**CONCEPT**

**The 8th Central Asian Leadership Program**

**on Environment for Sustainable Development**

*(conducted as the follow-up to the Astana EXPO 2017 International Exhibition)*

**Time:** September 11-20, 2017 *(Monday-Wednesday)*

**Venue:** CAREC Almaty Headquarters

**Theme:** the role of regional cooperation in promoting “green economy” and the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in Central Asia

**The main goal of the 8th CALP:** demonstrate the benefits and advantages of regional cooperation on “green economy”, water and energy as well as build corresponding capacities among leaders of Central Asia and Afghanistan.

**The motto of the 8th Central Asian Leadership Program:** *“The leaders of Central Asia for “green economy” and regional cooperation”.*

**Focus areas:** interrelations between water, food, energy and ecosystems (SDGs, “green economy”, global-regional-national-local nexus, etc.).

**Principles:**

* CAREC’s role as a facilitator of regional cooperation in Central Asia;
* Promoting the Annual Central Asian Environmental Forum as a regional cooperation platform;
* Linkages among national, regional and global “green economy” processes;
* The intersectoral and cross-departmental nature (water, food, energy and ecosystems) of the CAREC’s platform;
* Attracting the international expertise on “green economy” (Green Growth Institute) and water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (UNECE, IWMI-HQ, IUCN).

**Day I: Session I “Global processes on environment and sustainable development”**

*(featuring well-known international experts)*

* + What is the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and why apply it? The principles and examples of applying and implementing this model;
  + SDGs, “green economy”, IWRM – linkages and differences;
  + How the concepts mentioned above influence the economy, environment and social policy in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?
  + **International processes:**
  + The “Green Economy” process, IWRM, sustainable production and consumption (SPC);
  + Cross-cutting themes: gender, low-carbon development, ESD…;
  + Changing the paradigm and the perspective of economy...

**Day II: Session II “Regional processes and platforms”**

*(featuring international and regional experts and CAREC Programme Managers)*

* + ASBP, REPAPs;
  + The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), ...:
  + Green economy and sustainable development concepts and strategies in the Central Asian region;
  + Assumed obligations and 1-2 “green economy” examples from Kazakhstan, impact on other policies and programs in the region;
  + National examples.

**Day III: Session III “Tools, platforms and approaches”**

* Tools *(featuring international and regional experts and CAREC Programme Managers)*:
  + The EfE obligations (Batumi), the post-Paris process, regional SDGs;
  + The Ashgabat Convention;
  + International conventions;
* Platforms *(featuring international and regional experts and CAREC Programme Managers)*:
  + The Environment for Europe (EfE);
  + The World Water Week, WWW (Stockholm, Sweden);
  + The CAREC Environmental Forum;
  + The CA Leadership Program.
* Approaches *(featuring international and regional experts and CAREC Programme Managers)*:
  + Economic instruments of environmental protection (subsidies, tax incentives, penalties, tariffs, ...);
  + Involving local communities in decision-making;
  + The gender dimension;
  + Bridging science and practice.

**Day IV: Session IV “The best local examples and practices on environment and sustainable development** *(include the essay on local models and practices into the participant selection process)*

* Presentations by leaders of Central Asia and Afghanistan *(applicants for participation will receive the task to write the essay “Local models on environment and sustainable development” describing the situation in their country, city, village, university, organization, etc.);*
* Examples of local practices and interactions on environmental protection and sustainable experience based on CAREC’s experience *(water supply lines, PESs, the Aspara River, energy-efficient building renovation in the RT, etc.);*
* Interrelationships among science, education and practice *(student competition, ACN, PEER, etc.).*

**Day V: Session V “After the EXPO-2017 “Future Energy”: opportunities for the CA region”**

* EXPO: an international process, the history of the exhibition, Astana EXPO-2017 “Future Energy”:
  + Lectures by the representatives of the ME of the RK and other EXPO partners, participants and organizers;
  + SDGs promoting “green economy”;
  + ECOFORUM as an instrument of regional cooperation;
  + Water and Climate;
  + Water and Energy in Central Asia;
  + Regional cooperation for “green economy” in Central Asia;
  + The role of leadership for “green economy”;
  + The role of the private sector for “green economy”.

**Day VI: Field trip** *(potentially, to an enterprise or a pilot site in Almaty Region engaged in energy-efficient technologies – UNDP GEF/SGP)*

**Day VII**: Sunday, excursions in Almaty, free time

**Day VIII: Session VI “Leadership as a tool for cooperation on environmental protection, sustainable development and “green economy””:**

* Presentations by international and regional experts on leadership and leadership roles in the areas of environmental protection and sustainable development;
* Interactive exercises: the Leadership Wheel, small-group work, etc.;
* Presentations by leaders.

**The final day of the 8th CALP: Session VII “The Sustainability Pyramid Exercise”:**

* Certificate awarding;
* Planting trees in the Leaders Lane;
* Adjourning the 8th CALP.

**Speakers and lecturers:**

* + Renowned international and regional experts on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, water issues, regional cooperation, “green economy”, alternative energy, leadership as a cooperation instrument;
  + CAREC Programme Managers and experts leading corresponding interventions;
  + Experts of CAMP4ASB, Smart Waters, and CAWECOOP Projects working on interrelations among water, food, energy and ecosystems;
  + leading experts on “green economy” and water;
  + Members of the Parliament of the RK;
  + Representatives of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
  + Representatives of the EXPO-2017 Organizing Committee;
  + Representatives of the Kazakhstan Association of Natural Resource Users for Sustainable Development (KAPUR);
  + Representatives of the Business Association and Coalition for Green Economy and Sustainable Development;
  + Representatives of the Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption of the RK.

as well as representatives of international partners:

* + UNEP/Nairobi, UNEP/Geneva (Fulaj Cheng) and UNEP/Bangkok;
  + ESCAP, Bangkok;
  + UNDP/Istanbul (Mikhail Pelekh);
  + UN Women (Nargiz Azizova);
  + OSCE Programme Office in Astana;
  + Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI);
  + GIZ;
  + UNESCO’s International Centre for Water Cooperation;
  + USAID
  + EU;
  + World Bank;
  + IFAS;
  + SIC of the ICWC;
  + Grundfus;
  + Samsung.
  + Professor Martha Olcott and Professor Norman Graham, Michigan State University (experts on environmental protection and sustainable development).

**Parallel events and excursions:**

* Field trips;
* Tours in Almaty.

**Presentations in CA countries:**

* informing national partners in Kazakhstan about the plans for the 8th CALP;
* informing national partners in Central Asian countries and Afghanistan about the plans for the 8th CALP;
* presentation of the concept of the 8th CALP and gathering feedback from partners in Central Asian countries and Afghanistan.

**Background.** It is expected that in 2017 the CAREC’s flagship initiative – CALP – will receive a new dimension based on the main 2017 themes of “green economy" and EXPO-2017, CAREC’s mega-projects as well as its overall format and participants composition and, thus, will focus on promoting the role of the **water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and regional cooperation in advancing “green economy” in Central Asia**.

2017 is a special year for the Central Asian region as, for the first time, the EXPO International Specialized Exhibition will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan ([https://tickets.expo2017astana.com/pages/ about](https://tickets.expo2017astana.com/pages/%20about)) (June 10 until September 10, 2017). Over 100 countries and international organizations are expected to participate in the event, and more than 100 countries and 10 international agencies will take part in the preparation of exhibition pavilions. The main theme of EXPO-2017 is “Future Energy”. The main exhibition’s purposes are to spread the message of responsibility, stimulate discussion and create knowledge allowing people to learn planning and controlling energy consumption on the planet and, thus, minimizing environmental harm.

**The overarching concept of the 8th CALP in 2017 will focus on the following ideas:**

* promoting the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus;
* the role of inter-sectoral cooperation (alternative energy - climate - water - sustainable development) and regional partnerships in Central Asia;
* the regional “green economy” cooperation process against the background of CAREC project priorities (CAWECOOP funded by the EU, the USAID Smart Waters, and CAMP4ASB of the World Bank);
* promoting “green development” principles;
* promoting “green economy”.

**It is expected that** the results of the 8th CALP will contribute to regional cooperation on “green economy”, water and water-related issues, climate change and alternative energy, will foster the implementation of the projects referred to above, as well as will provide the basis for designing new “green economy” projects in the region.