

REACT Bulletin

July 2015

A monthly summary of activities by REACT members in Tajikistan

HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION "WATER FOR LIFE"

The High Level International Conference on the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015, was held in Dushanbe from 9 to 11 June under the sponsorship of the Government of Tajikistan and in collaboration with UN agencies and other development partners, as authorized by UN General Assembly Resolution of 19 December 2014.



The event was opened by the speeches of the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (see photo above).

The main objectives of the conference were to assess progress in achievement of the goals of the Decade and identify further efforts to ensure the sustainable management of water

resources. The conference brought together more than 1,500 participants from over 100 countries and representing governments, UN institutions, international and regional organizations, civil society and other stakeholders.

Two High level Plenary Sessions on the results of the implementation of the decade, six high-level round tables to discuss further actions for the sustainable management of water resources and nine different side events were held in the framework of conference. UNDP Administrator Helen Clark was a co-organizer of the High level Plenary Session "Strengthening an Integrated Approach towards Water Related SDGs" and the side event "The Critical Importance of Water for Sustainable Development and the SDGs".

UNDP also took part in the International Exhibition "Water for Life", providing information about the achievements of their projects in the field of water resources management.

The exhibition promoted awareness of the results of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" by demonstrating measures taken within the decade, best practices and scientific achievements in the field of water resources.

In addition, the exhibition was aimed at further strengthening and developing cooperation among

stakeholders, and introducing innovative methods, practices, techniques and technologies of sustainable and integrated water resources management, as well as establishing close business relations among the various stakeholders.

For more details, please contact Mr. Shukhrat Igamberdiyev, UNDP Water Cluster Coordinator at shukhrat.igamberdiyev@undp.org or visit the relevant link at <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/> or <https://goo.gl/8gLxX3>

CHILDREN'S WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) FORUM ORGANIZED BY UNICEF TAJIKISTAN

Every child everywhere should have access to safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene – this is an essential right for all children.



The Children's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Forum, a pre-conference event of the High Level International Conference on the Implementation of the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life 2005-2015', took place in Dushanbe from 6-8 June 2015, at the National Library of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Forum gathered around 60 adolescents from 13 countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil,

Kyrgyzstan, Romania, South Korea, the Philippines, Ukraine, USA, Zambia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to understand and contribute to global discussions on WASH issues and their solutions. Participants were able to identify inter-sectoral linkages that would lead to development of accessible and sustainable services. It also provided opportunities for children and adolescents to advocate for all boys and girls, everywhere, to have access to WASH in all phases of life: home, community, school and during disasters.

The Forum helped adolescent participants to develop a Call to Action – the main outcome document of this important event. The Call for Action was delivered by Kamila Muhabbatova, WASH Forum participant from Tajikistan, at the opening plenary of the High Level International Conference and James Modimakwane and Mujiba Hasan, WASH Forum participants from Zambia and Tajikistan at the closing plenary.

To see the relevant links, please visit [WASH Forum's dedicated web page](#), our [Facebook album photos](#), [the OneMinutesJr videos](#).

HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLE: GLOBAL CHALLENGES FROM A WATER PERSPECTIVE WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE DUSHANBE INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE

On 10 June 2015, Central Asia Mountain Hub of Mountain Partnership and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) co-organized a two-hour High-Level Round Table on discussing the global

challenges from a water perspective within the frame of the Dushanbe International Water Conference. The round table, co-chaired by Mr. Akbar Pesnani, Representative of Aga Khan Development Network in Tajikistan and Mr. Rashid Khalikov Director of OCHA Geneva, involved 80 participants and high-level experts on water, mountains and humanitarian action.



The participants discussed the linkages between water, mountains and humanitarian action, identified current challenges related to water, mountains and their close linkages to disaster risk management, conflict resolution and peace building. Based on extensive discussions, the participants proposed recommendations on how key stakeholders, including government, downstream and upstream communities, local authorities and international partners, can address critical water-related challenges through a wide range of regional, national and local level initiatives.

A summary of the round-table was presented at the second high-level plenary session of the International Water Conference and shared with participants. OCHA shared the summary with the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat

<https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/> so that the recommendations can be incorporated into global and regional discussions on shaping future humanitarian action and meet the ever-growing humanitarian challenges.

For more details, please contact Mr. Valijon Ranoev, OCHA ROCCA Tajikistan National Disaster Response Advisor at: valijon.ranoev@undp.org

RECOVERY OF SHURAB TOWN: BASIC SITE SAFETY AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT TRAINING

On 24 and 25 June 2015 UNDP Tajikistan in cooperation with Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) conducted a two day training on “Basic Site Safety and Hazardous Waste Management” in the town of Shurab, Isfara District, Sughd Province.

The objective of the training was the application of good health & safety management principles to the site deconstruction process, thus reducing the risks of accidents as well as improving the understanding of asbestos and dangers posed by exposure and removal. Sixteen (5 female and 11 male) local residents, including general workers, tractor drivers, municipal workers and local authorities involved in deconstruction works participated in the training.

During the first day of the training participants were able to identify roles & responsibilities in personal safety others, identification of health & safety risks at

deconstruction site and develop risk control measures and precautions.



Training Practical asbestos disposal activities

The second day of the training was devoted to asbestos awareness and its removal from a deconstruction site. In particular, participants learned about the problems inherent to asbestos, its types, properties and what types of materials may contain asbestos. During the second half of the day participants learned and practiced ways of safely removing and handling of asbestos-contaminated waste. Participants were able to practice, gained knowledge, during the field exercised throughout the training.

As background, following the collapse of the Soviet Union approximately two thirds of the residents of Shurab left, in most cases removing anything of value from houses. A resulting risk was that partially deconstructed buildings created an immediate threat to neighbors due to possible collapse under minimal seismic activity. (Shurab is in a seismically active area). Deconstruction of the abandoned or damaged buildings and clearing land plots from deconstruction waste is a part of a larger project to support recovery of Shurab. The

objectives of the project are to reduce the risk from mud flows, earthquakes and conflict within neighboring areas of Isfara District, as part of a governmental plan to develop and reconstruct Shurab.

For more details, please contact Mr. Ilhom Safarov, UNDP DRMP Project Analyst at: ilhom.safarov@undp.org

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Please send short reports on project activities or events, up to 200 words, with a picture, to REACT Secretariat in Dushanbe react.dushanbe@undp.org. *Items should be submitted by the first working day of the month for the **Bulletin**, which is issued on the 7th working day of the month.*

REACT **Bulletins** can also be found at

http://untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=132&Itemid=565

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Questions and comments should be sent to react.dushanbe@undp.org.