**General Information**

The Masters’ Programme in Integrated Water Management (MA IWM) at the German-Kazakh University (GKU) was established in 2011 as the capacity building component of the “Water Initiative for Central Asia” of the German Federal Foreign Ministry. Since then 35 students were accepted to the Programme and 15 have graduated to date representing all five Central Asian states and a wide variety of water-related professions, such as climatology, hydrology, environmental science, international relations and many more. The programme targets young professionals from various water and related domains of the countries of Central Asia preferable with several years of experience in state agencies, ministries, research institutions, universities and international organizations working in the countries of Central Asia. They are selected based on criteria of excellence, work experience, geographical representation and knowledge of English. The IWM MA is exceptional in its highly interdisciplinary approach: it equips its participants with technical knowledge and providing them with ‘scientific literacy’ in the social- and nature-scientific aspects of water management, at the same time having a regional focus and supported by regional and international expertise.

The MA IWM is a 2 years full-time Masters Programme. Upon graduation the students receive the Degree of Master of Social Sciences in Regional Studies.

**Background of launching the programme**

The Central Asian region is characterized by the low rainfall, and the irrigations systems are drawing primarily from the two main rivers – Amu Darya and Syr Darya. After collapse of the Soviet Union, the countries of the region have to cooperate with each other and with Afghanistan to maximize the effectiveness of transboundary water resources management. To enable this effective cooperation new managers have to be trained in integrated interdisciplinary approaches and gradually replace the senior generation of the water managers trained during the Soviet time. Apart from the professional skills,.the newly-trained specialists have to speak Russian and English apart from their national languages which will allow them to find out about the newest developments in the area of water management and mobilize them effectively for the management of water resources.

These were some of the reasons for initiating the support to capacity building as a part of the German Water Initiative for Central Asia (since 2008) and establishment of this unique MA Programme as the educational component of this initiative.

**Aims and objectives of the Programme**

The IWM MA Programme attempts to respond to the current needs of the sector focusing on capacity building of the water practitioners and scientists including also by transferring international advanced knowledge and best practices in the field of water management. Importantly, the alumni of this Programme facilitate network of research institutions, universities, state agencies, industry and other relevant actors in the water and related sectors in Central Asia contributing significantly to strengthening scientific links between those,[[1]](#footnote-1).

The main objective of this MA Programme is to contribute to the overall development of the management of transboundary water and related resources in Central Asia at the national and interstate levels by capacity building among the professionals managing water resources and supporting development of knowledge and information base for a sustainable management of transboundary water and related resources.

The research component of the Programme is implemented in cooperation with the ongoing international and national research projects facilitated by foreign universities and international organizations. The students are offered a chance to do their Thesis research within various projects facilitated by the partners. It allows the students to gain a valuable experience of work in a team in an international environment within an actual project and make the results of their Thesis research useful.

**Composition of the Programme**The teaching programme is based on an interdisciplinary approach towards regional water resources management in Central Asia using international know-how and best practices. The programme largely invitesguest professors from Germany (mainl partner is Freie Universitaet Berlin) and other countries which are holding lectures and conducting research through the Flying Faculty project, established and facilitated by the GKU and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The MA IWRM also involves largely with guest lecturers from the Central Asian region to ensure a balance between international and regional expertise within the education process.70% of the classes and other activities (field works, project work) are held in English, and 30% (basic modules) are held in Russian.

The following are the content of the MA IWRM according to the modules. These modules group several subjects in one:

**Add about practical experience of students to be gained thorugh their involvement into the CB activities of our INstiutute**

**Thematic modules**

* Module "Fundamentals of Water Resources Management"
* Module "Environmental policy, legislation and economics"
* Module "Technical bases of water resources management"
* Module "Professional language"
* Module "Field research and data analysis"
* Module "Scientific and research work of the Masters student"

**Basic modules**

* Module "Theoretical Foundations of Regional Studies"
* Module "Methodology in Regional Studies"
* Module "Pedagogy and psychology of higher education"
* Module "Professional language

Dr. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, Head of the MA IWRM, is the focal point and is responsible for its implementation and development.

1. Some of these institutions are the following:

Kyrgyz National University, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration, Taraz State University, East Kazakhstan State Technical University named after D. Serikbayev, Balkh University, Afghanistan, Tajik Agrarian University; Kabul Polytechnic University; Kazakh Research Institute of water management, the Center “Cooperation for Sustainable Development”, Central Asian Regional Environment Centre(CAREC). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)