

SPECIAL EDITION ON THE CENTRAL ASIAN  
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM 2017

# CAREC NEWSLETTER



№9 / 2017

THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR CENTRAL ASIA



Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to greet you on behalf of the Board of Governors of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia and present a special issue of the CAREC Newsletter.

This year CAREC together with the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Environmental Protection and Land Resources successfully held the Central Asian International Environmental Forum in Ashgabat in early June.

The representatives of the Central Asian governments, international and regional organizations, environmental leaders and leading experts gathered in Turkmenistan to participate in the event.

Heads of the delegations highly appreciated this initiative, highlighting that the forum allowed partners from Central Asia to identify the main priorities on environmental cooperation in the region.

This forum for CAREC is not only a successful event, but also a unique opportunity to sum up the results with setting new objectives in fulfilling its mission in the region. I hope that this newsletter will be able to convey information about all the efforts that have been made by the center, countries and organizations to protect our common environment with you.

CAREC is one of the leading regional organizations, a truly effective organization

with a high reputation. The CAREC Board of Governors expresses sincere devotion to the activities of the organization and is ready to provide further support in its aspirations.

Dr. Durikov M.,  
Chair of the CAREC  
Board of Governors

Early June this year, Ashgabat hosted the Central Asian International Environmental Forum, organized by CAREC in cooperation with the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Land Resources of Turkmenistan.

The first day of the forum was held in the format of thematic reports, and the second was devoted to detailed discussions and panel sessions on climate change and water resources management. Within the framework of the third day, six parallel discussions took on the reduction of climate risks in Central Asia, green investments as an opportunity for sustainable development, the interconnection of water, energy, and ecosystems, etc.

In this special newsletter, you will find several interviews with the organizers and participants of the forum, and learn about other events of the past three months. We did not forget about our traditional column "CAREC faces", which reflects the personal stories of our employees.

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## ISKANDAR ABDULLAEV: «LET'S TAKE STOCK: WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WHERE WE ARE HEADING TO»

Read the interview with Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director of CAREC, on the main outcomes of the Central Asian International Environmental Forum and changes in better understanding of regional environmental challenges.



**- Let's start with a quick look at the historical background. Please tell us more about how the idea of holding such a large-scale event as the Central Asian International Environmental Forum was born?**

-In 2013, when we made a strategic plan for the development of CAREC, we faced information gaps around the questions of who, what and where in addressing environmental issues in Central Asia. More precisely put, there was a large number of players at the regional level including both international partners and regional organizations which formed a complex nature of coordination. We wanted more concerted and consolidated actions in moving environmental cooperation forward – as

this way we can improve the impact.

We started with small steps meeting with our partners on different platforms. For example, CAREC began to participate in the ICSD meeting from the very first day. There we listened to what others are doing and shared what we do. Eventually we understood that there are a few other questions going beyond the ICSD discussions.

Therefore, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary, CAREC gave a try to assemble partners and experts from various fields of environmental protection at one discussion forum. We consolidated this approach with the endorsements of the ministers of our countries who supported this initiative.

Now we say, this is the forum of the Central Asian countries - that is completely in line with their priorities and interests.

**- You've mentioned one of the main features of the forum, which is an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary exchange of views and knowledge. Why is it so important? Doesn't this comprehensiveness undermine the clarity of certain concrete questions leaving them out of sight?**

- Let me underline that we do not separate specialists of water resource management from power engineers and ecologists. We want them to communicate with each other, because we need intersectoral approach in solving the issues, we cannot find solutions within only one problem and through one discipline.

For example, water resources management is relevant to the issues of energy, agriculture, and

environmental protection. Similarly, climate change - it is not selective in relation to a particular country or a discipline - so much of these issues are interrelated.

**- You opened the forum and summarized some sessions. What can you say about the existing obstacles to regional cooperation in the field of environmental protection?**

First of all, we must understand that, despite the fact that there are common issues, there are also diving ones.

With regard to water resources management, for example, there is still no clear solution, as to how we use transboundary water resources. Upstream countries toned to use for energy needs. And, this development in the energy sector create difficulties for downstream ones, particularly in the field of agriculture, food security and the environment. This is a stumbling block to cooperation.

Another block is even more serious. As you understand, for 25 years we have created certain economic modules in each country, but among our countries there is no such a strong economic union - connection is very fragile. When there is no economic interaction and exchange, there is a sense of competition in everything, including natural resources. Due to weak economic integration among our five countries, there are a lot of controversial engagements in cooperation.

**- In this case, how true is it today to say that the countries of Central Asia are ready for environmental cooperation, for accepting an understanding of regional unity?**

I can confidently say that today the countries of Central Asia understand that further ignoring environmental problems is costlier for their economies. Growth at the expense



of exploiting natural resources is not the way forward, but a deadlock.

In all our countries, this has been in the circle of discussions for the past five years - see what laws are being elaborated, what priorities are being set - greening the economy, renewable energy sources, and sustainable growth. Most of the problems that countries face in achieving sustainability goals do not have state borders.

This catalyzes an opportunity for cooperation on the other hand - the countries are more open to work so that their efforts lead to a widespread effect. This is the perception that has already developed in the region as a good basis for dialogue. We, figuratively speaking, build the road. Without the road, this process



cannot be launched.

**- And on this road the issues of water and energy problems, degradation of land resources and biological diversity are especially important for Central Asia. Were there other problems mentioned during the forum?**

Yes. For example, municipal solid waste. For a long time, we had certain limitations in consumption, when there was not much choice. Now we have become a consumer society. Our daily life forms a large amount of municipal solid waste.

It may now seem to us not so terrible, but one already can see the destruction of soils and certain large areas that remain under rubbish.

**- Taking this into consideration, is it possible to say that this area needs for investment?**

- Absolutely, yes. We need to forget the understanding that nature protection is a financial burden. Protection of nature is an opportunity for attracting investments as well. The recycling materials, for example, can be reused. This is just one example.

If we take care the environment, there will be national parks, where you can attract tourists. This is also our highland areas, which climbers from all over the world are dreaming to visit, and steppe zones, and unique natural phenomena.

**- For sure during the work you faced skepticism about holding such big meetings like CAIEF as a platform to strengthen regional environmental cooperation. What can you say to those people today who still face skepticism in this regard?**

- The fact that there is skepticism and criticism is good. I think we should not overestimate the opportunities for dialogue that the forum creates. This should be a permanent and integrated partnership process.

During my speech, I announced the cost of lack of regional cooperation. It is a loss of up to 20% of the regional gross income by 2020, according to the calculations of the World Bank. And this is a significant figure.

Look at those states that brought their countries to the point of no return - for

example, in Africa. We also have already destroyed a lot: we have lost the Aral Sea; we have a bad situation at Balkhash. At the same time, the region's biological wealth is decreasing, which leads to a less attractive environment in terms of both tourism and investment.

Several countries together can do a lot. And the earlier, the better. This is repeated also by the Central Asian countries themselves. This is a sign that understanding has matured not only at the level of experts, but also at the level of policy-makers.

**- To sum up, what will be done by CAREC based on the results of the forum?**

- First of all, there is the work on the Roadmap for the "Environment for Central Asia" process, which should reflect what we will do, which participants and for what will be responsible, who will act as partners. This is an approach where everyone knows own role in this process, which is a joint promotion of the solutions on environmental protection and sustainable development.

Second, we must analyze what is being done in the sphere of environmental protection from the perspectives of successful examples, searching for areas where practical implementation can begin today, as well as defining critical issues for the agenda of the next forum.

The working group will include representatives of countries and representatives of international and regional organizations, in order not to miss anyone's interest, this process will not work.

**- Then perhaps it is important to emphasize to what degree the interests of countries will be considered**

- This is a sensitive and very important moment when we are looking for non-

controversial areas. The way out here is that we work on this with an approach in mind "here we can work together" rather than "consider all my interests".

At the forum, someone said: "We need to do this in that way, where all the problems will be solved simultaneously" But there is no such a solution, and there will never be a one - it is necessary to move systematically and step by step. And, start with what is already ripe today and in the process, we will find even more common interests.

**- So, it is such a flexible process.**

- Yes, indeed where we can stop and say: "Guys, let's take stock what we are doing and where we are heading to"

## 2 PARTICIPANTS AND ORGANIZERS OF THE FORUM ON THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL DIALOGUE



«For Turkmenistan, it is an opportunity to show the Central Asian countries and those organizations that work in the region the efforts that the government of Turkmenistan is making in the field of environmental protection, at the same time to share experiences with countries and get information on the programs implemented in the region, to hear about national achievements. Mutual exchange is always welcome, and it only serves good»

Questions concerning the significance of the forum for Turkmenistan, and the republic's vision of further regional cooperation – in our small interview with Mr. Batyr Ballyev, Head of the Environmental Protection Agency of the State Committee for Environmental Protection and Land Resources of Turkmenistan [here](#).



«The EU is really a source of interesting experience and solutions. Because of many historical contexts we had to work and cooperate together, and there is no major river in Europe, which would not be transboundary. It is possible to learn about the mistakes we did, and maybe do things more efficiently using this accumulative experience. However, we don't want to push certain models – the countries need to choose the best kind of option, best kind of solution»

We interviewed Ambassador Peter Burian, the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, to talk about the forum and his thoughts on environmental cooperation in the region. Please learn more [here](#).



«There are elements that seem to be important for any cooperation. First of all, it is necessary to see clear final goal: where we are going, what we want to achieve. It is not only a beautiful future in general, but how it will manifest itself in specific indicators»

What needs to be known today and what resources the Central Asian countries can use to implement the national plans for climate change is in our conversation with Ms. Olga Pilifosova, Manager for Adaptation Program in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat [here](#).



UZBEKISTAN WILL HOST THE NEXT CENTRAL ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM. IT WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER OF THE OLIY MAJLIS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE CAIEF 2017, MR. BORIIY ALIKHANOV.

## 3

## THE ARAL INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

May 30-31 Kyzylorda (Kazakhstan) hosted the first Aral International Forum for Sustainable Development. The main objective of the forum was to raise general awareness of the ecological, social and economic problems of the Aral Sea basin, to draw attention of the world community to the current issues in accordance with the global goals of sustainable development.

The first part of the forum covered social, political and scientific issues. The second one included reports on implemented projects.



The drying out of the Aral Sea caused enormous social and environmental damage, negatively affecting the health and livelihoods of millions of people. As a result,

poisonous salt spread to hundreds of kilometers. It was discovered both in Europe and in Antarctica. It is obvious that a catastrophe of such magnitude cannot be resolved within the borders of one country.

This was highlighted also by Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, while presenting CAREC initiatives and contribution to the sustainable development of the Aral Sea basin. Together with regional and national organizations, CAREC involves the technical and financial resources of potential partners for the implementation of the Program of actions on providing assistance to the



countries of the Aral Sea Basin. In four areas, which are included in the program, more than 20 regional and national projects have been implemented and are being implemented for a total amount of over \$8 million.

## 4

## A FRESH LOOK AT THE METHODOLOGY OF BASIN PLANNING – TRAINING OF TRAINERS



March 29-31, Almaty hosted a Training of trainers on basin planning, which was aimed at capacity building towards cooperation in water sector through the transfer of coaching skills in synergy with basin planning methodology to a group of potential trainers.

It was carried out in the framework of the “[Smart Waters](#)” project with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Learn [more](#)



The [second](#) one was held June 20-22 in Almaty. The program included both practical and theoretical knowledge on the basin planning, as well as special training techniques that can be used to conduct trainings on the ground.

## 5

## OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHO AND CENTRAL ASIAN REPRESENTATIVES

Essential barriers that have an influence on sustainable development in Central Asia are issues that are related to access and quality of drinking water, air pollution, extreme weather conditions due to climate change. In this context, for the first time, representatives of the Central Asian countries and WHO came together around the negotiating table in order to assess the health impact of the environment.

To learn more about this meeting please click [here](#).

By the way, CAREC also participated at the 20th meeting of the Joint Convention/WHO Task Force on the Health Effects of the Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in Bonn (Germany) on May 16-17.

Learn [more](#).



## 6

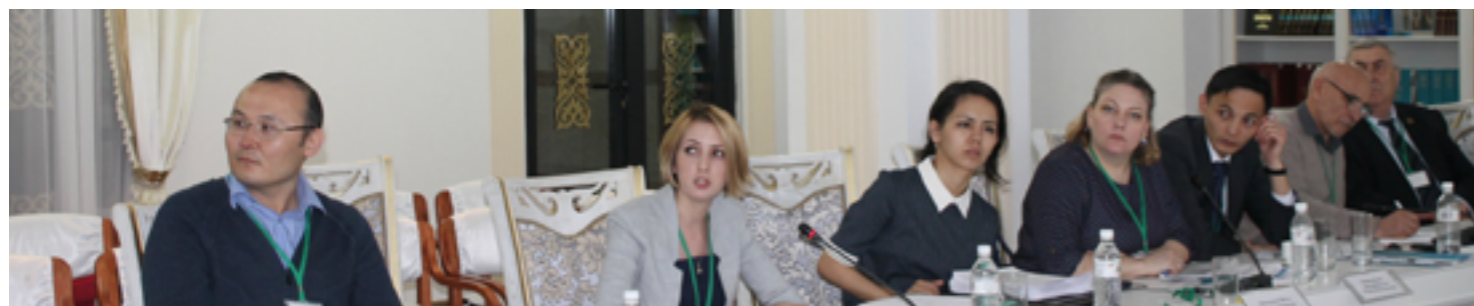
## FESTIVE OPENING OF THE COUNTRY OFFICE IN ASTANA

April 12, CAREC held an international conference “Cooperation on development of green economy in the context of sustainable development in the Republic of Kazakhstan and Central Asia: new opportunities, advantages and benefits from regional cooperation”.

It was timed to the opening of the country office in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Representatives of the ministries of energy, agriculture, labor and social protection, deputies of the Majilis of the Parliament, members of the Nur Otan party, Embassies of

Germany, Finland, the USA, Turkmenistan, the UK and the Kyrgyz Republic, representatives of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, the European Union, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe attended the event.

During the conference, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and CAREC on coordination and joint efforts for effective implementation of the green growth policy. Learn [more](#).





## 7

## PRESENTATION OF CAREC INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

This event was held on April 17 in Tashkent. The main purpose of the meeting was a comprehensive discussion about the upcoming work, CAREC plans of projects on environmental protection and sustainable development in particular on management of

water resources in the Republic of Uzbekistan and Central Asia.

The deputies of the Oliy Majlis, the representatives of different environmental and water resources management organizations,

higher educational institutions, the media as well as a number of international partners took part in the seminar.

What was discussed – please read [here](#).



## 8

## CAREC SUPPORTS THE POST-PARIS PROCESS IN CENTRAL ASIA

The population of Central Asia constantly faced with the consequences of climate change - lack of drinking water, melting of glaciers, occurrence of natural disasters. The governments pay close attention to these issues. For example, Tajikistan annually directs 5% of GDP to combat natural disasters.

However, the regional process of adaptation to climate change requires a close connection of all stakeholders for the most effective cooperation. In this regard, on April 17-18, Almaty hosted a regional technical workshop on identifying knowledge needs for climate change mitigation in the context of the global post-Paris process in Central Asia.

Learn more about it [here](#).



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NEW WEBSITE IS A KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM FOR A WIDE RANGE OF USERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES IN CENTRAL ASIA.

## REGIONAL STUDY TOUR TO TASHKENT INSTITUTE OF IRRIGATION AND MELIORATION

On May 2-4, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration (TIIM) hosted a study tour for water management experts and members of the teaching faculty of the specialized higher educational institutions of Central Asia and Afghanistan, where participants got acquainted with the experience TIIM in accordance with the modern requirements in the water management issues. Participants also visited the local laboratories, hydraulic engineering facilities of the Tashkent region.

According to the agenda of the last day of the tour, the discussions on the scientific and methodological aspects as well as the training for the water management employees were conducted.



## 10

## WETLAND CONSERVATION IN CENTRAL ASIA – TIME FOR ACTION

On May 11, CAREC hosted a working meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia.

Experts from the three countries – members of the Initiative (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan) met to discuss joint actions.

Please learn more [here](#).



## 11

## JOINT MEETING OF SMALL BASIN COUNCILS OF TAJIKISTAN AND KYRGYZSTAN ON THE ISFARA RIVER

On May 24, a joint meeting of Small Basin Councils of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on the transboundary river Isfara was held in Isfara, Tajikistan.

CAREC supports meetings of the Small Basin Councils in the framework of Smart Waters project under financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Please learn more [here](#).



12

## NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS ON PROMOTING INTERSECTORAL COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA COUNTRIES

This summer, national consultative meetings will be held to promote intersectoral cooperation in addressing the problems of environmental protection and sustainable development in the countries of Central Asia.

National consultations are arranged in the framework of «Central Asia Nexus Dialogue project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogues and Multi-Sector Investments».

The project is funded by the European Union

and implementing CAREC in cooperation with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The first will take place on June 15 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The first meeting was held on June 15 in Astana. The second - June 23 in Tashkent. In early July, a meeting is expected in Bishkek, and in August in Ashgabat and Dushanbe. Follow the updates on our [website](#).



13

## BLUE PEACE CENTRAL ASIA: FOCUS ON WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN THE REGION

June 18-20, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) organized a conference on transboundary water management in Astana (Kazakhstan). Delegations of the five Central Asian countries, representatives of international environmental organizations including CAREC attended the conference. Heads of foreign ministries of Kazakhstan and Switzerland made a speech at the opening.

Further discussions consisted of four modules, while which participants observed the issues of water resources management risks, building resilience, education and financing tools. In the framework of “Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risks” module, Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director of CAREC, and Dr. Benjamin Pohl, a Senior Project Manager at adelphi, gave



a speech on the costs of inaction and benefits of water cooperation in Central Asia.

Learn [more](#).



14

## "SUSTAINABILITY BEGINS WITH TEACHERS IN CENTRAL ASIA" – THE RESULTS OF THE UNESCO SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN ALMATY



June 19-23, Almaty hosted a workshop for teacher educators of Central Asian countries on the UNESCO project. This is a global initiative to increase the professional level of pedagogical staff for the implementation of education for sustainable development through the training of teachers.

70 experts from 9 countries, including representatives of ministries, universities, and

teacher training institutions from Central Asia, and international experts from the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Georgia, and Philippines attended the workshop.

The workshop used a new methodology, whereby each participating institution conducts a self-assessment on education for sustainable development (ESD) and global citizenship

education (GCED) before the seminar and prepares a review of its work. These reviews will form the basis for the implementation of subsequent changes in teacher education and training systems in the region.

We talked with the organizers and speakers of the workshop about its results, the importance of nurturing a sense of education for sustainable

development and global citizenship and the values to ensure the transition to quality education.

Learn [more](#).

15

## ROUND TABLE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF CAREC IN KYRGYZSTAN

June 23, a round table was held in Bishkek with the participation of experts and members of the CAREC Board of Governors, government agencies, universities, environmental experts.

During the round table, two memorandums

of understanding were signed: Memorandum between CAREC and the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, and a tripartite memorandum between CAREC, the Department of Water Resources and Reclamation

of the Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic and the project of the World Bank.

The activities of CAREC at the regional and national levels were also presented. Participants

of the meeting expressed their readiness to hold such a meeting in an expanded format in the autumn of this year.

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MEET A NEW COLUMN THAT WILL TELL YOU ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION, ITS MISSION AND WORK IN THE STORIES OF OUR PEOPLE. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MEANING OF LARGE AND SMALL STEPS AS WELL AS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR THIS WORLD – IN SIMPLE WORDS OF CAREC EMPLOYEES.



Ms. Anna Inozemtceva

Water Initiatives Support Program  
Leading specialist

I graduated from the multi-discipline gymnasium #34 in Almaty, received a Bachelor degree in the International Academy of Business with a degree in Marketing and a Master degree in the German-Kazakh University, specializing in Integrated Water Resources Management.

In 2008, I came to CAREC as an assistant to the Water Initiatives Support Program and quickly realized that I want to stay and contribute to the huge and complex mission that the organization is carrying out. During my work, I have grown from an assistant to a leading specialist and manager of one of the major water program projects.

I have completed many trainings: the IAMO Summer School "Agriculture and Water Reforms" in Germany, the International Visitor Leadership Program on Water Resources Management in the USA, the training in water diplomacy of the

Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the Regional Center UN on Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia and others.

**Talking about CAREC, first of all, it is worth noting** the uniqueness of this organization. CAREC not only works very actively in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development of our house - Central Asia - but it also always allows its employees to develop, providing various opportunities for professional development. Here you understand how different the perception of the environment in the region can be, and how important it is to change something in the life of each person to preserve our common native land in particular, and the planet as a whole. And it is especially pleasant to feel involved in solving the problematic issues that the population faces in Central Asia in the conditions of shortage of irrigation water and climate change.

**To save the nature, one person** can do a lot. And let them say - "no man is an island" - this is not true. The main point is a start. Start to turn off the water, trying to save every drop, turn off the light in the room, when there's nobody there, walk more and go on a bicycle. To do many "small" things for a "big" thing. This will not only serve as an example for your family, friends, neighbors, but will also teach you to look at life in a different way. When you do something useful, there is a sense of involvement in the life of an entire planet.

**I believe that** we will be able to preserve the wealth that surrounds us. Of course, it is difficult to bring the Aral Sea back to life, but we can keep what is left. And let this be a lesson for us and for future generation. I believe that it is possible to change the world around you, being an example for others.



Mr. Farkhod Abdurakhmonov

Director of Country Office  
of Tajikistan

I was born in the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe. I graduated with honors from the Tajik-Turkish Economic Lyceum, and in 1997 entered the Law University in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. Upon graduation in 2001, I entered the Institute of Economics of Tajikistan, where received a Master degree in General Law. In the same year, I entered the Modern Humanitarian Academy in Moscow, where I got a second degree in Child Psychology. A little later, in 2013, completed a Master degree in German-Kazakh University in Integrated Water Resources Management. And at the moment I am a PhD applicant at the Free University of Berlin.

Passed professional internships at the Adam Mickiewicz University Institute and Queen Mary University of London. I started my career in 2002 in

the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, where I worked for about 10 years, from the Field Office Assistant to the Managing Director of the Water Management and Energy Program. Further, continued career at the UN headquarters in Geneva, in the capacity of Adviser to the Secretariat of the UNECE Water Convention.

I joined CAREC team in the end of 2015, as the Smart Waters Project Specialist, and later headed CAREC Office in Tajikistan.

**I work in this sphere** consciously, having behind a lot of experience in military-political and humanitarian directions. However, I feel such satisfaction from the work done in the ecological dimension as nowhere before.

**In my work,** I appreciate a professional team. When there is someone to rely on, you can achieve a lot. I formulated this for myself: "If you want to go fast, you need to go alone. If you want to go far, then you need to go together."

**To preserve the nature,** we all need to understand what Paustovsky said about 100 years ago: "Nature will act on us with all its strength only when we include a human origin into its sensation; when our state of mind, our love, our joy, sadness will come in full conformity with nature, and it will be impossible to separate the freshness of the morning from the light of your favorite eyes and the noise of the forest from the reflection on your life."



**Mr. Shakhboz Akhmedov**

Manager of Knowledge, Projects and Resource Management (KPRM) Unit

I was born in the village of Samarkand and raised in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. After changing few schools for different reasons, I finished the specialized boarding school in 2004. Going through the academic circuit since then, I have a Bachelor degree in International Relations from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Uzbekistan, and a Master degree in Public Policy from the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy in Germany.

Writing my MA thesis on water challenges in Central Asia from policy perspective, I started to use my academic knowledge in practice at the work of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Frankfurt with focus on environmental projects in Central Asia. This was the place where I decided to build my career at the crossroads of policy and sustainable development.

Having gained valuable experience on environmental matters at the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Budapest, Hungary, in January 2016 I started to work at CAREC, and now I am heading the unit for knowledge, projects and resource management here. The work is challenging enough, which keeps me intriguing to work more.

**For me, CAREC** is increasingly becoming a think tank, where beautiful minds gathered under one motto – expertise for better environment. Working here, I am enjoying and understanding much better the challenges, environmental challenges of Central Asia, and most importantly, building up my capacity to contribute more to the sustainability of the region.

**Regional dialogue** on environmental issues is a prerequisite for success. The problem is that environmental challenges in Central Asia are transboundary. Therefore, dialogue is a key to succeed in addressing them. To promote this idea is the work philosophy of CAREC which is another important factor, which drives my interest to work in this wonderful organization.

**Indifference and inaction** cannot be tolerated when it comes to environment. Responsibility for environmental protection rests today with everyone, every citizen of the globe. This fight is transnational, transboundary – no man should stay crossing hands. We can guarantee peace and sustainable environment to all of us.



## NEW VACANCIES



Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Program Manager [here](#).



Director of CAREC Branch in Astana (Kazakhstan) [here](#).

# CAREC NEWSLETTER

**CAREC Newsletter #9, July 2017**  
**Official website – [www.carececo.org](http://www.carececo.org)**

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