

THE 11TH INNOVATIVE CENTRAL ASIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME ON ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CALP)

REPORT

“DEVELOPMENT OF COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING
TO ADDRESS TRANSBOUNDARY PROBLEMS IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES
AND CLIMATE IN CENTRAL ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY
FROM COVID-19”
IN SUPPORT OF THE “YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS IN KAZAKHSTAN”

14-18 SEPTEMBER 2020







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GRATITUDE TO PARTNERS

CAREC is grateful to all partners and donors for the support, commitment and contribution in organizing of the first ever online 11th Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development (CALP) in 2020, namely: the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, the UN Environment, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the European Union, and the OSCE Secretariat. Our partners provided a great support to the enhancement of youth programs and networks, capacity building of the young leaders from Central Asia and Afghanistan by promoting the values of regional cooperation, volunteering and collective leadership.

Despite the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic brought, we were lucky to be able to gather 46 young leaders from Afghanistan and Central Asia, and about 70 exceptional speakers from all around the world. Thanks to inspired partners and speakers, our participants were able to participate actively. That means a lot to us!

CAREC is grateful to all the moderators and speakers, representatives of state bodies of the Central Asian countries and Afghanistan, international, regional and non-governmental organizations, programs and projects, and mass media for the participation and contribution to the success of the 11th CALP.

Special thanks go to the CALP Alumni Network, members of the Organizing Committee, who are working for the period 2019-2021 and providing support to CAREC and the CALP alumni.

CAREC is also grateful to all the consultants and experts of CAREC, who shared their invaluable experience with the participants of the online 11th Leadership Programme on priority environmental, innovations, leadership and volunteering issues of the Central Asian region.



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASBP	The Aral Sea Basin Program
CA	Central Asia
CALP	Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development
CAREC	The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
CLI	Collective Leadership Institute (Germany)
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
DKU	Kazakh-German University
EU	European Union
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
IFAS EB	Executive Board of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KazWaste	Kazakhstan Association of Organizations and Individual Entrepreneurs
MENR	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NEXUS	Water, energy and food security nexus approach
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PNA	Protected natural areas
REPPSD	Regional Environmental Program for Sustainable Development of Central Asia
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
UNDP	UN Development Program
UNEP	UN Environment Program
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UN ESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for the Asian Pacific
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UzWaterAware	EU Water Awareness Project
WB	World Bank
Zoinet	Environmental Network, Switzerland



INTRODUCTION

3.1. Global and regional challenges of 2020

In 2020, humanity met a new challenge – the corona virus pandemic. In response, on April 27, 2020, the UN shared a draft Outline prepared on the basis of consultations with regional groups and written inputs from delegations on possible elements for a Ministerial Declaration-2020. These new issues were put into the Global Agenda-2030¹:

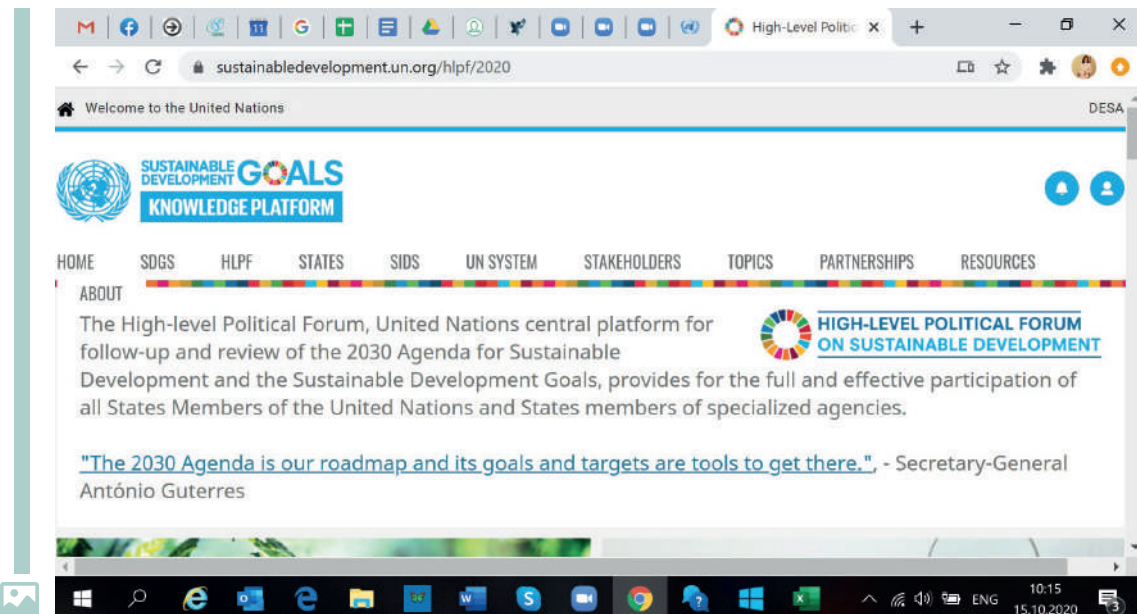
- ☑ the role of UN in realizing the vision of the 2030 Agenda and supporting the response to COVID-19 for a sustainable recovery and accelerating the pace of progress;
- ☑ COVID-19 and its impact, need for a coordinated global response to the crisis and international solidarity;
- ☑ impact of COVID-19 to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, SDGs and the decade of action and delivery;
- ☑ leaving no one behind, human rights, addressing inequality and the needs of the most vulnerable, gender equality, social inclusion and the impact of COVID-19;
- ☑ countries at various levels of development, countries in special situations, and special emphasis on their recovery from COVID-19 and addressing their long-term needs;
- ☑ enhanced UN role in light of the World's new realities post COVID-19, including digital UN, feedback on UN system response;
- ☑ public engagement, regional and local mobilization and actions, involvement of communities, people, stakeholders, private sector, youth – partnerships.

The theme “Human wellbeing and the SDGs: Recovering after the COVID-19 crisis” will be the main UN priority. The meeting of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development in 2020 was held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. This included the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from Tuesday, 14 July, to Thursday, 16 July 2020. The theme was **«Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development»**. The HLPF annual meeting is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In the 2020 HLPF, participants debated where we stand on the SDGs in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

They reflected on how the international community can respond to the pandemic in a way that puts us back on track to achieve the SDGs and accelerate progress during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. 47 countries carried out voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the 2020 HLPF from Friday, 10 July to Thursday, 16 July 2020. The HLPF adopted a Ministerial Declaration as the outcome of its session. The President of ECOSOC prepared a summary to capture the key messages of the discussions².

1. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020>

2. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020>



In 2020 the entire world faced not only a serious health crisis with a relative new disease, with over 45 million infected people and hundreds of thousands of people dead, but also society was in lock-down, social contacts were restricted to minimum, schools were closed, economies were locked, millions of jobs lost, and significant travel restrictions as a result³.

In the light of the global pandemic COVID-2019, there is an immediate need for an urgent recovery of economies, the environment, and adaptation to the new challenges in relation to the health and education systems, including *the Central Asian region. In this regard, the 11th CALP was designed to demonstrate to the young people, participants in the Leadership Programme, not only the problems posed by the pandemic, but to jointly see and discuss the window of opportunities.* COVID is a stress that made all of humanity look differently at the strategic documents, laws, reforms, priorities, behaviors, habits and some other issues.

At the same time, today humanity has opened up new opportunities for development, especially in the field of environmental protection. *Environmentalists today can act as agents of green change*, and approaches such as green recovery, building back better and risk informed development are the important thematic areas that both governments of many countries and international organizations are working on.

3.2. Regional responses and solutions

In 2020 the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) marked 19 years of activities, and it continues to develop as a regional environmental organization that promotes and supports initiatives in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development. CAREC facilitates regional environmental cooperation platforms in Central Asia, by increasingly involving young people and providing a neutral dialogue platform for the youth dialogue, capacity building, and sharing experience of leadership and volunteering. Young people represent a key stakeholder group that CAREC engages to help drive environmental transformations through collective leadership across the borders of Central Asia. Collective leadership is “the capacity of a collective to catalyze change for the common good”⁴.

3. Draft Outline document on the UNECE ESD Strategic Planning for 2030, 2020

4. <https://www.collectiveleadership.de/blog/article/the-future-of-leadership/>

Regional cooperation can significantly influence not only the achievement of the national SDGs set by the countries, but also the effectiveness of implementation of the national development programs and strategies, including using the potential of the younger generation. In the context of globalization, the growth of the world's population, the limited natural resources, and post-COVID development, **it is important that young people can make a significant contribution to solving complex socio-economic and environmental problems.**

The regional initiatives established by CAREC in cooperation and with support of international, regional and national partners: The Central Asian International Environmental Forum (CAIEF), the Central Asian Conference on Climate Change (CACCC), are the examples of effective regional dialogue platforms for politicians, decision-makers, NGOs, academia, and young environmental leaders.

CALP is a unique leadership programme of CAREC undertaken since 2010. It is designed to improve leadership capacity of young and mid-level managers of various environmental agencies and focused on various sustainable development challenges of the region. It is organized annually and involves governments, academic, private sectors and NGO representatives – an approach that helps to ensure a comprehensive understanding of environmental and sustainable development issues from a regional perspective.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a decree on August 27 declaring **2020 as the Year of the Volunteer**. Speaking at the May 29 Kazakh-Russian Youth Cooperation Forum in Kostanai, Tokayev noted the volunteer movement is necessary for the country... *"I see that many civic initiatives, volunteer and social projects originate in social networks. Interested people with an active lifestyle offer socially significant ideas and projects. We must pay attention to them and strongly support them,"* he added. The state needs to develop education centers for volunteers, a better information policy and volunteer infrastructure within social networks. Tokayev noted the government and akims (governors) must offer their support to potential young volunteers by encouraging constructive youth initiatives and controlling problems of access to education, training, employment and quality leisure⁵.

In accordance with these priorities, CAREC devoted the 11th CALP to collective leadership and volunteering. Especial attention was paid to the stories of volunteering and leadership of the CALP graduates, which inspired and motivated new CALP participants.

CALP builds on the achievements and lessons of the CAREC Young Leaders Program which was in operation in 2006-2008 (with support from the EU and the Government of the Netherlands), and the UNEP Leadership Program in Tongji University, China. Nowadays it became one of the most successful examples of multi-pair partnership, cross-sectoral capacity building initiative the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). In 2010 on the sidelines of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development of the Asia-Pacific Region, the 1st CALP was organized at the Nazarbayev University. The three-day program was designed for mid-level officials interested in sustainable development, and comprised of three dimensions - human, environment and sustainable development.

After 11 years **CALP remains a recognized platform for youth regional dialogue and cooperation.** The geography and the number of the CALP participants has significantly increased over the last years to 330 with more involvement of different international partners and donors – all this made the program agenda more innovative, rich, extensive and targeting global water and climate challenges including recovery after COVID-2019.

5. <https://astanatimes.com/2019/08/tokayev-declares-2020-to-be-year-of-volunteer/>

4

THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN INNOVATIONS



ACCORDING TO THE UN DATA⁶,

today more than one billion people fall within the age bracket 18 to 35, the largest group ever to make the transition to adulthood. Their numbers are expected to grow-between 2015 and 2030 alone, about 1.9 billion young people are projected to turn 15 years old. This growth rate is very high especially in the region of Central Asia. Being home to almost 70 million people, the region's youth population equals approx. 40% of the overall population.

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the Agenda-2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of the important goals is the **SDG4: “Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.”** It is assumed that by 2030, young people will be provided with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable development, including by promoting green and healthy lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace, global citizenship and understanding of cultural diversity.

It is said that **the present generation of youth is the first generation that can see the accumulated impact of crises in climate change and loss of biodiversity in the full scale**, but also, perhaps, the last generation that can turn the tide and set compass for the needed transitions. This not only requires that they have to be appropriately educated, equipped and prepared for transitions towards a more sustainable world, but their active participation aspirations and creativity is needed now, during the formulation of critical policies, as major decisions of today will influence and, to some extent, will define their future, their role, their impact, and finally the shape of the world in which they will live in and they are expected to manage⁷.

Systemic innovation, as highlighted in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (UN, 2015)⁸, needs to be evident at local authority and community level. This systemic innovation is necessary to boost our efforts in the transition while ensuring that people are adequately trained to be employable in a future and competitive job market, since unemployment, and particularly youth unemployment is a major concern (UN Agenda 2030)⁹.

In relation to these priorities, **the 11th CALP was mainly focused on environmental innovations** and transboundary water and climate issues including disaster risk reduction, the corona virus pandemic and its impact on the development of Central Asia and Afghanistan. The lectures provided latest innovative solutions to environmental challenges on national, regional, and global levels. In addition, in connection with the global COVID-2019 pandemic, the 11th CALP discussed a number of thematic areas related to green recovery, as well as green and risk-informed development.

6. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/youth/>

7. Draft Outline document on the UNECE ESD Strategic Planning for 2030, 2020

8. <https://sdgs.un.org/ru/goals>

9. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>



CALP ALUMNI NETWORK

5.1. Leaders of new generation

In Central Asia, the role of young leaders in transformations in the field of the environment and sustainable development and in promoting the regional dialogue is becoming more visible from day to day. The role of new generation managers, regional leaders who have global thinking, regional vision, understanding of the importance of regional cooperation and are ready to embrace innovative approaches is becoming increasingly important. Young leaders with high qualifications and professional skills are needed to respond to the global challenges and jointly solve regional problems on water, climate change, gender, environmental and post-COVID development issues.

CALP, being a flagship initiative of CAREC, is designed to equip young leaders of the region with cutting-edge knowledge and innovative leadership methodologies in responding to global, regional, and national environmental challenges. It also promotes the participation of young leaders in environmental decision making by using their leadership skills and increasing their knowledge¹⁰.

The implementation of the CALP in **the Year of Volunteers** is especially relevant for CAREC, as a regional organization working with youth since 2010. CALP is the only regular program to increase the potential among young people for sustainable development in Central Asia, having become a recognized platform for the development of regional youth cooperation.

5.2. CALP alumni network

Over 11 years, 330 young people from five countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan - representatives of state environmental, water and energy sectors, NGOs, universities, and the green business - have graduated from the CALP. From year to year, CAREC receives more and more nominations from state bodies of Central Asian countries, NGOs, and regional organizations, which confirms recognition and relevance of the program by national partners.

Today, **graduates of the CALP make significant contributions to the promotion of regional cooperation and sustainability in various sectors throughout the region.** The graduates



CALP, BEING A FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE OF CAREC, IS DESIGNED TO EQUIP YOUNG LEADERS OF THE REGION WITH CUTTING-EDGE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP METHODOLOGIES IN RESPONDING TO GLOBAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES.

not only collaborate, share experience, take part in regional meetings and forums, but also study together at foreign universities, set friendships and support each other. Many graduates have been appointed to key positions in the various sectors: one of the graduates of the CALP **Mr. Idrees Malyar** was appointed Deputy General Director of the National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan in September 2018; member of the first Organizing Committee of the CALP network **Ms. Nodira Dzhanibekova** was elected as a Deputy of the Oliy Majlis Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2019, and **Ms. Danara Saranova**, is

10. https://carececo.org/en/main/ckh/publications/otchet-o-10-y-yubiley-noy-tsapl_2/

a well-known National UN Youth Volunteer, United Nations, who led many volunteering campaigns and activities in 2020. CAREC is proud of them!

CALP graduates today work in the water, environmental and energy agencies of the region, at CAREC head office and its branches, civil society and academia sectors and promote the values and benefits of regional cooperation in their daily work.

5.3. CALP timeliness

The CALP not only **responds to global, regional and national environmental and development challenges**, but also provides opportunities for young leaders to learn how to make environmentally friendly decisions and how to use and enhance their collective leadership and volunteering skills and knowledge. Today, there are emerging global and regional challenges in the fields of environment protection, water management, climate change adaptation and mitigation and post-COVID-2019 recovery, including:

- ☑ The need to develop a regional dialogue for a faster response to global environmental and development challenges;
- ☑ Needs of building collective leadership and volunteering skills for the COVID-2019 pandemic period;
- ☑ The need to introduce innovative approaches and programs, updating databases in the field of environmental protection, water resources, climate change, health and education for sustainable development;
- ☑ The importance of capacity building of a new generation through the use of modern educational curricula, vocational trainings, development of ICT- and digital learning skills and competences;
- ☑ Lack of certified teachers and trainers to improve the skills of specialists in sustainable development, including digital learning sphere;
- ☑ The fragmentation and instability of project results: low “institutional memory”, replication of knowledge, and update of information, etc.

In accordance with these challenges, the following thematic areas of the 11th CALP were identified:

- ☑ Collective Leadership and multi-stakeholder partnerships, with a focus on SDG 17;
- ☑ Innovations in the field of environment, digital education and sustainable development in Central Asia;
- ☑ Volunteering, including environmental volunteering,
- ☑ The role of transboundary water cooperation,
- ☑ Climate change and sustainable energy,
- ☑ Disaster risk reduction, including the corona virus pandemic and opportunities for risk-informed development, green recovery and building back better,
- ☑ Nexus approach,
- ☑ Role and capabilities of youth in strengthening regional cooperation in Central Asia,
- ☑ Support the development of the policy-makers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and activists of tomorrow.

The role of the CALP, as a regular program to enhance the potential of young leaders in the region, is increasing from year to year, as evidenced by the increasing number of applications from the region’s youth and nominations from national partners represented by ministries and departments of Central Asian countries.



CALP INPUT INTO THE CAREC KNOWLEDGE CENTER

As noted above, in 2010-2020 CAREC, in collaboration with partners and donors, successfully conducted 11 CALPs.



Timeline of the CA Leadership Programme:



Each year there is a growing dynamic in terms of the thematic content and number of participants. The 1st CALP was held in Astana in 2010 with participation of only 13 people, this year the 11th CALP brought together 46 participants. **Today, there are more than 330 CALP alumni** (Figure 6.1).



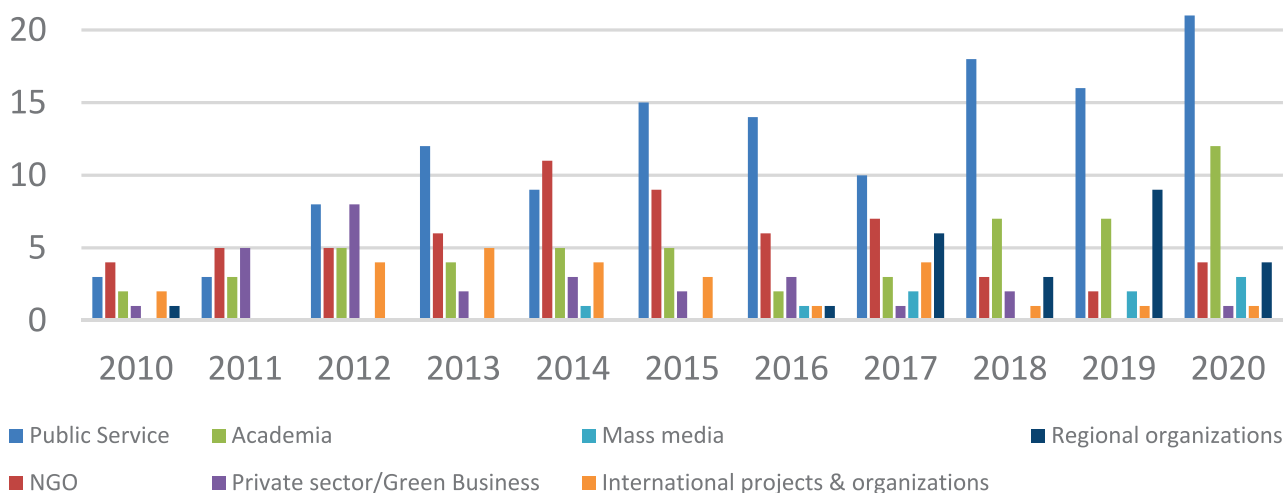
Figure 6.1. CALP ALUMNI NETWORK 2010-2020

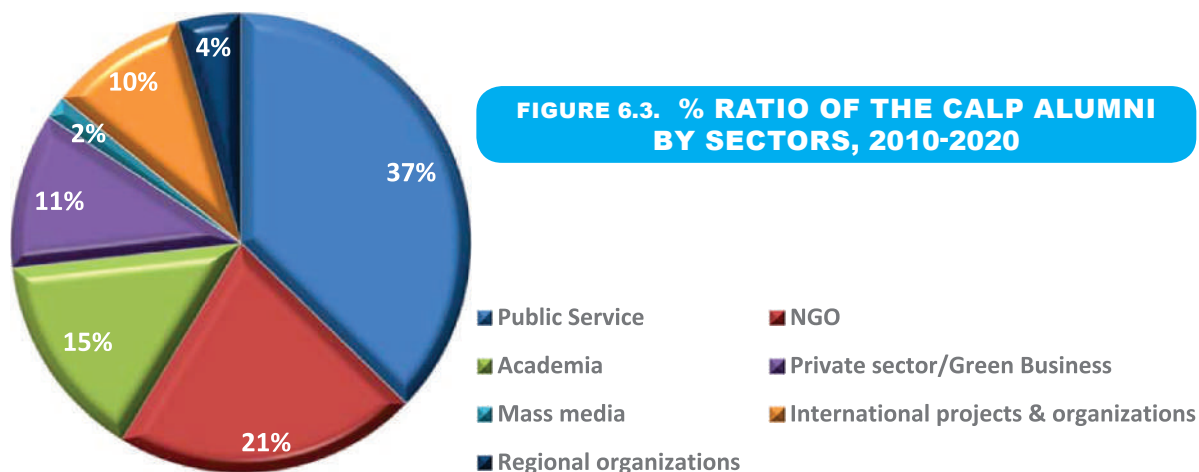


In the early years of the programme (2010-2016) the number of participants from NGOs and the private sector prevailed. In the following period of 2016-2020 there is a persistent trend of growing interest from the participants representing public and academic sectors. *From year to year, CAREC receives more official nominations from state bodies of CA countries, which proves the importance, recognition and demand of the CALP by the national partners.* There is also a growing interest in participating in the CALP from representatives of academia and international programs, projects and regional organizations. In addition, CALP helps to improve the situation in the field of environmental legislations to ensure more sustainable environmental decisions.

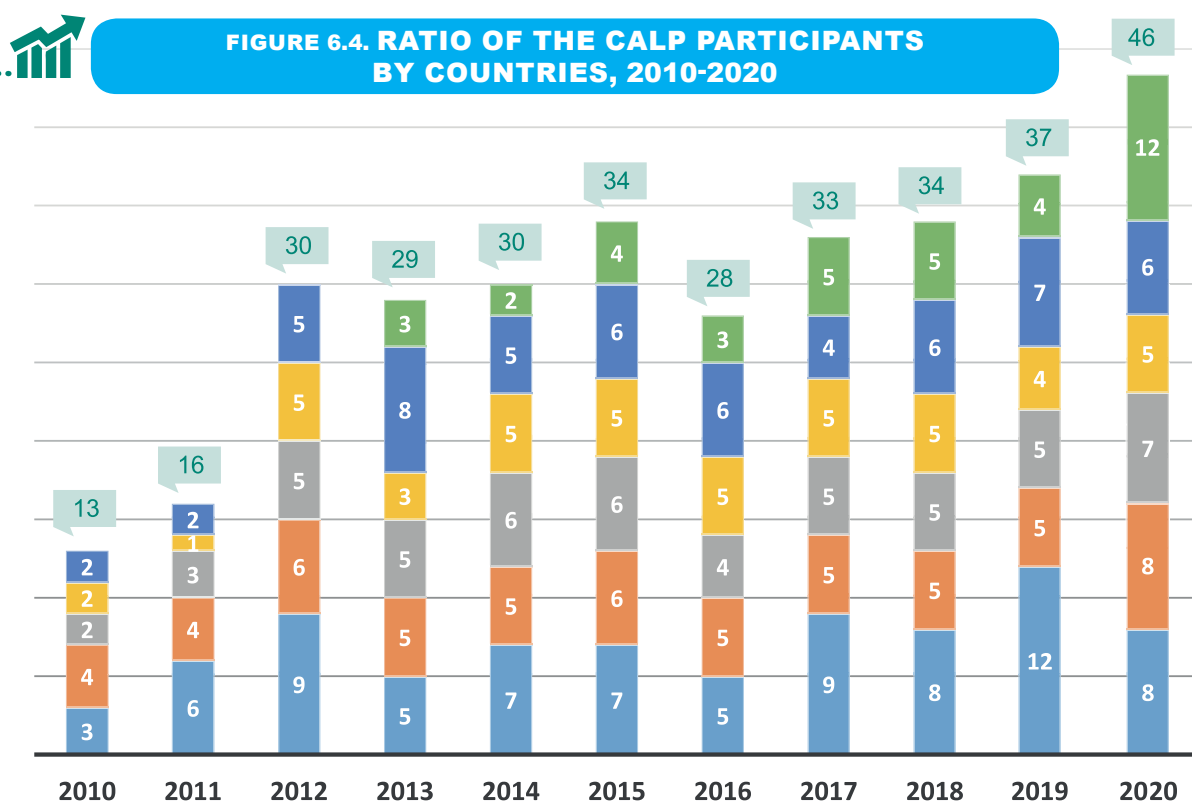


FIGURE 6.2. THE NUMBER OF THE CALP ALUMNI BY SECTORS, 2010-2020





The number of the CALP alumni by countries in the period of 2010-2020 varies from 38 (Afghanistan) to 79 (Kazakhstan). Due to the fact that participants from Afghanistan joined the CALP only in 2013, the number of graduates from this country show less numbers. The majority of participants are from Almaty city, including CAREC junior staff and interns, which participation did not require an additional financial support (Figure 6.4).



Gender aspect. Gender mainstreaming in environmental issues is important as women are often disproportionately affected by unsustainable natural resources management. Gender-sensitive policy interventions in the environment and water sectors contribute to fair natural resources distribution and maximize the social, economic and environmental benefits of sustainable development. In this regard, gender mainstreaming in water governance can lead to more effective and responsive policies that reduce social imbalances for the benefit of the society as a whole and therewith contribute to conflict prevention.

Based on the gender balance criteria in 2020, **women made up more than 40% of the 11th CALP a participants, with 27 men (59%) and 19 women (41%)**. The breakdown of women by national delegations was the following: Kazakhstan (75%), Kyrgyzstan (75%), Turkmenistan (60%), Tajikistan (33%), Afghanistan (16%), and Uzbekistan (0%). In general, participation of women in national leadership teams of the CALP had a positive impact on its success and team building.

By promoting the dialogue and cooperation between all stakeholders engaged in the environmental protection, CAREC continues to develop as a regional Knowledge Center on environmental issues in Central Asia and views knowledge and innovation as the key instrument to respond to global challenges and regional environmental needs in Central Asia. In this regard, **CALP today is one of the most important tools for the development of the CAREC Knowledge Center**, taking into account the role of youth in promoting innovations, green best practices, the ability of young people to change, lead and take responsibility at all levels.



ROLE OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE CALP ALUMNI NETWORK



2017

the first Organizing Committee of the CALP Alumni Network (hereinafter - the CALP Organizing Committee) was established,

comprising 6 graduates of Leadership programs. The Organizing Committee of the CALP was working on a rotational basis for 2 consecutive years until September 2019. It helped CAREC to develop mechanisms of dissemination information, knowledge, best practices and success stories at both national and regional levels and assisted in the implementation of the various CAREC events. CAREC regularly held separate youth events in the sidelines of its regional platforms such as CAIEF and CACCC, inviting the CALP graduates - members of the Organizing Committee of the CALP Alumni network and giving them opportunity to present their experiences, lessons learned and achievements.

In 2019, the new members of the CALP Alumni network were proposed to the new composition of the Organizing Committee until 2021, including: **Ms. Saule Agataeva** (Kazakhstan), **Ms. Aiperi Dzhayloobaeva** (Kyrgyzstan), **Ms. Takhmina Akhmedova** (Tajikistan), **Mr. Hemra Atabaev** (Turkmenistan), **Ms. Shahzoda Alikhanova** (Uzbekistan) and **Mr. Hussein Alemi** (Afghanistan). The official introduction of new committee members took place during the 10th Anniversary CALP in 2019. In 2020, **Ms. Beheshta Saboory** (Afghanistan) replaced Mr. Hussein Alemi in the Organizing Committee. This year they made a joint presentation, shared their lessons and experiences and inspired the new CALP participants.



The CALP Organizing committee and members of the Alumni network meet not only at the CALP platform, but also successfully conduct various youth side or pre-conference events during the regional forums. In April 2019, as part of the CACCC in Tashkent, *the Youth Pre-Conference Event “One Planet, One Future: Motivating young people to take action on climate change”* with support from the USAID’s Smart Waters project and World Bank’s CAMP4ASB Program took place. The event made a valuable contribution to strengthening the regional cooperation and preparing future leaders who will be playing a major role in ensuring a sustainable development of the region.

Therefore, *CAREC CA Leadership programme is an effective tool for building partnerships and cooperation in Central Asia*. Participation in the Leadership programme allows young specialists to acquire a new set of knowledge and skills on environment and sustainable development, as well as to benefit from CAREC’s firsthand information and broad partner networks.

8

THE 11TH INNOVATIVE CALP:



8.1. Goals and objectives

The overarching goals of the 11th CALP are to build collective leadership capacity, strengthen environmental volunteering, as well as to demonstrate the advantages of the regional network of the CALP alumni as a platform for youth dialogue.

Representatives of international community, including UN agencies, international programs and regional organizations, experts from Central Asia and Afghanistan, representatives of the CALP Alumni Network are open to share their experience with examples of volunteering and youth leadership. In the period from 2010 to 2020, 330 participants of the Leadership Programme graduated, who work in the environmental, water, energy, non-governmental and academic sectors of the Central Asian region. Today, CALP alumni make meaningful contributions to advance regional cooperation and sustainability issues in various sectors across the region.



THE SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE 11TH CALP ARE THE FOLLOWING:



Concrete goal: to build collective leadership and volunteer capacity among participants;



Learning goal: CALP participants will be exposed to a lot of knowledgeable speakers;



Relationship goal: CALP participants will get to know one another and build trust as country teams and across countries; the CALP alumni will be connecting with each other and with the speakers;



Process goal: At the end of the CALP, the CALP-11' alumni will be oriented and actively participating in the CALP Alumni Network.



THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE 11TH CALP:

- 1 Strengthen capacity of young people in transboundary water and climate change cooperation in Central Asia and Afghanistan;
- 2 Build capacity for Collective Leadership at the individual, team, and stakeholder systems levels with the methodology of the Collective Leadership Compass for analyzing and planning transformative decision-making processes, and concrete initiatives for sustainable development;
- 3 Promote digital learning as a modern learning and teaching instrument demanded in Central Asia and Afghanistan, especially in the pandemic conditions;
- 4 Underline the importance of environmental volunteering in Central Asia and Afghanistan,
- 5 Highlight the role of young civil society leaders in disaster risk reduction (DRR). At the same time, the topic of DRR will be considered in the broader context of risk management and the introduction of risk-informed development, as well as green recovery and building back better,
- 6 Demonstrate public engagement, regional and local mobilization and actions, and involvement of communities, civil society, public sector, private sector, and youth in multi-stakeholder partnerships in the COVID-19 and post-COVID activities,
- 7 Highlight the role of young environmental leaders, civil society organizations, eco-activists, eco-volunteers, eco-ambassadors in the regional environmental cooperation in Central Asia and Afghanistan,
- 8 Share success stories and best practices in the field of Collective Leadership and cooperation from among CALP alumni.

8.2. Partners and donors of the 11th CALP

In 2020 traditionally the CALP was supported by the following international partners and donors: The UN Environment Program, the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank and OSCE Secretariat are generous supporting partners. Along with CAREC, the Germany-based Collective Leadership Institute (CLI) and the Kazakh-German University (DKU) are the 11th CALP partners.

To celebrate this special momentum, this year the organizing team of CALP invited national and international partners to co-organize and support the Innovative Online 11th CALP. Moreover, representatives of the DKU, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP and the UNESCO Cluster Office in Central Asia, supporting such priority areas as water resources management, regional water and climate cooperation and ESD, took part in the 11th CALP. Engagement of international partners to the initiative proves *the growing recognition by the international and donor community of the CALP* as a tool for regional cooperation and capacity building of young leaders.

8.3. Participants

The 11th CALP brought together 46 participants – representatives of government, academic and civil society from 5 Central Asian countries and Afghanistan to engage in addressing environmental challenges in the context of sustainable development, including environmental innovation, cooperation in water management, climate issues, disaster risk reduction, as well as the impact of the global pandemic.

To participate in the 11th CALP, applicants were required to apply via online platform <http://calp.carececo.org/> within 2,5 months from June 1 to August 15. The selection of participants was carried out on the basis of the developed selection criteria in consultation with partners from the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan and national partners. As a result, representatives of state bodies of the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan made up more than 60% of the participants and represented various government ministries and departments – foreign affairs, environmental protection, water resources, energy, finances.

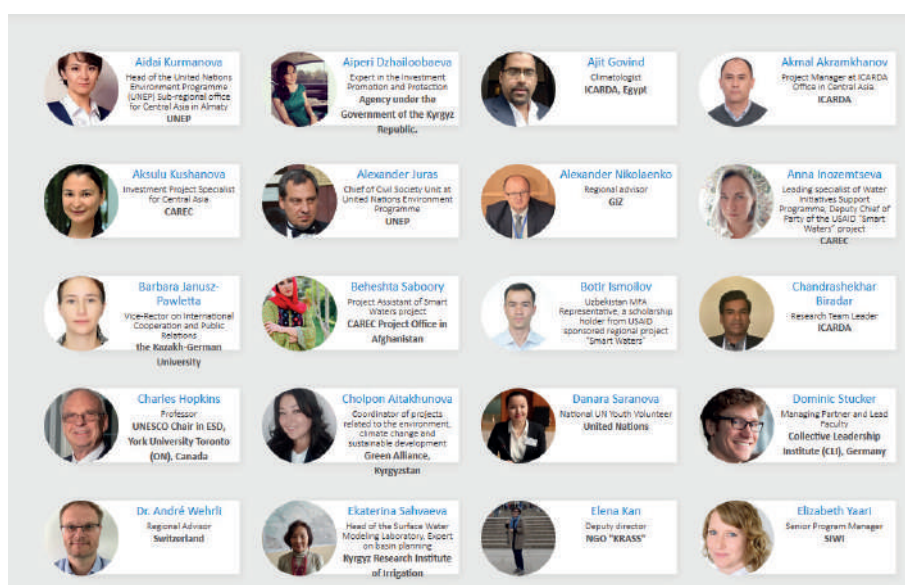
In total, 42 young people from the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan were selected to participate in the 11th CALP through an open competition on the CALP online platform. Totally, 46 people took part in the CALP, including CAREC staff and interns. This year the programme brought together more than 70 partners, facilitator, speakers, trainers, experts and consultants from international organizations, projects, companies, the expert community, NGOs, national, regional partner organizations and mass media. All in all, **in 2020, more than 100 people participated in the 11th CALP online** (*Annex 1 – List of participants*).

According to a request from the EcoForum of Kazakhstan's NGOs, CAREC invited NGOs' representatives to actively apply to the online 11th CALP for representatives of civil society organizations of Central Asia and Afghanistan. It was planned by CAREC that in 2020 about 50% of participants in the 11th CALP will be civil society representatives, including young environmental leaders from governments, civil society organizations of Kazakhstan and Central Asia. However, this year CAREC received less applications from NGOs and most of nominations and applications - from governmental and academic sectors.

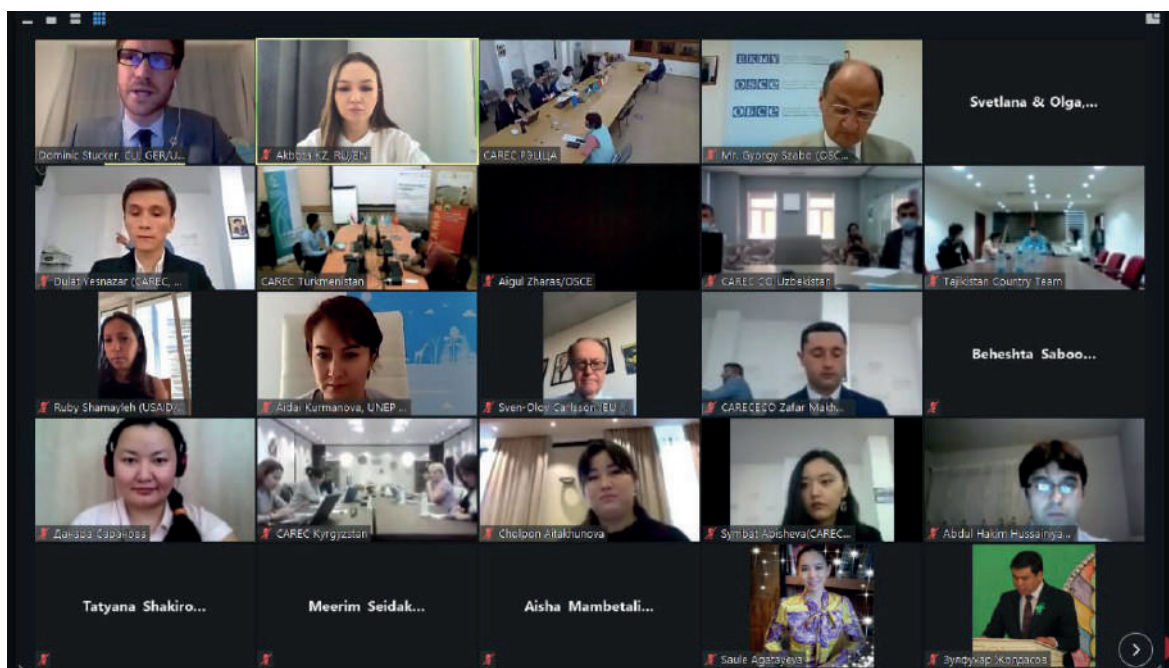
In order to build national CALP teams, **the participants have been collected in six countries** – in CAREC HQs, country offices or national ministries and agencies. In this regard, the role of the CAREC country offices was crucial and important for the first online CALP success.

8.4. Speakers and lecturers

The 11th CALP in 2020 was also especial in terms of the largest number of participants and high-level representation of international, regional, national and local speakers: about 70 partners from international, regional organizations, state bodies of the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan, public organizations, scientists, environmental activists, eco-bloggers, and environmental leaders of the CA region took part as speakers of the 11th CALP - <http://calp.carececo.org/mobile/speaker/> (*Annex 2 - List of speakers*).



The 11th CALP Opening Ceremony, organized as an input to the “Year of Volunteers in Kazakhstan”, was held on Monday, September 14 as a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was moderated by the CALP facilitator **Mr. Dominic Stucker**, Managing Partner and Lead Faculty, Collective Leadership Institute (CLI), Germany. In addition to his facilitation role for the 11th CALP, **Mr. Dominic Stucker** focused on introducing participants to a collective approach to leadership for sustainable development in the region. This was in line with CALP’s goal to increase collective leadership capacity.



Equally important for the success of the 11th CALP was participation of the prominent politicians and decision-makers representatives of state organizations and environmental leaders of the Central Asian region and Afghanistan. The keynote presentations were made by **Mr. Zulfukhar Zholdasov**, Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan and **Mr. Idrees Malyar**, Deputy Director General of the National Environmental Agency (NEPA) of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Well-known environmental leaders, NGO representatives, eco-activists and eco-bloggers of the Central Asian region took part in the CALP as speakers: **Ms. Svetlana Mogiluyk**, **Ms. Yelena Yerzakovich**, **Mr. Mikhail Belyakov**, **Ms. Elena Kan**, **Ms. Saida Sulaymanova**, and others participated in the 11th CALP as speakers from civil society organizations.

Participation of representatives of international, donor organizations, academic sector, NGOs and environmental leaders of Central Asia and Afghanistan as partners and key speakers of the 11th CALP **demonstrated success, acknowledgement and timeliness of the Leadership Programme**, despite of the online format of the 11th CALP and the global and regional health, environment and education challenges related to the COVID-2019 pandemic.

8.5. Agenda overview and thematic content

In accordance with the 11th CALP goals, objectives and challenges, during the presentations and lectures, the leaders were presented with the latest innovative solutions to environmental and social problems at the global, regional, national and local levels (*Annex 3 - CALP agenda*).

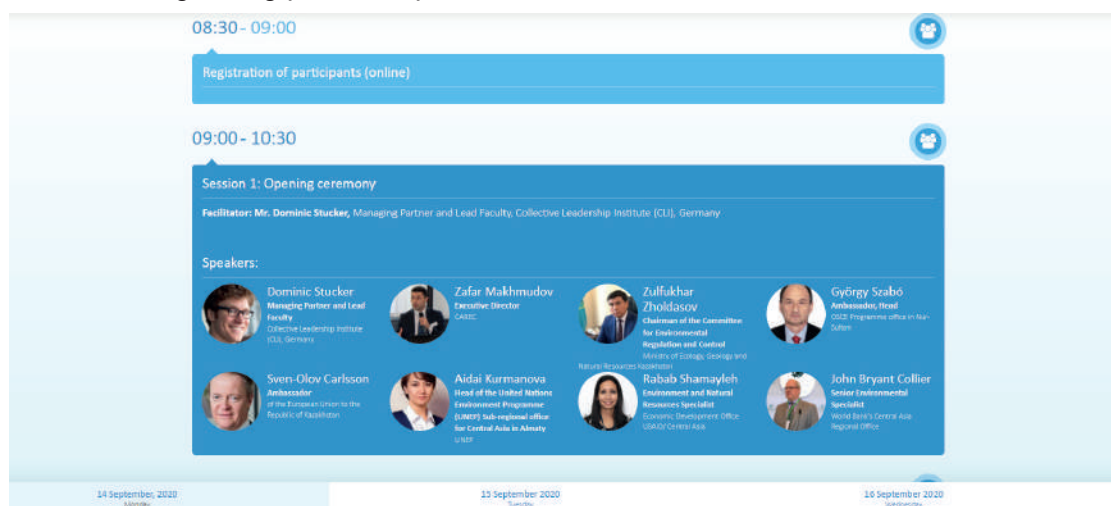
The 11th CALP Principles founded reflection in the agenda and its sessions:

1. “Think globally, act locally, collaborate regionally!”
2. *Transparency* - an online system for registration, all countries are represented in the selection committee; the list of selected candidates is published publicly
3. *Environmentally friendly* – CALP web application <http://calp.carececo.org/mobile/>
4. *Online learning* - greetings and key presentations by national, regional and international experts will be made remotely via Skype, video presentations or on the ZOOM online platform.
5. *Openness* – partners from international organizations and programs, financial institutions, civil society organizations and private sector will be given the opportunity to moderate CALP thematic sessions.

Thematic focus of the 11th CALP was environmental volunteering, transboundary water cooperation, adaptation to climate change, collective leadership, emergency situations, disaster risk management, recovery after COVID-19, and etc.

An innovative online approach brought together a series of the following trainings and modules:

- ✓ A 5-day series of seminars and interaction led by CAREC with reputable international partners, including the UN Environment, the OSCE Programme Office in Nur Sultan, UNDP, USAID, the World Bank, and OSCE Secretariat, regional leaders and CALP alumni that informed and inspired participants, especially on topics of transboundary water cooperation and climate change adaptation,
- ✓ regional leaders and CALP alumni that informed and inspired participants, especially on topics of transboundary water cooperation, climate change adaptation,
- ✓ Disaster risk management and integrating environmental and social initiatives into crisis recovery programs and COVID-19 response strategies, and
- ✓ A following 2-day training on IWRM at the Kazakh-German University (DKU) that equipped participants with the knowledge and skills to understand the complexities and opportunities of IWRM, especially regarding the importance of stakeholder engagement for building strong partnerships.



DAY 1: September 14, 2020 the Opening session was started by **Mr. Zafar Makhmudov**, CAREC Executive Director, who welcomed the CALP participants, highlighting that:

"In 2020, the world is faced with a new problem - the coronavirus pandemic. In this regard, the 11th CALP is intended to demonstrate to young people, participants in the Leadership Programme, not only the problems that the pandemic has created, but to jointly see and discuss the window of opportunities. Despite such serious global and regional challenges, today, as in the previous 10 years, we met together at the CALP site, and even though this meeting takes place online, its value from this is somewhat not less, but even more! 2020 shows us real examples of volunteering, and our youth have shown their potential in the field of environmental protection, and responding to emergencies in the field of health and education".



Mr. Zulfukhar Zholdasov, Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Chairman of the CAREC Board, noted:

"2020 was declared as the Year of Volunteer by the President of Kazakhstan, and environmental volunteering today is very important for the future of the country. With regard to development of the new Environmental Code of Kazakhstan, the expert potential of young specialists will be in demand"

The Opening session was continued by **H.E. György Szabó**, Ambassador, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan; **H.E. Sven-Olov Carlsson**, Ambassador of the European Union to Kazakhstan; **Ms. Aidai Kurmanova**, Head of the UN Environment for Central Asia Office; **Ms. Rabab Shamayleh**, Environment and Natural Resources Specialist in the Economic Development Office (USAID/Central Asia); and **Mr. John Bryant Collier**, Senior Environmental Specialist (World Bank Central Asia Regional Office).

Mr. György Szabo, Ambassador, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan expressed the OSCE commitment to environmental leadership and volunteering and emphasized that despite of the fact that we all live in different countries, nature recognize no borders, and all environmental problems of the region must be addressed all together.

Also, CAREC strategic partners from UN organizations, international agencies and programs took part in the 11th CALP as key speakers: **Dr. André Wehrli**, Swiss Regional Advisor on Water Resources in Central Asia; **Mr. Alexander Juras**, Chief of Civil Society Unit at UN Environment Program; **Dr. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta**, Vice-Rector of the DKU, **Mr. Stanislaw Kim**, Early Warning Systems and Response Programme Specialist for Europe and CIS, Crisis Bureau, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub; **Mr. Alexander Nikolaenko**, Regional advisor of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Transboundary Water Management program in Central Asia; **Mr. Olzhas Atymtaev**, National Program Officer, UN Environment, Central Asia Office; **Ms. Meirgul Alpysbayeva**, Education National Professional Officer, the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty, and **professor Charles Hopkins**, UNESCO Chair in ESD, York University Toronto (ON), Canada.

As was noted by Ambassador of the European Union to Kazakhstan **Mr. Sven-Olov Carlsson** in his welcoming speech:



«The COVID-19 pandemic has shown very well that we must change our relationship with nature and join efforts to switch to the green path to create a healthy, more resilient and sustainable future for our Planet, ourselves and our future generations. There is a need to rethink our economic policies to make the transition to green economy faster and more efficient».

In addition, he stated that EU cooperation with Central Asia is based on the EU's new geopolitical priorities set out along five pillars: Green Deals, Digitalisation, Sustainable Growth and Jobs, Migration Partnerships, and Governance, Peace and Security.

As noted by the Head of the United Nations Environment Programme for Central Asia Office **Ms. Aidai Kurmanova**:



“Our next generation of young leaders will set the agenda for the future of mankind. Young people have a very powerful tool - their voices, influence and network.”

To that end, UNEP launched **The Youth and Education Alliance (YEA!)** in 2019, which works with both higher education and youth networks from around the world to increase environmental awareness and education among students and young people to accelerate the environmental changes that urgently need to be made in this decade. The goal is to integrate sustainability and environmental best practices into their curricula, civics and across their campuses while also raising the profile of higher education as change agents.

All CAREC international partners – participants of the Opening session - shared with the CALP participants information on their priorities in the light of the COVID pandemic, paid attention to the issues related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of and as a contribution to a robust COVID-19 recovery in the fields of environment, society, and/or economy, as well as the role of youth volunteering and leadership in Central Asia in responding to the global challenges and opportunities. UN organizations will help to decision-makers look beyond recovery, towards 2030, making choices and managing complexity and uncertainty in four main areas: governance, social protection, green economy, and digital disruption. It encompasses our role in technically leading the UN's socio-economic response.

A video presentation by **Professor Charles Hopkins**, York University, Toronto, Canada, Head of the UNESCO Chair of ESD, highlighted:



"I believe the pandemic is currently greatly affecting all of our global action plans and will have an impact on the SDGs. As everything has been interrupted, this is also a chance to step up and build our world back in a better way to make real progress towards the SDGs. What I feel is important now is understanding the connectedness of the world. Climate change with floods, storms and wildfires, consequent mass migration waves of climate or war refugees, tremendous inequalities in the world – all these phenomena are connected to one other".

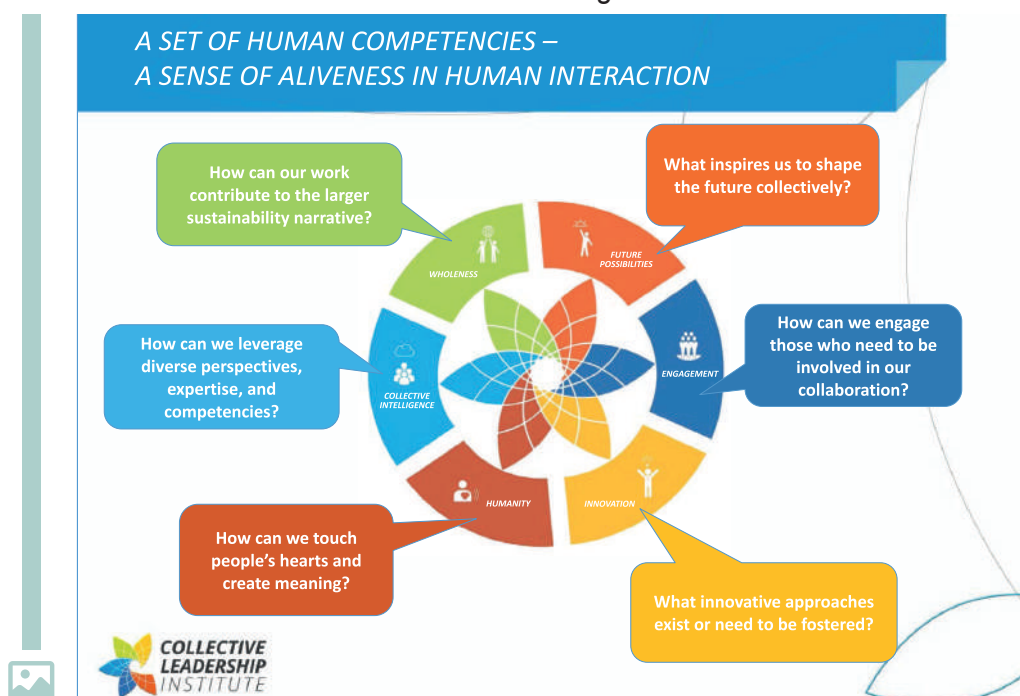
During the 11th online CALP, CAREC involved more partner organizations to moderate thematic sessions on such topics as innovations, collective leadership, volunteering, water cooperation, water diplomacy, climate change, energy efficiency, Nexus approach, disaster risk management, recovery after COVID-19, role of NGOs in greening the economy, etc.

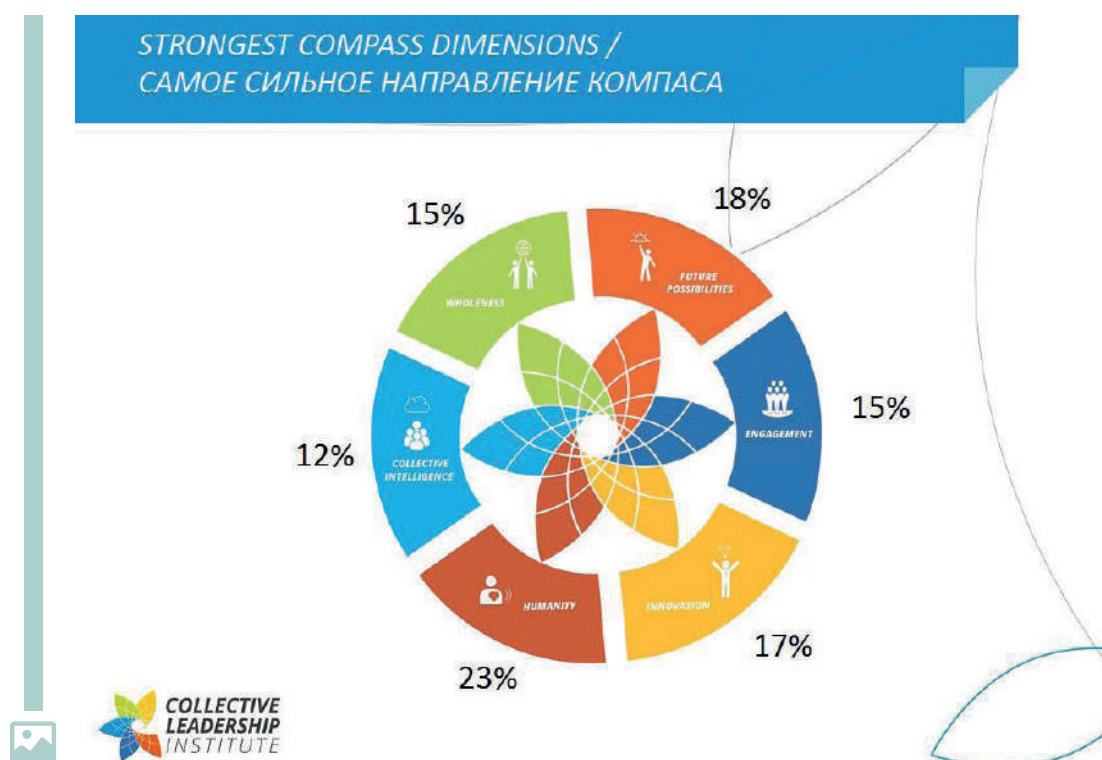
To increase the ability of participants to absorb and process large amount of information during the training, the regular **yoga and breathing exercises** have been organized with the purpose to prevent and/or recover after the COVID-2019 pandemic.

On the 1st day of the CALP, **Mr. Stucker** led a session entitled "Collective Leadership: A Compass to Enliven the Journey," in which he emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration and, in particular, the role of Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) on partnerships for achieving all other SDGs. In this regard, **he pointed out the need to shift from a conventional to a collective leadership paradigm that emphasizes:**

- ☑ Inclusive and co-creative multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration
- ☑ Joint delivery of agreed-upon goals
- ☑ Collective responsibility for contributing to the common good
- ☑ Leadership development focused on teams, organizations, and systems

Mr. Stucker put forward a definition of leadership as **"the capacity of a collective to catalyze change for the common good"**. As emerging collective leaders, he encouraged participants to notice and nurture patterns of "Aliveness" in themselves, in their teams, in their institutions, and in the systems that they seek to transform together with other actors. To support them in these efforts, he introduced the Collective Leadership Compass, including key questions related to each of its six Dimensions that can encourage Aliveness:





Mr. Stucker asked participants *to assess their own strengths and development areas in the Compass*. The following image shows the participants' reported strongest Dimensions in the Compass by percent. The current pattern among participants shows that, overall, many have a natural competence in **Humanity** (23%); that **Future Possibilities** (18%), **Innovation** (17%), **Engagement** (15%), and **Wholeness** (15%) are also well represented; and that **Collective Intelligence** (12%) is the rarest competence.

Participants were also asked to identify the Dimension that they most need to develop. In contrast to the strengths pattern, the development area pattern clearly shows that the highest percentage of participants identified a need to develop their Collective Intelligence competence (33%), while many also identified **Innovation** (24%). Some need to develop competence in **Future Possibilities** (13%), **Engagement** (11%), and **Wholeness** (11%), while the lowest percentage reported that they need to develop in the Dimension of **Humanity** (8%).

The 2nd DAY agenda within the framework of the 11th CALP was devoted to the discussions at the three main themes:

- ☑ **The role of ESD and digitalization of education in response to global challenges** headed by **Dr. Manana Ratiani**, National Focal Point on ESD, UNECE expert on ESD, Deputy Director of the National Center for Teacher Professional Development, Georgia. The speakers of this session also represented CAREC – **Ms. Shakhnoza Umarova**, director of CAREC country office in Uzbekistan; education sector – **Ms. Saule Zeinolla**, Associate Professor, Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan; NGO community – **Ms. Saida Sulaymanova**, Director of NGO "Modern Journalism Development Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan". This session covered the issues: SDG 6 - water supply and sanitation, SDG 13 - climate action to achieve a sustainable future, Remote and online teaching and learning: challenges, opportunities and benefits and Learning from the past, inspiring engagement in the present, and exploring alternative futures;

- ☑ **Central Asia: initiatives, processes, approaches in the context of sustainable development and COVID-19, and the role of the Central Asian Youth Water Network (CAY4W)** in strengthening regional cooperation in Central Asia and Afghanistan both headed by **Ms. Yekaterina Strikeleva**, Manager of the Water Initiatives Support Programme, CAREC;
- ☑ and **Disaster Risk Reduction in the context of sustainable development and COVID-19** headed by **Mr. Stanislav Kim**, Early Warning Systems and Response Programme Specialist for Europe and CIS, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub.

The 3rd DAY agenda was devoted to discussion of the themes:

Rationalization in the use of natural resources in Central Asia (CA) within the framework of the SDGs, regional Initiatives, Nexus approach as well as examples of practical implementation throughout the world. The session was moderated by **Ms. Ludmilla Kiktenko**, Manager of Environmental Management Programme (CAREC) and specialists of CAREC Environmental Management Programme and Water Initiatives Support Programme.

The speakers of this day were the following: **Ms. Snejana Popova**, Project Officer of the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan; **Ms. Maria Ana Rodriguez**, Global Nexus Secretariat Coordinator; **Mr. Markus Moeller**, international expert in Sustainable Consumption and Production; **Mr. Prahlad Tewari**, Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); **Mr. Rajat Batra**, Senior Technical Expert STENUM Asia and **Ms. Reiko Iitsuka**, Senior Regional Advisor for Asia/Oceania, The Secretariat of Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) were the keynote speakers of this day. Interactive session and online survey on sustainable consumption attracted particular attention of the CALP participants.

Another extensive session on September 16 was devoted to **the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in promotion of Green Innovation in Central Asia and Afghanistan**. The main objective was to demonstrate new opportunities for development after the COVID-2019 pandemic, especially in the field of environmental protection. Environmentalists can act as agents of green change, and such approach as “green recovery” is one of the important areas that many governments and international organizations are working on. The session was moderated by **Ms. Svetlana Mogilyuk**, Chairman of the Public Association “ECOM” and a Member of the CAREC Board of Governors.

International consultant on biodiversity conservation, national parks and reservations of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan **Mr. Stefan Michel** as well as leaders of the NGO movement, well-known eco-activists, eco-bloggers and experts in green development such as **Ms. Yelena Yerkovich**, Expert on the Development of “Green Transport” in Almaty, and Director of the Fund “Velo-friends” in Kazakhstan; **Mr. Mikhail Belyakov**, eco-activist and eco-blogger, one of the winners of the Central Asian Environmental Award named after Dmitry Tereshkevich; **Ms. Yelena Shevchenko**, Director of the Center for Innovation and Technology Development, QazInnovations; **Ms. Elena Kan**, Director at “KRASS” (Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service) attended as keynote speakers. The participants had the opportunity to ask all interested questions and talk directly to speakers at the end of each session.

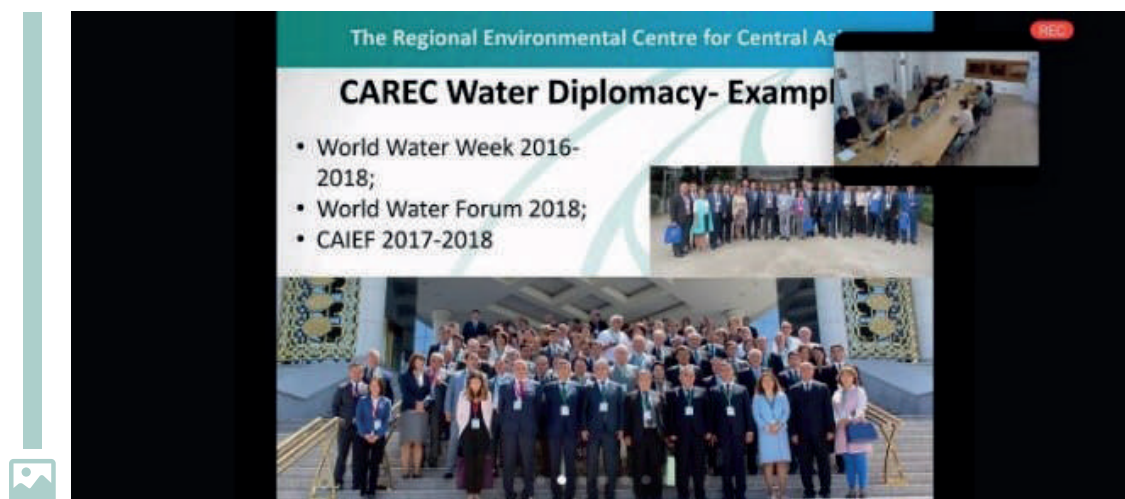
At the end of the 3rd day, the Organization Committee of the CALP Alumni network organized an **online intellectual game show “WHAT, WHERE, WHEN?”** as part of team building process. The game was prepared and headed by **Mr. Hemra Atabaev**, Youth Specialist, USAID Project implemented by JA Worldwide. Despite of the online format of the game, this kind of a joint informal activity ups contributed to creating a warm and friendly environment in the national and regional teams of the CALP. The winner was given a special certificate.

On the 4th DAY of the 11th CALP, the issues of *integrated water resources management, basic approaches and practical application at various levels in Central Asia and Afghanistan* have been highlighted as part of the Final Marathon of the USAID “Smart Waters” project during the 11th CALP. The session was headed by **Ms. Yekaterina Strikeleva**, Water Initiative support Programme Manager, Chief of Party of the USAID-funded Smart Waters Project, CAREC. The water sessions were attended by **Mr. Ryder Rogers**, Director, Economic Development Office, USAID/Central Asia; **Mr. Idrees Malyar**, Deputy Minister - Policy & International Affairs National Environmental Protection Agency, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, CALP Alumnus.

A special focus was made on the *role of water diplomacy, experience and lessons learned from the implementation of the projects in Central Asia*. The speakers of the session were CAREC partners: **Ms. Elizabeth Yaari**, Senior Programme Manager, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI); **Ms. Sogol Jafarzadeh**, Environmental Affairs Adviser, OSCE Secretariat; **Mr. Botir Ismoilov**, Uzbekistan MFA Representative, **Ms. Anna Inozemtseva**, Leading specialist of Water Initiatives Support Programme, Deputy Chief of Party of the USAID “Smart Waters” project, CAREC, as well as specialists of USAID “Smart Waters” project and CAREC Water Initiatives Support Programme as keynote speakers.

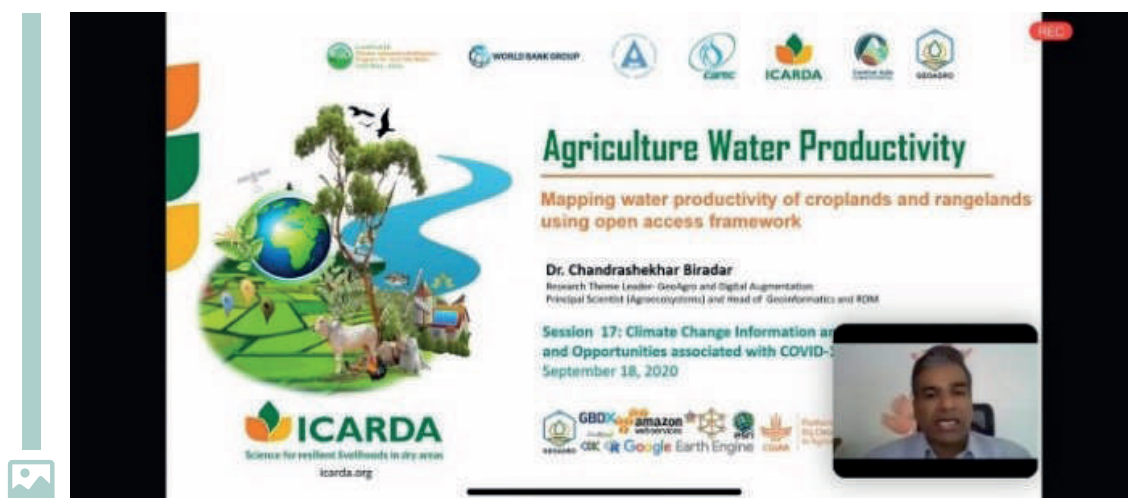
Promotion of a gender perspective in water governance and water diplomacy given the gender-specific impacts of water policies and the vast potential of the inclusion of gender in this field is vital to more equitable and effective water management. In this light, *the OSCE has developed a guide to gender mainstreaming in water governance in Central Asia for the benefit of water practitioners in the region*, which was launched and presented on the 4th day of CALP. The guidance document is available in English and Russian and available on the OSCE website.

The final topic on *«Blogging as a Modern Means of Expressing Personal Opinions and Promoting Environmentally Friendly Practices»* was presented by Consultant of the USAID “Smart Waters” project Independent Journalist **Ms. Petro Kotze**.

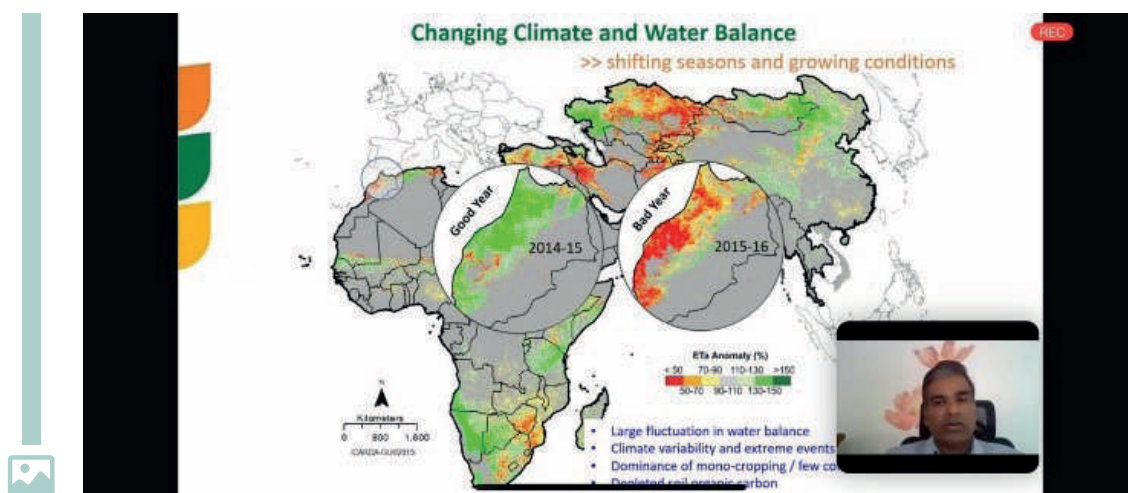


The 5th - final DAY of the 11th CALP, headed by **Ms. Saltanat Zhakenova**, was devoted to *the climate change issues*. The discussion was followed by the video presentation of **Dr. Yuba Sokona**, IPCC Vice-Chair, **Ms. Olga Pilifosova**, Manager, Adaptation Programme, UNFCCC Secretariat, and representatives of ICARDA: **Mr. Akmal Akramkhanov**, Project Manager at ICARDA Office in Central Asia, ICARDA and **Ms. Svetlana Saakova**, CACIP Project Administrator, ICARDA on the key messages from the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report and special reports on global warming of 1.5°C, as well as on climate change and land

issues. They had the opportunity to share their experiences with participants on *the topics related to climate change at the global and regional levels.*



A special attention was paid to the themes *Climate Change Information and Knowledge: Risks and Opportunities associated with COVID-19, and Possibilities of the Central Asian Climate Change Platform (CACIP) in disseminating information and knowledge.*



Representatives of ICARDA: **Mr. Akmal Akramkhanov**, Project Manager at ICARDA Office in Central Asia, **Mr. Chandrashekhhar Biradar**, Research Team Leader, **Mr. Enrico Bonaiuti**, Project Development Manager; **Mr. Ajit Govind**, Climatologist, Egypt; **Mr. Simone Maffei**, Senior expert and international consultant, introduced the *Central Asia Climate Information Portal* and presented its status, content and opportunities for future.

The 11th CALP concluded with an exciting Closing Ceremony and Awarding of Certificates to 46 participants from five Central Asian countries and Afghanistan.



To conclude the 11th CALP, facilitator of the 11th CALP **Mr. Stucker** emphasized the importance of making concrete personal commitments to developing as a collective leader and to observing and nurturing patterns of aliveness in the teams, organizations, and initiatives in which they are involved. He pointed out that the goal is not to master all dimensions all the time, but to develop a heightened awareness for leading change collectively.



On the final day of the CALP, two participants shared their experiences and insights gained from conducting these more in-depth analyses. They both valued the assessment and not only demonstrated a significantly increased understanding of collective leadership concepts, but also applied these concepts concretely to themselves and their own leadership capacities. **Mr. Stucker** shared free collective leadership resources and publications at www.collectiveleadership.com, as well as the interactive, online Compass assessment tool at www.compass-tool.com (*Annex 4 - Report of the 11th CALP Facilitator*).



LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING STORIES OF THE CALP ALUMNI: 2010-2020

In 2020 CAREC in cooperation with the OSCE PR-specialist **Ms. Akbota Sheryazdan** prepared a publication *“Living in a New Reality”* is an interview with Professor Charles Hopkins, key speaker of the Leadership Programme and CAREC partner, UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Education towards Sustainability, York University (Toronto, Canada), which was conducted within the framework of the 11th CALP by PR-support expert. In an interview, Professor Hopkins shared his knowledge and experience, spoke about the role of environmental volunteering, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The interview was published in both English and Russian languages on the CAREC website.

Also, following the results of the Innovative online 11th CALP, CAREC, in cooperation and with support of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan and PR-expert, has prepared the publication *«CALP Alumni in addressing environmental challenges»*. It was aimed at promoting eco-volunteer movements and designed to draw public attention to environmental issues, facilitate outreach and awareness-raising as well as to educate and motivate a new generation. For example, **Ms. Danara Saranova**, founder of «ASAA» Youth NGO, Youth Ambassador in the «Model OSCE», National UN Youth Volunteer attended the 11th CALP Opening session as its speaker and shared her experience of volunteering and achievements that have been made. With their examples, volunteers not only encourage young people, but also help them to understand the need for individual and joint commitment in terms of environmental protection.

Collection of the stories of the CALP graduates in the period of 2010-2020 was important for CAREC and partners supporting CALP for 11 years to share success stories of graduates, representatives of various sectors and various countries of the region (*Annex 5. PR-report of the 11th CALP, Annex 6. List of media and Annex 7. List of publications*). As part of a survey, the leaders shared their memories about the Leadership Programme, the role of CAREC in encouragement of the young leaders of the region, offered recommendations to the future participants of the CALP (*Annex 8. “CALP Alumni in addressing environmental challenges”*).

The primary goal of the 11th CALP was to bring together young leaders and professionals as well as partners and donors of CAREC from around the world for an open dialogue on Zoom platform to discuss the latest findings in Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Water Cooperation, Digital Education, Collective Leadership, Volunteering and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19. We hope that we achieved that goal.

IN RELATION TO THESE GOALS, THE MAIN RESULTS OF THE 11TH CALP ARE THE FOLLOWING:



Even today, during the global coronavirus pandemic, CAREC gathered participants online and invited the best speakers and experts from around the world – from Central Asia and Afghanistan, Egypt, Germany, India, Kenya, Canada, USA, Turkey, South Africa, Japan and other countries



The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated enormous potential and opportunities of digital technology, for the first time making it possible to hold the 11th CALP online at high technical level, despite global challenges



The knowledge and experience gained within the framework of the Leadership Programme will contribute to even more active participation of young people in solving environmental issues, strengthening the regional dialogue and cooperation as well as in providing latest innovative solutions to environmental challenges at national, regional, and global level



The 11th CALP introduced young people, participants in the Leadership Programme, not only to the problems that the pandemic presented, but also showed a window of opportunity



We realized that everything is possible today, and got acquainted with new technologies and approaches of online learning and ESD, acquired new skills of working at ZOOM together



We realized that we are all connected to each other like never before, and SDG 17 - partnership for sustainable development - binds us forever! The CALP alumni learned what collective leadership is, heard examples of volunteering and leadership in our region, and realized that together we can do a lot



We believe that the knowledge our partners have shared will immensely help our young leaders in responding to global, regional, and national environmental challenges. Partners' support and presence helped to make the 11th CALP a great success.

In this regard, CAREC team and the 11th CALP participants would like to express the deepest gratitude to our partners and donors – UN Environment, OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, USAID, World Bank, European Union and OSCE Secretariat in Vienna for their assistance and support in organizing of the 11th CALP, as well as to its participants for their efforts to improve personal, interpersonal and professional skills, for active involvement in building collective leadership, regional cooperation and in solving environmental problems with joint efforts.

Today we have a regional CALP alumni' network consisting of 330 graduates from five countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan, and we hope the stories of volunteering and leadership from our alumni have exemplified and inspired new young leaders for the regional cooperation and commitment to environmental values for sustainable development of the region.



1. 11th CALP list of participants
<http://calp.carececo.org/mobile/list-of-the-11th-calp-participants-2/>
2. 11th CALP list of speakers <http://calp.carececo.org/mobile/speaker-2/>
3. 11th CALP agenda <http://calp.carececo.org/mobile/agenda/>
4. Report of the CALP facilitator on Collective Leadership
5. PR-report of the 11th CALP
6. List of mass-media
7. List of publications (media-monitoring)
8. Publication «CALP Alumni in addressing environmental challenges»
9. Presentations and pictures:
<https://gofile-3378496944.cz2.quickconnect.to/fsdownload/ORRZYBt6h/CALP%202020>