

**Recommendations offered by the participants of the workshop
"Public Participation in Transboundary Water Management of Chu and Talas
Rivers", February 10-11, 2006**

Working Groups

Topics for working groups:

- interaction between the Commission and stakeholders
- mass media coverage of the water management issues
- sustainable development of the region focused on environmental aspects.

Work format:

- best practices,
- recommendations, responsible agencies, funding.

Presentation of Results

Group 1 - interaction between the Commission and stakeholders

Distribution of Authority between the Basin Council and the Commission

Recommendations for the future	Responsible agencies	Funding
Approval of the Commission Status by both parties (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan)	governments of the two countries	Secretariat and donors
Information to stakeholders about the activity of the Commission		Secretariat and NGOs
Finalization of the Commission Status with the involvement of additional stakeholders	Secretariat	donors and government
Inclusion (amendment) of the Chu/Talas water facilities		
Needs assessment of stakeholders and water facilities	experts	OSCE
Fund raising for problem solving	Commission and Secretariat	
Establishment of the Information and Analysis Center	government	government
Mass media should stress the fact that the information has been received from an agency or an agency representative (if the information has not been registered by a hotline).	government, Commission, Council, state agency, mass media	
Transfer of experience to Central Asia (from Estonia, Russia, France, etc.)		donors

Group 2 - mass media coverage of the water management issues

Best Practices

- ✓ Publications in the regional and republican newspapers “Znamya Truda”, “Yuzhny Express”, “Ecopravda” and the Internet; publications on transboundary issues in the mass media of Uzbekistan and “Ak Zhol”
- ✓ regional level: newsletter “Alga”, district level: newspaper “Znamya Pobedy”
- ✓ TV “Otyrar”, “Kazakhstan-Taraz”

Recommendations for the future	Responsible agencies	Funding
Replication of the brochure series “Support to Farmers” through a grant funding	Kyrgyz Research Institute of Irrigation	donors
Public hearings on the local use of water resources	NGOs, associations of water users, state agencies and water authorities	grants, local budget
Internet web-site on the transparency of water distribution with a continuously updated database	Kyrgyz Research Institute of Irrigation	ABR
Lobbying for the allocation of funds for the information campaign from the local budget	NGOs	local budget
Rewards for journalists, NGOs and mass media covering water use issues (organization of contests)	Commission	budget
Press-conferences and round tables to disseminate information	water agencies and research institutes	budget
Increase of public awareness through publications in mass media	1. “Alga” 2. “Daat” 3. “Zhashtar Unu” 4. “Talas Turmushu” 5. “Znamya Truda”	mass media
Annual report on the promotion of intergovernmental commissions through publications of plans and other articles in mass media	Commission	mass media
Workshops for commission members and water authorities on public awareness and cooperation with mass media		

Group 3 - sustainable development of the region focused on environmental aspects.

Best Practices

- Involvement of women in water management (Aravan District, International Water Secretariat)
- Establishment of Basin Councils
- Development and implementation of joint Kazakh-Kyrgyz one-time plans on water quality monitoring
- Environmentally friendly water use in Almaty (German project)

- Support to, establishment and work of water users' associations (Kyrgyzstan)
- Involvement of the public in the implementation of national water protection programs

Recommendations	Responsible agencies, stakeholders	Possible funding
Improvement of the monitoring system and water quantity and quality assessment in river basins (hydro stations, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydromet • Committee of Water Resources • nature protection agencies • PKTI • Basin Administration • NGOs • mass media • research institutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state budget • donors: OSCE, GEF, VB, ABR
Analysis of irrigation, collector and drainage systems, and wastewater treatment facilities with their further improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture • Committee of Water Resources • water management departments • Basin Administration • NGOs • mass media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state budget • local budget • donors: OSCE, GEF, VB, ABR
Public involvement in decision-making (Chu, Talas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs • mass media • local authorities • departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • donors: VB • state budget

Group Work
**JOINT PLAN ON PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE
 CHU-TALAS RIVER BASIN**

Pre-conditions for plan development:

- Compliance with national legislation of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
- The plan is an integral part of the Commission's plan.
- The Commission regularly evaluates the implementation progress and reports on it at the annual meetings of the Commission.
- Planned activities meet the needs of the population and stakeholders.
- Concrete and feasible tasks: the plan is based on available human and financial resources.
- Efficient coordination of the existing resources of organizations and projects active in the basin to ensure their cost-effective use for plan implementation.
- Reference to the socioeconomic context and ethnic and cultural traditions of the river basin residents.
- During the development of the plan, orientation to the needs of local authorities and other stakeholders involved in local economic development and improvement of living standards.
- Promotion of international networks in the transboundary region.

Group 1

№	Activities	Responsible agencies	Partners	Deadlines
1	Training for the commission and water agencies on public and mass media awareness	project partners	project partners	2 nd quarter, 2006
2	Cooperation with Kazakh and Kyrgyz mass media: agreements on the work coverage	Commission	Commission	2 nd quarter, 2006
3	Joint sessions with border water management authorities, state agencies and NGOs	Commission	Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan	3 rd quarter, 2006
4	Joint monitoring with the involvement of stakeholders	water management authorities, NGOs, associations of water users		4 th quarter, 2006

Comments from participants:

- training will require a legal framework, which may involve adjustment of deadlines
- wastewater treatment facilities in border areas need large investments, which will require assistance from donors
- regarding joint monitoring: a lot of questions about its status, since there are structures performing official monitoring; as counter-evidence: official data may not be reliable, besides there are such notions as public monitoring and water management monitoring

- associations of water users do not have enough capacity for training activities

Group 2

Activities	Partners	Responsible agencies	Deadlines
Analysis of legislation of both countries to coordinate interdependent elements of public involvement	Counterpart-Sheriktesh Zhalgas-Counterpart	Chu-Talas Commission Committee of Water Resources of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture Kyrgyz authorities	continuously
Mass media information to stakeholders on problems of water use in the Chu-Talas river basin	Counterpart-Sheriktesh Zhalgas-Counterpart Peipsi Center	Chu-Talas Commission Committee of Water Resources of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture Kyrgyz authorities	continuously
Public initiative to solve the problem of stable water supply in the Kurkureu river basin	international donors	Committee of Water Resources of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture Kyrgyz authorities	2007-2009
Workshop on public participation in transboundary water management	OSCE, USAID, UNDP, -Talas Commission, Committee of Water Resources of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture Kyrgyz authorities	Counterpart-Sheriktesh Zhalgas-Counterpart	2006
Workshop on information management for state agencies and other stakeholders	OSCE, USAID, UNDP, -Talas Commission, Committee of Water Resources of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture Kyrgyz authorities	Counterpart- Sheriktesh Zhalgas-Counterpart	2006
Local joint workshops for water users on negotiation skills and consensus building	OSCE, USAID, UNDP, -Talas Commission, Committee of Water Resources of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture Kyrgyz authorities	Counterpart- Sheriktesh Zhalgas-Counterpart	2006
Establishment of a continuous contact between the Commission and public stakeholders (associations of water users)	international donors	Chu-Talas Commission Committee of Water Resources of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture Kyrgyz authorities associations of water users	continuously after the Commission's approval

Comments from participants:

- mass media coverage requires high quality materials, clear language and wording on the part of stakeholders
- it is necessary to increase the awareness of journalists

Group 3

№	Activities	Responsible agencies	Partners	Deadlines
1	Public hearings to inform the population	local authorities, NGOs, water agencies	mass media, donors	2 months
2	Publication and dissemination of a water user manual	experts, water agencies	local authorities, donors	3 months
2a	Information on boards in administrative institutions and public places	experts, water agencies, local authorities	NGOs, donors, mass media, Counterpart-Sheriktesh Zhalgas-Counterpart	1 month
3	Public meetings	local authorities, leaders	NGOs, mass media, water agencies	1 month
4	Workshop on rights and duties	experts, water agencies, NGOs, lawyers	Counterpart-Sheriktesh Zhalgas-Counterpart, mass media, donors	3 months