

NETWORKING AND COOPERATION

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

COMPONENT 2



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Expertise for Better Environment

The Smart Waters Project contributes to building and strengthening the dialogue between water management agencies, water professionals and academic communities of Central Asian (CA) countries and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The main activities are focused on working with target groups through dialogue platforms and strengthening existing CAREC networks through cross-program activities.

YOUNG LEADERS NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Within the framework of the Project, youth-oriented activities are focused around two main areas:

- Central Asian Leadership Programme;
- Student Research Competition;

The Central Asian Leadership Programme (CALP) is based on the achievements and lessons of the CAREC's Young Leaders Programme (2006-2008) and the Leadership Programme of Tongji University, China. Since 2010, CAREC's CALP is one of the most successful examples of a multi-partner, intersectoral and inter-agency initiative aimed at enhancing the capacity of young professionals in Central Asia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. This programme develops dynamically and adapted to the needs of countries and target groups, responding to global and regional challenges.

Every year, the Leadership Programme increases its coverage and changes its focus, adapting itself to the global trends, inviting eminent and recognized speakers in the field of environmental protection and water resources management. Every year, the Leadership Programme increases the number of participants: from 13 people in 2010 to 38 participants in 2017. To date, the CALP has more than 230 graduates throughout the region, which includes 16 graduates from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan who have been supported by the

Smart Waters Project.

In 2017, the Organizing Committee of the CALP was established from among its graduates and employees of the CAREC. This body took the initiative to develop and promote CALP graduates: the exchange of information, knowledge, experience and best practices, presentation at national and regional meetings and forums, participation in regional projects, etc. Currently, the Steering Committee together with CAREC, is working on the concept of the Youth Side Event which will take place on the sidelines of the 2nd Central Asian International Environmental Forum, which will be held on June 5-8, 2018 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Creating a Leadership Pyramid

NETWORK OF ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES (NAC)

Activities of NAC were launched in 2014 as part of the World Bank project that conducted a research contests among 1st year master students. As part of the contest, the main task of the NAC was to review student applications, provide support to the students during research exercise and evaluate their final work. Starting from 2016, within the framework of the Smart Waters Project, the tasks and the functions of the NAC have somewhat changed. As a result, academic exchange has intensified; the number of bilateral and multilateral meetings and consultations has increased, making the education process and the exchange of practical teaching experience more harmonized. In addition to that a unified approach was achieved in the field of education, capacity building and retraining of water management professionals in CA countries and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The network's operations are not limited to the student contest. The Project involves members of the network in trainings, demo and exchange tours. For example, an exchange visit took place in May 2017 where participants visited the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIAME). As a result of this event, the interaction between the leading universities of the CA countries and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was institutionalized.

Memorandums of cooperation were signed between the TIAME and the Tajik Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation (TajikNIIGIM), as well as between TIAME and the Tajik Agrarian University named after Shirinshoh Shotemur.

In addition to practical activities, the Project also contributes to building knowledge and information in the area of capacity enhancement and retraining of water cadre professionals in the region. Thus, the Project assists in the finalization of the "Interactive Map for Capacity Building in Central Asia". Namely, it enters information on the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and translates the map into English to increase the number of potential users, including users from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. This map provides information on all training and re-training center available for water management personnel in the region, including training centers and training institutes. Map is capable of increasing the awareness of water professionals (the target audience of the Project) on capacity building issues.



NETWORK OF WATER-MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS

Capacity-building activities (trainings, exchange tours, trainings for trainers under Component) play an important role within this network and contribute to strengthening networking and cooperation among water resources management professionals from Central Asia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at different levels.

For more convenient interaction and exchange of information and experience among water management professional, the Project has supported and developed the Eurasian portal for River Basin Management (www.riverbp.net). This portal is a great platform that provides interactive communication: the latest news, publications and training modules related to the water resources management, blogs and discussions that might be applied for constant exchange of opinions and experiences.

An "Interactive map of the best practices on use of the water, land, energy resources, as well as the environment in Central Asia" is one of the practical tools for exchanging the experience among water management professionals. The Project will finalize the map with information on best practices from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The project will continue to support this map in order to expand the database. Once again, this approach is able to demonstrate an increase in the level of trust between countries, since it includes information that has been negotiated within each country. Countries are ready to share information, experience and learn from each other.



*** Interactive maps were developed within the framework of the EU Project: "Promoting dialogue for conflict prevention related to the water nexus in Central Asia: Central Asia Water Nexus Cooperation" (CAWECOOP)**

All-in-all, the Smart Water Project supports networking at different levels and among different target groups of the Project - from students to decision-makers – as well as from local to national and regional level. All activities of this component contribute to the formation of a common understanding of current issues in the field of water resources management, maintenance of the solid dialogue and links between the members of these professional networks, and also increase the level of trust between specialists through joint participation in events of different formats and levels.