

**Filed visit to the Big Almaty Canal (BAC) Rehabilitation Site**—a section of the BAC where rehabilitation and modernization works are being carried out under the [World Bank Second Irrigation and Drainage Improvement Project](#). The project aims to rehabilitate and modernize irrigation and drainage systems, develop sustainable management practices, improve water use efficiency, reduce environmental degradation, and increase the overall productivity of irrigated agriculture.

**Justification:** Key aspects of the BAC irrigation project that are relevant to CACCC 2024, including climate change adaptation, sustainable water management, participatory approaches, and policy alignment:

- Rehabilitation and upgrading of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, such as canal lining, water control structures, and automation systems. Participants can observe firsthand the specific improvements being made and their impact on water use efficiency and agricultural productivity
- Institutional strengthening and capacity building components of the project, which are crucial for sustainable water management. Participants can gain insights into effective strategies for engaging local institutions and water user associations
- The project's focus on promoting agricultural development through participatory training, information services, and demonstrations of advanced crop production technologies. This offers examples of how irrigation modernization can be combined with efforts to directly enhance the productivity and sustainability of farming practices

**Goal:** The visit combines site observations with opportunities for learning and exchange among diverse stakeholders. It aims to extract lessons on irrigation modernization that can inform future regional engagements on climate change adaptation and sustainable water and land management in Central Asia. The interactive format will stimulate knowledge sharing and networking among participants.

**Day/time:** 30<sup>th</sup> of May, Thursday, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

**Number of participants:** Approximately 20-30 people<sup>1</sup>.

**Location:** Enbekshikazakh district of Almaty oblast

### **Draft Preliminary Program**

10:00-10:30 AM - Depart from Royal Tulip Almaty Hotel

10:30 AM - Arrive at BAC Rehabilitation Site in Enbekshikazakh district

- Welcome and introductions by local project staff

10:45 AM - Overview presentation on the World Bank Second Irrigation and Drainage Improvement Project

- Project objectives, components and implementation progress
- Focus on BAC rehabilitation works and expected impacts

11:15 PM - Guided tour of BAC rehabilitation works

- Observe canal lining, upgraded water control structures, automation systems etc.
- Discussions with engineers on technical design and construction

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<sup>1</sup> need to check with CAREC

- Interact with water user associations on their role and perspectives

12:15 - Visit to demonstration plot/farm

- Showcase of improved irrigation practices and agricultural technologies promoted by the project
- Farmer perspectives on impacts of irrigation modernization

1:00 PM - Coffee break and refreshments

1:30 PM - Roundtable discussion with project stakeholders

- Institutional representatives share experiences with capacity building and participatory water management
- Dialogue on lessons learned, success factors, challenges and opportunities
- Explore links to regional programs

2:30 PM - Wrap-up and closing remarks by hosts

- Summarize key insights and takeaways relevant for climate resilience and transboundary cooperation

3:00 PM - Depart for Royal Tulip Almaty Hotel