



Issue №4 (15)

# CAREC

## NEWSLETTER

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# 1 Greetings

## Dear reader!

The outgoing 2018 was full of landmark events that have set environmental cooperation in Central Asia up to a new level! CAREC didn't stand aside and supported major regional environmental events: the second Central Asian International Environmental Forum, the Central Asian Climate Change Conference and the 9th Central Asian Leadership Programme. In addition jointly with the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanisation Engineers, the CAREC opened the region's first innovation centre for water resources, CAREC-TI-IAME Innovations and Scientific Research Cluster.

Taking efforts to build trust and political support for its activities, CAREC made a contribution to the practical implementation of regional strategies and plans, as well as international and regional initiatives. For example, in the outgoing year, CAREC got the functions of the Blue Peace Central Asia process secretariat and became a member of the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road Initiative.

The last months of 2018 were also intense. In cooperation with the European Union, CAREC supported the process of forming a portfolio of regional investment projects. Also, in partnership with US-

AID, CAREC held the first in the region Small Basin Councils Forum of Central Asia and Afghanistan, the event was held on November 26-27 in Bishkek. The SBC Forum was able to draw the attention of the governments of the region to the importance of disseminating the principles of integrated water resources management in basin planning.

In the future year, 2019, CAREC is expecting changes in the management of the organization. Based on the progress achieved in ensuring the sustainability of the organization and new development prospects, the team looks into the future with great optimism. Ahead is scrupulous but interesting work on the organization of CAIEF-2020, CACCC, 10th CALP, SBC Forum and other regional and national events.

Dear reader, on behalf of CAREC I wish you good health and success in the coming year. Happy New Year 2019!



*Meder Seitkasymov  
Director of CAREC office  
in the Kyrgyz Republic*



# 2

## The first Small Basin Councils Forum of Central Asia and Afghanistan

On November 26, the first Small Basin Councils Forum of Central Asia and Afghanistan started in Bishkek. The event brought together representatives of the Small Basin Councils, relevant ministries and departments of the region, as well as international organizations and projects. The forum was held within the framework of the USAID-CAREC project Smart Waters.

«This forum is another great opportunity to share experience on successful transboundary cooperation in the field of shared water management. I hope participants will use this opportunity and share their ideas», said Gary Linden, Director of USAID Mission in Kyrgyzstan, in his opening speech.

In Central Asia, there are more than 200 small transboundary rivers, which have a number of issues that impede the efficient use of water: deterioration of infrastructure, lack of water accounting, the use of outdated technologies and other challenges. Small basin councils attract all water user groups to address these issues: civil society, farmers, producers and hydropower. CAREC, with the support of USAID and other international organizations, has been promoting the creation of Small Basin Councils (SBC) on small transboundary rivers since 2012.

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“The advantages of Small Basin Councils are that you work at the level of local self-government and problems can be solved at the local level without delay. There are problems that require instant solutions. In addition, there are representatives of all stakeholders in the SBC: environment, technical inspection, local government, municipality, hydromet”.

- said Omurbek Elemanov,  
local coordinator of the SBC of the Aspara River  
Kyrgyz part.

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# CAREC enters a new stage of development: the 41st Board of Governors meeting was held in Almaty

The Board of Governors of CAREC is the main governing body of the organization. The Board consists of 13 members, it includes representatives of ministries, the business sector, international, donor and non-governmental organizations on an equal basis. For the 17 years, the members of the BG meet twice a year to discuss the achievements of CAREC and approve the key directions of the organization’s development.

The latest meeting of the Board of Governors was held on December 4th at CAREC head office in Almaty. The agenda of the meeting, which was the 41st in a row, was very intense. CAREC BG approved the renewed composition of the Board, discussed the achievements of CAREC for the period 2013-2018, the election of the new CAREC Executive Director and other issues.

According to the Charter, the Executive Director of CAREC is selected through an open competition for a period of three years, with the possibility of renewal for a second term, but not more than two consecutive terms. The current Executive Director, Dr Iskandar Abdullaev, began his duties in 2013. In March of the next year, the authority of Dr Abdullaev will be completed, and the members of the BG will have to elect a new Executive Director.



## CAREC announces vacancy for the position of the Executive Director

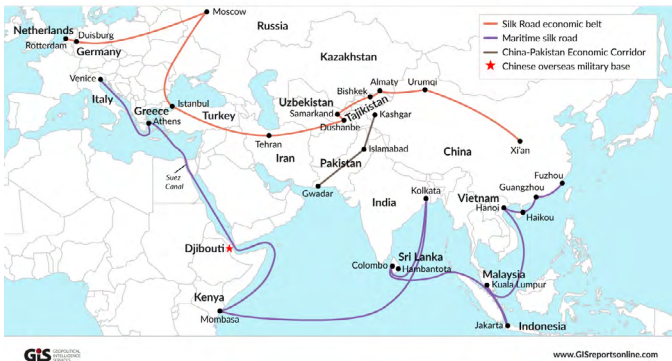
During the meeting, Dr Abdullaev presented the results of work for six years. Iskandar Abdullaev noted that CAREC became the leading regional centre of knowledge in the field of environment and sustainable development, the centre is recognized by national, regional and international partners.

In the period from 2013 to 2018, CAREC created a number of dialogue platforms with the aim of expanding cooperation on various environmental issues: the Central Asian International Environmental Forum, Central Asian Climate Change Conference, the Meeting of Parliamentarians and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Representatives. “Despite the existing problems, thanks to a sustainable competitive advantage, CAREC has great potential to launch new projects, thematic areas and create new connections to ensure a sustainable future for the region,” said Dr Abdullaev.

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## China's Belt & Road Initiative



## CAREC joins the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road

The main goal of the coalition is to promote the long-term and environmentally friendly growth of the megaproject to support the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

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## Korea and Central Asia strengthen cooperation

Representatives of the government and business sectors of Korea, delegations from Central Asian countries, as well as international organizations discussed possible areas of cooperation. A separate session at the forum was focused on the efficient use of water resources and environmental protection.

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## Innovations for green development were discussed in Beijing

CAREC participated in the annual meeting of the Chinese Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED). Discussions at the event were focused on "Innovations of the new "green" era."

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## Needs assessment on surface waters quality monitoring systems in Central Asia

This is one of the few studies in this sphere at the regional level. The assessment showed the urgent need for modernization of the water management sector at national and regional level.

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## Participation of Central Asia at the 13th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention

The 13th Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands took place on 21-29 October. The Ramsar Convention is the first international environmental treaty and it is aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of the wetlands. 170 countries are parties to the Ramsar Convention, 157 of which participated in the COP13 in Dubai, UAE.

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## Meeting with Kazakhstan environmental NGOs: strengthening cooperation with CAREC

Participants discussed new opportunities to enhance CAREC's cooperation with NGOs and strengthen public participation in decision-making. A separate issue on the agenda was the termination of authority of CAREC Board of Governors (BG) member from Kazakhstan NGOs Rauf Sabitov.

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## Water cooperation in Central Asia: experience, benefits and further development

On November 22-23 Tashkent held a seminar on the best international practices of water cooperation and discussion of water cooperation in Central Asia.

[Read more](#)



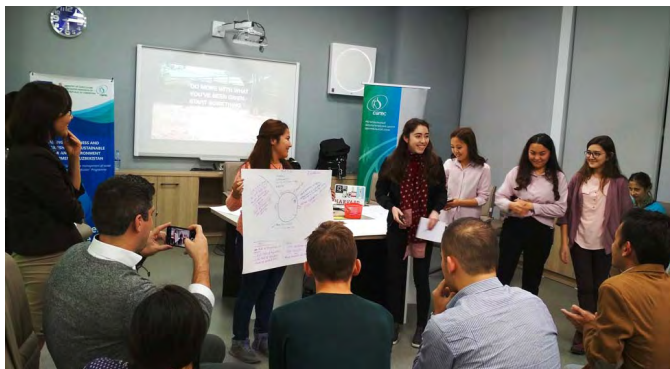
# CAREC-TIAME Innovations and Scientific Research Cluster



## Promotion of innovations in the sphere of water resources in Central Asia

CAREC-TIAME Innovations and Scientific Research Cluster in the field of water management was presented during the Central Asian Trade Forum.

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## Youth and students participated in workshop on MakerSpace in Tashkent

October 24, Tashkent. A workshop on MakerSpace for talented youth and students was organized in Innovations and Scientific Research Cluster CAREC-TIAME in cooperation with Brand.uz company. The workshop was hosted by a guest lecturer from the USA -- Mr. Philip Harding, Co-Founder of IMPACTJUNKIE.

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## Seminar on the scientific articles on the agrarian economy was held in Tashkent

The event took place within “Social science knowledge and sustainable agricultural development along the Silk Road” Conference, organized in Tashkent from October 30 till November 1. The aim of the seminar was to share experience on the issues of preparing scientific articles to be published in prestigious international scientific magazines.

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# News of the Nexus project



**Investment projects to foster water, energy and food security in Central Asia were discussed in Astana**

**Workshop on multisectoral investment held in Astana**

**Putting the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus into action across borders**

The participants of the Regional Coordinating Committee of the Nexus project discussed six ideas of investment projects developed during consultations in the countries with acknowledged in the region experts.

The training workshop introduced participants to the concept of benefit sharing. Multi-sectoral dialogue and negotiation are key to maximizing benefits for all stakeholders and sectors.

Nexus approach was discussed at a side-event on the 8th Session of the Meeting of the parties to the Water Convention.

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The project is funded by the European Union 

# 8

## News of the UzWaterAware and CAMP4ASB projects



### Results of the UzWaterAware drawing and essay contest for children

TASHKENT. On 2 November the UzWaterAware project awarded the winners of the children’s contest. The ceremony was held at the opening of the digital exhibition, where the winners’ drawings were presented.

The project is funded by the European Union

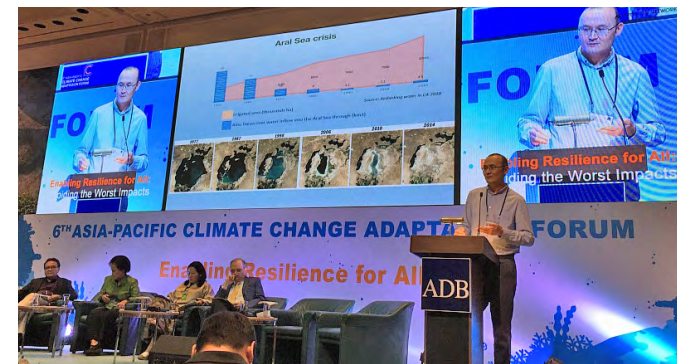


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«As part of our project, working with children is of particular importance because it is important from the very childhood to inculcate a respectful attitude to water, nature and the environment in general. The drawings and essays that we received convey a deep meaning - how children see our influence on the world, what the consequences might be. We were pleased that the future generation is not indifferent to the problems, they are already paying attention to them. They approached the topic of the contest philosophically and made us think once again and understand that it is extremely important to take measures in order to preserve the future of our children».

*says the UzWaterAware project manager Jusipbek Kazbekov.*

[Read more](#)



The project is funded by the World Bank



### 6th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum

On 17-19 October more than 1,000 scientists, government officials, representatives from civil society and businesses, as well as development partners from 60 countries met at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) headquarters in Manila for the 6th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum. Participants shared and discussed urgent adaptation solutions to build resilience against the adverse impacts of climate change.

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## News of the Smart Waters project



**Information and training class for water specialists has opened in Turkmenistan**

The training class is meant to promote the development of skills of water sector specialists in Turkmenistan. CAREC and other regional and international organizations will regularly conduct trainings and webinars in the class. In addition, a database with all necessary information will be created.

[Read more](#)



**Central Asian water experts share experience: Smart Waters launched a series of webinars**

On November 20 the first webinar for water specialists of Turkmenistan was held in Ashgabat. The event was held within CAREC-USAID project Smart Waters.

[Read more](#)



**Reform of education and training system of water specialists has been discussed in Taraz**

On October 8, 2018, an extended meeting of the Republican Educational and Methodological Council (REMC) on water specialties was held at the Taraz State University (TarSU) named after Dulati.

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**Specialists of the water sector of the Republic of Kazakhstan took part in the training on International Water Law**

On October 18-19, 2018 – a two-day seminar on International Water Law for water specialists was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

[Read more](#)

The project is funded by USAID





# 10 News publications



The report on the 9th Central Asian Leadership Programme



Publications from CAMP4ASB project:

Assessment of needs of surface waters quality monitoring systems in Central Asia



Gender aspects of climate change: insights from Tajikistan

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South-South cooperation: opportunities for fighting climate change

[Read more](#)

# CAREC faces

I spent childhood and school years in Aktobe city. The presence of a large number of factories, followed by air pollution in the city directly influenced the choice of my profession.

I took part in all environment-related activities while I was studying at school. I also was a participant of school, city and regional Olympiads in biology. In the 11th grade, I took the II place at the International Intellectual Olympiad in the city of Paralimni (Cyprus). I presented the project “Spring wheat breeding in the Aktobe region”, with the main focus on the dependence of wheat yield on the state of the soil and air.

In 2009-2013, I studied at the Eurasian National University named after LN Gumilyov and obtained Bachelor degree of science in Ecology. After graduating from the university, I took a unique opportunity to become a scholar of the “Bolashak” international program and had a Master degree in Conservation and Resource Management at the University of Liverpool.

After completing my studies, I set myself a goal - to grow into a highly qualified specialist and become a professional in the field of environment, and that is why I came to CAREC. I like the fact that our organization is multinational, it's a great pleasure

to communicate with my colleagues, partners and donors.

Most of all, I appreciate my colleagues for their indifference and love for their work. Each of them has a commitment to do their best to solve environmental problems in Central Asia and Afghanistan. Now I am an Office Manager/Accountant of CAREC office in Kazakhstan, nevertheless, I am actively being involved in the CAREC activities.

“

My position does not allow to sit still; I keep improving myself and get new knowledge from my colleagues, who are professionals in their field. In the future, I am confident that I will become a true environmentalist. Environmental protection is my passion and my favourite activity!



*Alina Maxatova,  
Office Manager/Accountant  
at CAREC office in Kazakhstan*



# 12 CAREC faces

I was born and grew up in Almaty. I graduated from the Al-Farabi Kazakh State National University, and have the bachelor's degree in soil science, faculty of biology and a Master degree in biology with a focus on ecology.

I've been working at CAREC for 18 years already. This is my second job. Almost a year after graduating from KazNU, I started working as a volunteer, then became an assistant to the project manager.

I've worked at the same organization for many years, but I was able to prove myself in different directions. I was a project manager, a communications officer for the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Aarhus project. Worked at the project of the European Union "Development of a basin management plan for the Ili-Balkhash basin". Was the initiator and executor of the project "Assessment of Ecosystem Services in Mountain Regions of Central Asia". At the same time, I attended the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) courses on greenhouse gas emission assessment under the Kyoto Protocol. I am a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

After that, I got involved in administrative positions. At first, I was an acting administrative manager, then I was a specialist of procurement and logistics

of CAREC events and for a long time, I worked as a Communication Specialist with the Board of Governors of CAREC.

As CAREC had been developing and project portfolio had been increasing, so appeared a need in the development of procurement policies and procedures. I was responsible for developing the procurement policy of CAREC. Since 2016, I moved to the "Climate Change and Sustainable Energy" programme as a procurement specialist of the World Bank project CAMP4ASB I like procurement because everything is clearly defined, there are rules and procedures and there is no uncertainty.

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As a biologist, I would say that the organization is evolving as a large organism. It reaches new heights, has a look into the future, partners listen to CAREC. CAREC has a good intellectual potential and a multi-vector thematic activity.



*Sanzhar Mustafin,  
Procurement Specialist  
of the CAMP4ASB project*



# 13 CAREC faces

I am from the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe. Since I was a student, I dreamed of working in an international organization. And I got lucky enough to be at the right moment in the right place. In 2000, the Central Asian Development Agency came to install computers to the Technological University of Tajikistan, where I was studying. Representatives of the international organization invited me to work as a volunteer. From that moment on, my career at the sphere of development has begun. And in 2009, I started working in the field of environmental protection, I worked in the project of the United Nations Development Programme in Tajikistan “Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management and Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia”.

In 2012, our project was included in the implementation of the UNDP energy and environment programme. Under the umbrella of this programme, projects on biodiversity, environmental protection, environmental education, water supply, renewable energy and other areas were implemented in Tajikistan.

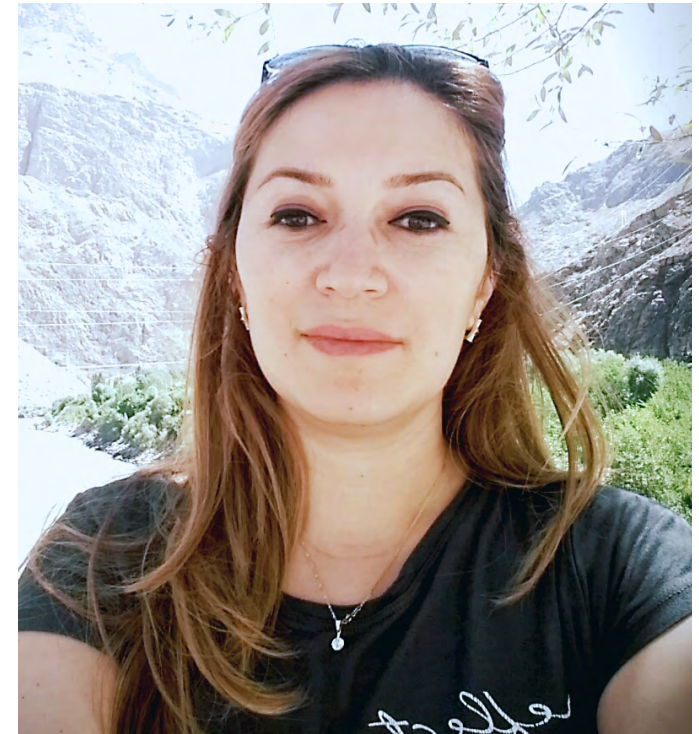
I met CAREC in 2015 through participation in the Central Asian Leadership Programme. Before that, I participated in other leadership programmes, but CALP was very interesting because of its

environmental orientation. In addition to leadership skills, I received information about environmental protection, Sustainable Development Goals, water management, climate change and much more.

CALP is like a home for more than 200 young and active representatives of Central Asia and Afghanistan. All CALP alumni share common values and the desire for self-development. I see this programme as one of the valuable and useful parts of my life. I highly recommend participating in CALP to anyone who is looking for opportunities.

Since February 2018, I have been working at CAREC as a specialist of USAID-CAREC project Smart Waters. This project promotes Integrated Water Resources Management and mutually beneficial sharing of water resources.

A lot of attention in the project is given to the engagement of the civil society in water management. The role of the local population is to help to resolve conflict issues, give suggestions for choosing the best decisions.



*Madina Rakhmatova,  
Smart Waters Project  
Specialist*



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