

7-20-2006

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Abstracts of presentations given on Thursday, 20 July 2006, in session 30 of the UCOWR Conference.

Recommended Citation

Gadaev, Abror N., "Central Asian Water Management and Environmental Training Project" (2006). 2006. Paper 3.
http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/ucowrconfs_2006/3

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CENTRAL ASIAN WATER MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING PROJECT

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Uzbekistan Southern DataStream and Samarkand State Architectural and Civil Engineering Institute's training program is designed to support regional water management and environmental protection projects in the Central Asia region, including Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. This training program imparts skills in both the technical aspects of water management as well as the social and democratic aspects of establishing water management goals and administering associated projects. The program seeks to promote cooperation between USA and Uzbekistan by training participants in environmental and water management, thus contributing to improvement in the social, economic and political situation of this region. This project will be applicable to many areas of water management including municipal supply, irrigation efficiency, environmental monitoring, community education, and multinational cooperation.

One of the most basic requirements of life is a stable supply of good-quality drinking water. Central Asia is a region with a very hot and dry climate. The surface waters are heavily polluted and they are distributed very non-uniformly. Underground waters are the primary source of quality drinking water. It represents 85-90% of the general water budget. There are territories where underground water is the only source. When these groundwater systems fail the population is left to consume poor quality surface water thus placing their health at risk. The decision of how to balance social/economic development with natural resource protection becomes a most important challenge. Therefore decision and methods of development become a multinational, not just national issue. In the Aral Sea disaster zone of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara and Navoiy regions) there is a pressing need to deliver a stable water supply for municipal and other consumers.

The basic goals of our Project are:

- Educate young people and professionals how effective water management can be achieved level, how irrigation system and monitoring observation works, and how they can contribute to improve living conditions in the Aral Sea (basin) territory;
- Bring young professionals from all Central Asia republics to discuss major problems, and come to common view of point in water management issues, to observe how citizen in the US organize themselves and their government to address water problems. Facilitate the possible implementation of USA water management experience, and irrigation system to the region as a whole, and explain how American system works efficiently.

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