation for the First Asian-Pacific Water Summit included information on the Summit structure and program, the list of invited participants and total documents. The leading organizations have presented the preliminary key messages and recommendations on the Priority Themes and Key Results Areas. The Steering Committee members have briefed the participants on the preparation process for the Summit in their countries. The Acting Chairman of EC IFAS Mr. Sulton Rakhimov in his speech has noted the Central-Asian region is in an active preparation for this important water event and pins high hopes on solution of the existing problems in the sub-region. He has appealed the Steering Committee members to approve an initiative of the EC IFAS and GWP CACENA on inclusion of the parallel session on the Aral Sea Basin problems in the Summit program.

Within the framework of the program session the participants have considered in details the list of the invited participants from among stakeholders, project of the Summit program and total documents including new concrete initiatives.

The members of the Summit Steering Committee have stated the remarks and offers on the prepared list and noted, that Secretariat needs to make changes to the list taking into account the presented remarks and to send to all members of the Committee till August 31, 2007. The agreed short-list of the participants should be prepared by September 30, following which the official invitations for participation at the Summit will be sent.

The participants of the meeting have stated their offers concerning the presented project of the Summit program and noted the Summit structure broadly depends on number of the Heads states which will take part at the Summit. Therefore, it was offered to make more

All about water

DID YOU KNOW...? 100 FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT WATER

53. Over the period 1992-2001, weather and climate related disasters killed about 622,000 people, affected more than two billion, left millions more homeless, devastated arable land and spread disease.
54. Studies suggest that the number of weather-related disasters have increased threefold over the past 30 years.
55. The world's lowest annual precipitation average has been measured in Arica (Chile). In 59 years of records the annual average has been 0,8 mm.
56. The world's highest annual precipitation average has been measured in Lloro (Colombia). In 29 years of records the annual average has been 13,230 mm.
57. Because of their small size and particular geological, topographical and climatic conditions, many small island developing States face severe constraints in terms of both the quality and quantity of freshwater.
58. Nauru Island received most of its water in ships until it installed a desalination plant, and some of the small islands of Fiji and Tonga also receive water from nearby islands by barge or boat.
59. During severe droughts or natural disasters some of the small islands of Fiji, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands have relied on coconuts for water.

concrete program after the composition of the official delegation will be defined. According to the suggestion of the EC IFAS and GWP CACENA in the Summit program was included the parallel session on the Aral Sea Basin problems.

Following the results of the 1st APWS is expected to adapt the APWF Policy Brief 2007. The Beppu Joint Message, Chair's Report and the Recommendation of the 1st APWS, as well as some new concrete initiatives advanced at this meeting are an establishment of the Asian-Pacific Water Museum in Thailand, creation of the Water Ministers Council of the Asia-Pacific countries, Asian Water and Development Outlook (AWDO), development of the Google Water Toilet Map, establishment of the Trust Fund of APWF, creation of the Local Governments Collaboration Network on Water.

The final version of total documents will be discussed by the Working Group on October 21 and 25 of current year at the 3-nd Southeast Asian Water Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Within the 2 nd Steering Committee Meeting of the Summit has taken place some dual meetings as well, where the parties have discussed questions of participation of the official delegations at the Summit, enhancement of cooperation, improvement of situation in one sector etc.

The Central Asia faces the high consequences of climate change

During the two-day thematic discussions from July 31 till August 2, 2007 the General Assembly of the United Nations has considered the possibilities to transform the expanding scientific consensus in the sphere of the climate change into the wide political consensus for actions.

The goal of carrying out of this discussion consisted in the allowance of the eminent scientists, leaders of the business world and officials of the United Nations to enhance the awareness in the sphere of the climate change and to animate the active preparation for the action of high level planned by the Secretary General in September, and a conference on the climate change in Bali in December of this year.

Within the framework of this meeting is spent an interactive discussion of the group of experts in the field of the climate change, as well as the plenary speeches containing the statements on the national strategy and the international commitments of the member states.

Sirojiddin Aslov – the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations by his speech during the thematic debate has noted that the Central Asian countries face the high consequences of the global warming. In the region thaw the glaciers, increases the process of desertification, die the rivers, and has almost died the whole sea. The degradation of the Aral Sea is proceeded that is an ecological crisis not only of the regional scale, but also planetary. In the face of one generation has died the whole sea, increase the processes of desertification. He has also added, that the economic wastes of the region connected with the climate change and degradation of the environment amount some billions dollars per annum.

Sirojiddin Aslov has paid attention of the international community that last decades are observed the thawing of glaciers and snowfields in the territory of the zone of flow formation of the master rivers of the Central Asia, i.e. in the territory of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, in particular it was noted that for the last decades the area of glaciers of Tajikistan was reduced to 30-35 percent. Being sensible on the fact that than 55 percent of the river flow of the region are formed in the territory of Tajikistan the problem of reduction of the glaciers area endangers the irrigation of the agriculture of the Central Asian region.

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations has expressed regret due to the fact that not enough attention is given to the glaciers research of the Central Asia and has called all international institutes engaging in problems of the climate change to help with the glaciers supervision of Pamir and all region.

60. Hong Kong receives about 50% of its potable water requirements via twin pipelines from the adjacent mainland.

61. The different assessments carried out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have shown that the emissions of greenhouse gases released in the atmosphere since the 19th century will lead to a 'global warming' of the earth over the period 1990–2100, with an expected increase of the average annual temperature in the range of 1.4 C to 5.8 C.

62. Among the associated effects of global warming are rises in the ocean level (in the range of 0.09 to 0.88 metres for the same period) and, as a consequence of the availability of more energy in the climate system, an intensification of the global hydrological cycle.

63. Climate change will lead to more precipitation, but also to more evaporation. In general, this acceleration of the hydrological cycle will result in a wetter world.

64. Increasingly heavy rain and snow are falling on the mid- and high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere, while rains have decreased in the tropics and subtropics in both hemispheres.

65. The new climate conditions may directly affect the magnitude and timing of runoff, the intensity of floods and drought and have significant impacts on regional water resources, affecting both surface water and groundwater supply for domestic and industrial uses, irrigation, hydropower generation, navigation, in-stream ecosystems and water-based recreation.

66. In large parts of eastern Europe, western Russia, central Canada and California, peak stream flows have shifted from spring to winter as more precipitation falls as rain rather than snow, therefore reaching the rivers more rapidly.

67. In Africa's large basins of the Niger, Lake Chad and the Senegal river basin, total available water has decreased by 40 – 60%.

Source: UNESCO