



CAPACITY BUILDING & ACADEMIC EXCHANGE COMPONENT 1



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Expertise for Better
Environment

The target audience of this Component are specialists in the field of water resources management. The Project has two different areas of intervention to support them: supporting the training of young professionals in the field of “Master of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)” and enhancing the human resources capacity in the water sector of CA countries and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT MASTER PROGRAMME



Learning process in DKU

Apart from increasing their potential, collaborative training of representatives of different countries allows them to understand the existing problems in the same way and broaden their horizons and go beyond the national focus towards the regional level of thinking. In addition, collaborative thinking is essential to establish contacts and networks among each other, which, in the long term, can lead to enhanced water management cooperation between our countries.

The “Smart Waters” Project supports activities aimed at enhancing the capacity of young professionals. Such support

is grant-based involving nominees from public authorities (two nominees from each country).

The IWRM Master Programme in DKU was launched in 2011 as part of the Berlin Process implementation*, with the support of the German Federal Office of Foreign Affairs, the Free University of Berlin, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Kazakh-German University (DKU). Its regional scale is the main advantage of this MA program. Young specialists from all five CA countries are enrolled at the DKU’s IWRM Master Programme, and since 2016 with support of the “Smart Waters” Project students from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan are enjoying this opportunity.

This learning programme at DKU is combined with working visits, events and other activities that can be useful across the region.

In addition, there are many youth projects within the MA programme, including contests and seminars, in which students take part and continue to enhance their capacity.

Moreover, students are provided with the opportunity to express themselves through youth summer camps and other activities related to water management affairs.

*** On April 1, 2008, at the Water Conference in Berlin “Water Unites”, the German Foreign Ministry announced the launch of the “Water Initiative for Central Asia” (“The Berlin Process”).**

ENHANCING CADRE POTENTIAL IN THE WATER SECTOR OF CA COUNTRIES AND ISA

The efforts of the Project in the field of water sector capacity building are also aimed at specialists who already work in the field of water resources management. The Project designs and conducts trainings on various topics identified in the course of the Project needs assessment**, including training and demo tours, as well as other activities aimed at enhancing the cadre capacity.

The format of the training was optimized in order to maximize the effectiveness of activities aimed at enhancing the capacity of water management specialists in countries. Since 2017, the Project team has been conducting regional training-of-trainers (ToT) workshop - that focuses on how to conduct trainings and independently train others at the national level on their own. Trainees from public authorities are taught both the topic of the training, and the technique of how to conduct trainings, convey information to the adult audience, interactive teaching tools, including mechanisms for resolving disputes and conflicts that may arise during the training process. Upon completion of this training, all participants are able to independently conduct trainings and transfer their knowledge and approaches to their counterparts in the regions.

In this regard, countries began to nominate not only water resource specialists, but also representatives of training centers and institutes. As a result of changing the teaching methods and the target audience, the training modules are amended in accordance with the national context and then will be used to increase the domestic capacity on their own. For instance, the Tajik Scientific Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation (TajikNIIGiM), being the only accredited center in the country for advanced training of

water sector workers, has already adapted the newly acquired knowledge to the local needs and standards.

Soon their training portfolio will have another advanced training course – “Basin Planning”.

In Uzbekistan, representatives of the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIAME), having completed the Basin Planning course, initiated the process of designing a training course on “Basin Planning and Water Resources Management”, which is part of the Water Management and Land Reclamation training program. This is going to be included in the list of elective courses, and in the future it is planned to introduce it into compulsory subjects. The Project will also promote the dissemination of this course among universities in other CA countries and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan aimed at consolidating produced results and ensuring the widespread use of obtained materials. In the long term, this will help to improve regional cooperation in the field of water management.



Discussions during the training

**** A need assessment was carried out at the beginning of the project. This assessment was carried out in each of the countries involved in project implementation. The goal of this assessment was to identify the real issues that need to be addressed in the field of water management within project-participating countries.**

Thus, the Project contributes to increasing the capacity of water resources management specialists in the CA countries and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at various levels: from students to leading specialists who can then continue to disseminate the acquired knowledge and skills at the national level. A common approach and similar training topics allow providing a common understanding of the current water management issues in the region, forming a common vision for the development of multilateral relations on issues related to the shared water resources management, and contributes to introducing best global practices and tools for water resources management into the region.