



CAREC

NEWSLETTER

THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR CENTRAL ASIA

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MARCH 2017



Dear reader,

Late March Central Asia has celebrated Navruz – a holiday of environmental rejuvenation and the beginning of spring that shows close relationship between human and nature.

Inspired by this festive mood, CAREC has planned several activities in 2017 contributing to environmental protection and sustainable development across Central Asia.

Amongst others, preparations for the Central Asian Environmental Forum to be held on 5-7 June in Ashgabat are underway. It will be attended by more than 100 participants from all countries of the region representing governments, international and regional organizations, diplomatic missions, leading

experts in environmental protection, environmental leaders. The forum will once again become a dialogue platform for fruitful regional environmental cooperation.

Since the beginning of this year, there have been many significant events: CAREC met with representatives of the foreign ministries and parliamentarians of Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the country office in Tajikistan, launched an open online registration for the Eighth Leadership Programme, started working with volunteers in Turkmenistan and is preparing for the opening of the country office in Kazakhstan. In our newsletter, there is a new column - "CAREC faces" which will tell you about the organization, about the love of nature and the world through the stories of our employees.

We hope that through our bulletin we will be able to convey the efforts of CAREC to preserve and restore our common environment!

*Yours faithfully,
Dr Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director
the Regional Environmental Centre
for Central Asia*

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1

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION – CAREC MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS OF TURKMENISTAN AND TAJIKISTAN

On January 25, Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director of CAREC, met with deputies of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, senior officials of the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Environmental Protection and Land Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss new ways of regional cooperation in environmental protection, ecology and sustainable development.

Dr. Abdullaev told about CAREC activities in the region, including steady development of relations with international and regional dialogue platforms, strategic plans of regional cooperation on the international arena. He noted that the development of environmental cooperation, including water sector,

is challenging without strengthening of legislative and legal frameworks of the region, and therefore the development of relations with legislative bodies from Central Asia is a strategic task.

Learn more about what was also discussed [here](#)

On February 24, Executive Director of CAREC, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Makhmadsharif Khakdodov and Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Legislative Chamber Majlisi Oli, Mr. Latif Rustam Barot met in the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RT. The meeting also attended by employees and members of CAREC Board of Governors.



To learn more about this meeting click [here](#).

CAREC meetings with representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs and parliamentarians have already taken place in Astana and Tashkent.

2

COMMON APPROACH TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS FOR CLIMATE SERVICES AND EXPERTISE AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

CAREC hosted a meeting with national experts from Central Asian countries and international consultants on climate change issues in the framework of Climate Adaption and Mitigation Programme for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB) on January 17-18 in Almaty.

Participants discussed international practices and techniques of dissemination of knowledge through online platforms, mechanisms and approaches to get best data. For example, an open platform on adaptation to climate change, so-called **CLIMATE-ADAPT** which aims to support European countries to adapt to the effects of climate change, through the joint information exchange system, knowledge and data.

Following the meeting, it was agreed that today top priorities are to identify potential users of a regional platform, which will be developed in the context of CAMP4ASB project, to understand the needs of the knowledge and to make recommendations that will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and climate information at the regional level. To get national consultations from all stakeholders, there will be a study of the current and planned initiatives on climate change with special emphasis on regional co-operation.

CAMP4ASB aims to enhance regionally coordinated access to improve climate change knowledge services for key stakeholders in participating Central Asian countries as well as to increase investments



and capacity building that, combined, will address climate changes common to these countries.



Please learn more about the project [here](#)



3

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES OF UZBEKISTAN AND CAREC SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO WATER PROJECTS

They are “Smart Waters” and “Water Cooperation in Central Asia”. The agreement was signed by Mr. Shavkat Khamraev, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan and Mr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director of CAREC on February 1.

The Smart Waters project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and aims to improve the education and training system for specialists from water sector, to establish working relations between water resources managers, and to promote basin planning approach to water resources management, supporting regional academic exchange.

Please learn more about the project [here](#).

The Water Cooperation in Central Asia project, funded by the European Union, aims to strengthen regional water cooperation, study and demonstrate best national, regional and international practices, strengthen cooperation on environmental and sustainable development issues in Central Asia, promotion of innovative methods and practices for effective water management.

Please learn more about this project [here](#).



4

ECOQUEST: THE GOETHE-INSTITUT AND CAREC IMPLEMENT APPLICATION FOR THE YOUTH OF KAZAKHSTAN

The Goethe-Institut in close cooperation with CAREC developed an interactive software application "Urban Corners" for raising awareness of the younger generation of Astana on issues related to renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change adaption and mitigation.

The software app addresses the energy situation in Astana via an IOS and Android based gaming app thus requiring the interaction of the players by inviting them to visit certain locations. Through an interactive map players will be looking for "lost" magic crystals across the city. The locations provide positive example of energy management in Astana. It is expected that the application will be available for gadget users at the end of September. The mobile

application can be used in 4 languages: Kazakh, Russian, German and English.

[Learn more.](#)



5

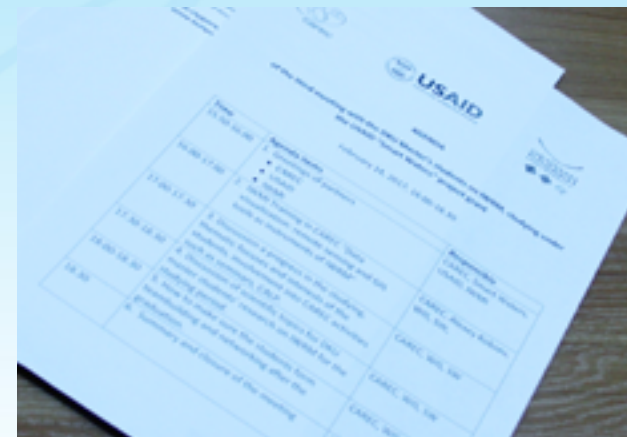
KEEP IN TOUCH: CAREC MET WITH THE RECIPIENTS OF THE USAID SMART WATERS GRANT

On February 14, CAREC hosted the third meeting with master students of the German-Kazakh University (GKU) who study the integrated water resources management (IWRM), being recipients of the USAID-CAREC project Smart Waters grant and the German Government's grant.

The purpose of the meeting was to define the interests, thematic focuses and research interests of students as a basis for a Master's thesis and

provide linkages between theory and practice, based on existing capacity under the Smart Waters project and other CAREC projects.

[Learn more.](#)



6

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS WATER DIPLOMACY ON KURKUREU SU RIVER

Kurkureu su is a small transboundary river between Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic, that provides irrigation water for about 8 thousand hectares of irrigated land. To date, the water allocation in the river basin is still governed by a regulation which remained guidance for water users since the time of Kazakh SSR and Kirghiz SSR – the document is over 70 years old.

While some parts of the water intake facilities are outdated, there is also a problem of poor water supply from the river flow in some areas of the basin. Such fate overtook the residents of Zhualyn area of the Republic of Kazakhstan, where the surface of cultivated land decreases every year. The Kazakh side is unable to do any repair works or mechanical cleaning of the channels because of the existing border regime and poor communication with the water users from the Kyrgyz side of the river.

What was done to solve the problem – please read [here](#).



What is achieved today on the Aspara River demonstrates how the proper distribution of water resources removes conflict issues: among two states and between farmers directly on the field.

The next part of the film about this river is already on our channel on [YouTube](#)



7

CAREC IN TAJIKISTAN CELEBRATED ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Dushanbe hosted the 15th anniversary of CAREC office in Tajikistan on February 24, 2017. Established in 2002, the country office supports CAREC activities in the country on environmental protection and sustainable development.

“From the moment of establishing a branch in Tajikistan it has significantly expanded and acquired a character of varied attainments. While developing our projects we are focusing on the specific national requirements and needs of Tajikistan, guided with the goal and objectives of CAREC,” noted CAREC Executive director, Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev in his speech at the festive event. “We are striving to accomplish sustainable outcomes that will benefit Tajikistan in the years ahead”.

[Learn more.](#)



8

MEETING WITH VOLUNTEERS IN ASHGABAT

February 25, CAREC office in Turkmenistan held a seminar for future volunteers. Participants are told in detail about the activities of CAREC in the region and precisely in Turkmenistan, about the history of the organization, its role in solving environmental problems and establishment of inter-country cooperation.

Future volunteers will assist CAREC Mission in environmental actions, as well as conferences and forums. Follow the news on our website to learn more about this meeting.

[Learn more here.](#)



9

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR THE EIGHTH CENTRAL ASIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

ONLINE REGISTRATION ON THE PLATFORM IS AVAILABLE HERE

CAREC in cooperation with UNEP, the Government of Norway, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana and USAID will hold the Eighth Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development (CALP) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on September 11-20, 2017.

The main objectives of the 8th CALP are to demonstrate the advantages of regional cooperation in the course of active discussions and

workshops with international and regional experts on green economy, water and energy issues, and to develop capacity of the leaders from Central Asia and Afghanistan.

We welcome young specialists from Central Asia and Afghanistan, working in state, non-governmental, academic and business sectors.



10

CAREC HOSTED THE 4TH REGULAR MEETING OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

March 16-17, 2017, the 4th meeting of regional organizations, involved in the issues of sustainable development and water management in Central Asia, took place in Almaty. The event was organized within the framework of «Strengthening capacities in sustainable water management at regional, national and catchment levels» with the support of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), «Transboundary water management in Central Asia» programme.

Participants discussed regional initiatives in the field of environmental nature protection and sustainable development in Central Asia.

Learn more about this meeting [here](#)



11

ALMATY HOSTED A REGIONAL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH ISSUES

March 28-29, Almaty hosted a regional advisory meeting of the representatives from five Central Asian countries to discuss European process on "Environment and Health". The meeting was organized by CAREC in cooperation with Regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO) for Europe.

THE AIM OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS THE CONDITION AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE INTERACTION BETWEEN CENTRAL ASIA AND WHO IN A SPHERE OF REDUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS THAT HAVE AN IMPACT ON HEALTH OF THE POPULATION.



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

Representatives from Central Asian ministries of foreign affairs, responsible specialists from ministries and departments of environment and health took part in the meeting as well as the representatives of academia, non-governmental organizations and international partners, such as, WHO, UNDP, Embassy of the USA and others. Such meeting was held for the first time for the specialists from ministries of environmental protection and health in close cooperation with WHO, on the eve of the Sixth European Conference for Ministers of Environment and Health.

Please follow the updates on our [website](#).

12

ASTANA WILL HOST THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE OPENING OF CAREC COUNTRY OFFICE IN KAZAKHSTAN

April 12, 2017, on the eve of the international exhibition "Astana EXPO 2017", Astana will host the international conference focused on the issues of green economy in Kazakhstan and the benefits of regional cooperation in Central Asia, dedicated to the opening of the country office of CAREC in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The purpose of the conference is to acquaint the participants with the experience of Kazakhstan in the areas of green economy, discuss the benefits of transboundary partnerships in the region, and share the success stories and experiences of CAREC in these areas.

Learn more [here](#)



MEET A NEW COLUMN THAT WILL TELL YOU ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION, ITS MISSION AND WORK IN THE STORIES OF OUR PEOPLE. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MEANING OF LARGE AND SMALL STEPS AS WELL AS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR THIS WORLD – IN SIMPLE WORDS OF CAREC EMPLOYEES.



Nailya Mustaeva

Manager of Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Program

I was born on January 15, 1982 in the south of Tajikistan, in the city of Kurgan-Tube. During the Civil War, my parents and I moved to the city of metallurgists, Tursunzade, where I graduated from secondary school. In 1999 I entered the Russian-Tajik Slavic University at the Faculty of Foreign Languages. After graduating from university, in 2004 I got a job in Tajikhydromet, where I began to study the issues of climate change. It was here that my interest in this topic was born. But any interest must be nourished with knowledge and practice. For this, I studied at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, and I remember with special warmth a difficult but very interesting time where we studied the theory of ecological science with trips to laboratories and demonstration sites.

After a Master's degree in environmental science and politics at CEU and the University of Manchester, I continued my professional activities already in the UN Development Program team in Dushanbe. There I received invaluable experience in the field of the environment,

disaster risk reduction and climate change, learned how to develop project proposals and coordinate initiatives at the national level, focusing on governance, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation.

My acquaintance with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia began long before I got a job. Back in 2003, I was one of the participants of the regional seminar on low-carbon development, and 10 years later became a full-time employee of CAREC and the head of the programme on climate change and sustainable energy.

For me, CAREC is a unique opportunity to see the whole region of Central Asia in its harmonious integrity, with its people, culture and character. It is an opportunity to work with different people who are at the same time similar to me, with an immense sense of responsibility, respect and concern not only for themselves, but also for the world around them. This is the opportunity to always feel home, no matter in what country you are and know that all the steps that you have

taken, will turn out into something good.

For me, environmental protection starts with respect; respect for self and others, respect and a vibrant attitude to all living, also it starts from good stories. Stories about people, who can use clean drinking water and rationally use natural resources, notes about new technologies in industry and energy, news about teaching young people the basics of sustainable development.

You feel that a small fraction of your presence is in this all. And this is what makes you smile and act with renewed vigor.

I believe that nature today, first of all, needs good deeds. Small and large. Active and, conversely, timid, somewhere even inexperienced. But such important and necessary. Planting trees and flowers, cleaning up garbage, saving electricity and water, a healthy lifestyle, careful attitude to the animal and plant life is not difficult, but the main thing is possible for each of us.





Kuban Matraimov

Environmental Management
Program Specialist

I was born on January 1, 1972, in the village of Aflatun, Jalal-Abad province of Kyrgyzstan.

Graduated from the secondary school № 1 named after Lenin and in 1991 entered the Moscow State Forest University to specialize in "Engineer of the timber industry complex".

From 1998 to 2010 worked in the Department of Forest Inventory Management of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, from junior engineer to deputy head of the department.

During the work, I graduated various internships and trainings, including two times in Switzerland on forest planning, as well as in Congo and Germany. From 2009 to 2011, I was a national expert on forest inventory of the FAO project, and then, for three years, a coordinator of the UNDP project on restoring the floodplain forests of Kyrgyzstan.

In CAREC, I started my activity as an expert in 2013, in the project on payments for ecosystem services (PES) and reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation in Central Asia. Since 2015 I have been working as a CAREC specialist and coordinator of implementation of the Ecosystem Services Concept.

In my work, I appreciate professionalism, honesty and openness, as well as the opportunity to increase the level of knowledge, communicate with a large number of experts from other countries, have colleagues and friends outside the borders of my country.

The world will save the love of the Motherland, which is reflected in the observance of the elementary rules: plant as many trees as possible, keep clean, raise children in the spirit of respect and love for their country

and, in general, for the Earth. Globally, the world also needs the rational use of natural resources outside the "raw materials economy".

To preserve nature, our region needs to develop long-term and medium-term plans for the conservation and sustainable use of resources. The existing methods should be reviewed; they do not correspond to the realities. We need to develop a new agreement on water resources between countries taking into account the interests of each country, create socially-oriented plantations for the welfare of the population and solve environmental problems.





Viktoriya Chariyeva

Accountant-Office Manager
of CAREC office in Turkmenistan

I was born on December 26, 1985 in Turkmenistan in the Akhal velayat city of Bezmein, soon my family moved to the capital of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat.

In 2002 I graduated from the school №5 with honours and in September of the same year entered the school-lyceum under the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan, which I graduated with the specialty of "computer accountant-operator".

In July 2003, I was recruited to the State Plant Quarantine Service of Turkmenistan as a specialist of the first category for the Finance Department; in May 2004 was transferred to the position of a leading specialist. A year later, I entered Lobachevsky State University of Nizhni Novgorod, from which graduated with the specialty of "finance and credit" and qualification "economist" in my diploma.

In June 2009, I was employed by the Economic Society "Zeppelin Turkmenistan JV" worked until October 2015. This was an opportunity for me to open new professional horizons and sharpen my working skills. In April 2016 I started working in CAREC Office in Turkmenistan as an accountant and office manager, where I am still working and enjoying. This is my first work experience in an international organisation where one gets engaged into highly-professional working dynamics.

CAREC is a large strong team that is confidently moving towards the goals set for improving the environment, declaring itself in all kinds of arenas. All employees of CAREC are worthy, confident, versatile and very interesting personalities.

I believe that I will be able to make even a small contribution to the protection of nature, thanks to what I knew and now I learn while working in CAREC, having the opportunity to deliver important information, at least to my relatives, about the need to protect the environment.

I work in this field because I was lucky enough to get into the CAREC team to keep up and be worthy, developing, moving forward, learning a lot of new things and contributing to the protection of nature.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

| | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|--|
| UNESCO Bangkok and UNESCO Almaty: Regional "ESD Change" planning workshop | 4-5 April 2017 | Almaty | Tatyana Shakirova, tshakirova@carececo.org |
| International conference on the opening of CAREC country office in Kazakhstan | 12 April 2017 | Astana | Shynar Toilybayeva, shtoilybayeva@carececo.org |
| Regional Round Table on Climate Change process in Central Asia: Echoing on Paris Agreement | 17-18 April 2017 | Almaty | Nailya Mustaeva nmustaeva@carececo.org |
| Kick-off meeting of CAREC's Water Projects in Uzbekistan | 17 April 2017 | Tashkent | Jusipbek Kazbekov, jkazbekov@carececo.org Shakhnoza Umarova, shumarova@carececo.org |
| Regional Technical Workshop on Climate Change Knowledge: assessing the needs on climate related data, information and capacity in Central Asia | 19 April 2017 | Almaty | Nailya Mustaeva, nmustaeva@carececo.org |

MAY

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|--|----------------|---------------|---|
| the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 46); the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 46) | 8-18 May 2017 | Bonn, Germany | Nailya Mustaeva, nmustaeva@carececo.org http://unfccc.int/ |
| National Stakeholder Workshop (PRISE P2) | 15-16 May 2017 | Dushanbe | Nailya Mustaeva, nmustaeva@carececo.org Zhanna Babagaliyeva, zhbabagaliyeva@carececo.org Alexey Kim, akim@carececo.org |



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|---|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| National Workshop on ecosystem services, in conjunction with UNDP | 18-19 May 2017 | Bishkek | MatraimovKuban, kmatraimov@carececo.org |
| 53rd meeting of Standing Committee (Ramsar Secretariat) | 29 May -2 June 2017 | Gland, Switzerland | Zhanel Karina, zhkarina@carececo.org |

JUNE

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Central Asian environmental forum | 5 June 2017 | Ashgabat | ShakhbozAkhmedov, shakhmedov@carececo.org |
| The Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment & Health | 13-15 June 2017 | Ostrava, Czech Republic | Irina Bekmirzaeva, ibekmirzaeva@carececo.org |
| Plenary Session and Side-Event on Climate Change in the frameworks of the Central Asian Environmental Forum in Ashgabat | 5-7 June 2017 | Ashgabat | Nailya Mustaeva, nmustaeva@carececo.org |
| Panel Session on low carbon development and climate resilience in Central Asia in the frameworks of the EXPO 2017 "Energy for the Future" | End of June 2017 (TBD) | Astana | Nailya Mustaeva, nmustaeva@carececo.org |
| Sub-regional meeting on the global UNESCO project "Reorienting Education and Training Systems to Improve the Lives of Indigenous and Marginalized Youth" | June 26-30 | Almaty | Tatyana Shakirova, tshakirova@carececo.org |





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