



GENDER and WATER in CENTRAL ASIA

Newsletter of GWANET Network

N° 2, July 2007

Report on visiting the Urgench city to meet with stakeholders and hold workshop “Gender Aspects of Water Management in the Lowlands of Amudarya and Syrdarya” within the framework of the ADB Project “GWANET - Gender and Water Network in Central Asia”

Within the framework of the Asian Development Bank's project “ GWANET - Gender and Water Network in Central Asia”, SIC's representatives such as Ziganshina D.R., Stulina G.V., and Mukhamedjanov Sh.Sh. visited the Urgench city on 27-29 June 2007. The visit aim was to meet with stakeholders for discussion of gender issues in area of water resources in the lowlands and to involve them in joint activity under the GWANET network, as well as to hold a workshop “Gender Aspects of Water Management in the Lowlands of Amudarya and Syrdarya”.

The Urgench city was not selected randomly for organization of the first meeting. The Khorezm province of the Republic of Uzbekistan is located in the lowlands of Amudarya river, being one of the most socially tense regions in the Aral Sea basin. The target audience of this meeting included the provinces of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan located in the lowlands of Amudarya and Syrdarya.

The survey and analysis of current tendencies and the identification of problems to be addressed in Khorezm province (Uzbekistan), Dashoguz veloyat (Turkmenistan), Republic of

Content:

Workshop “Gender Aspects of Water Management in the Lowlands of Amudarya and Syrdarya” within the framework of the ADB Project “GWANET - Gender and Water Network in Central Asia”	1
National policy in the field of gender equality in the Republic of Tajikistan	7
Bookshelf	9
News of the Region	10
Logotype of Gender and Water Network in Central Asia (GWANET)	12



Workshop participants



Edited and published by the Scientific-Information Center ICWC within the framework of GWANET project under support of the Asian Development Bank





Karakalpakstan (Uzbekistan), and Kyzylorda province (Kazakhstan) completed by SIC ICWC under preliminary feasibility study of "Transition to integrated water resources management in the lowlands and deltas of Amudarya and Syrdarya" showed that the major destabilizing factor in the lowlands is unstable water supply and diversion and increasing water shortage aggravated by unequal water distribution, particularly in low water-level conditions. Another problem of those zones is poor attention to and often ignorance of environmental demand. This has led to desertification and deterioration of natural delta conditions.

According to changes in rivers' hydrological regime, flow quality considerably modified as well. Increase in the share of high saline wastewater led to substantial growth of salinity and deterioration of river water. Decreased inflow to the delta caused deterioration of drinking water due to increased salinity and reduced groundwater inflow.

Besides, recently a problem related to transboundary nature of the Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers has arisen and, as a rule, areas located in the river deltas suffered from it. In this respect, the areas of Northern Karakalpakstan, Dashoguz province in Turkmenistan, and Kyzylorda province in Kazakhstan are especially unfavorable. Abnormalities are reflected in modification of water release schedule, pollution and under-supply of water for habitat, nature and economic sectors.

All those factors, first of all, affect population. The total population in given provinces in the lowlands of Amudarya (Khorezm province,

Uzbekistan; Dashoguz velayat, Turkmenistan; Republic of Karakalpastan being a part of Uzbekistan) and of Syrdarya (Kyzylorda province, Kazakhstan) is 4 845.6 thousand people, of which more than 2 950.2 thousand (more than 60 %) lives in rural area and for which irrigated agriculture is the main source of livelihoods.

The above mentioned problems and their relationship with provision of gender equity in agriculture and water sector were discussed with **Dr. John Lamers**, coordinator of joint German-Uzbek research project "Economic and Environmental Re-structurization of Land and Water Use in Khorezm Province" (www.khorezm.uni-bonn.de) and with Uzbek project partners - **Mr. Ruzimboy Eshchanov**, head of Urgench University and **Mr. Nazar Ibragimov**, coordinator of project's field studies.

Dr. John Lamers shared experience in implementing gender research under the projects on-going in Khorezm province and focused on the following three key issues:

- ① Water-born diseases and impact of the utilization of open water-holes and small wells for drinking on people's health, particularly of women and children. Interrelation between water quality, sanitary conditions and peoples' health.
- ② The role of women in agriculture. While conducting comparison studies in areas adjacent to and remote from the city, it was considered how to make women less dependent



on agricultural production and find alternative sources of livelihoods for rural women.

3 Gender perspectives in activities of Water User Associations (WUA). Work in this direction is planned to start in October 2007.

Mr. Ruzimboy Eshchanov stressed a need for addressing gender issues in general economic context, which is particularly important for considering the role of woman in agricultural production. For example, the Urgench University develops a special course on agricultural sustainability, where along with pilot implementation of extension services under support of young professionals from the University, it is planned to address gender issues as well. Mr. Eshchanov also touched the gender issues in education. He noted that there are many female students taking economic and agricultural courses, and the ratio of men and women is approximately 50/50, whereas in pedagogical and foreign language departments the share of women is well higher - 80/20.



Mr. Nazar Ibragimov shared interesting experience gained in implementing the joint project of German Agroaction and Republican association of farms. In 2002-2003, when the rural population greatly suffered from drought of 2000-2001 and the general decline in agriculture took place as a result of reduced crop yields, women were questioned about planting of alternative crops in secondary plots. As a result, such crops as potato, corn, and sunflower were selected and grown. Those crops generated income, which was quite high even for humid

year, and helped the families to survive during drought and after it.

While exchanging opinions about gender movement in water sector, a need was noted for joint activities at different levels, especially for practical application of research results and the importance was stressed of horizontal and vertical integration.

Next meeting was arranged with the manager of “**Soglom avlod uchun**” Fund's Urgench branch **Mrs. Salomat Erdjanova**. The discussion was focused on women and children health under environmental degradation conditions.

As is well known, Prearalie (coastal zone of the Aral Sea) is a zone of heaviest socio-economic conditions in Central Asia. Decrease in per capita food consumption in the lowlands in the last decade was caused by aggravated socio-economic situation in Central Asian states as a whole and especially in the lowlands. For instance, consumption of main food items is lower in Karakalpakstan as compared in Uzbekistan in general. Food consumption by people living in the lowlands (except for vegetables, cucurbits and bread) does not meet the physiological standards, and most population suffers from proteinic and vitamin starvation.

According to the feasibility study on “Transition to integrated water resources management in the lowlands and deltas of Amudarya and Syrdarya”, morbidity in these zones, especially in Karakalpakstan and Khorezm province, is well higher than the WHO's norms and the average republican indicator. This is caused by deterioration of environmental conditions in Prearalie that were intensified by socio-economic difficulties in the region. Damage from excessive morbidity and deteriorated living conditions is estimated at 2.1 US\$ million/year in South Prearalie and 1.3 US\$ million/year in North Prearalie.

Mrs. Salomat Erdjanova has told about measures taken to improve this situation in Uzbekistan by the “Soglom avlod uchun” Fund. This international non-governmental charity fund was established by the Decree of the President

of Uzbekistan of April 23, 1993 in order to ensure health of future generation, protect maternity and infancy, and create favorable conditions for physical, intellectual, and moral development of children. The main objectives of the Fund are: (1) assisting in improvement of material and technical base for obstetric and child care institutions, their equipping with up-to-date facilities, providing with effective health products; (2) coordination of social and public agencies' efforts aimed at improvement of gene pool of future generation in Uzbekistan, based on the world experience; (3) facilitating development and implementation - throughout the republic, especially in environmentally misbalanced districts - of research, technological, production, awareness-propaganda and other programs aimed at establishment of solid basis for radical enhancement and protection of motherhood and infancy.

The Fund, together with other agencies, undertakes medical and social patronage in order to study sanitary conditions, psychological climate in family, health status of family members, especially of women and children; timely identify women and children who need



medical, social and psychological care and social-legal protection; and, form a healthy life-style in the family. The Fund raises awareness, mainly of women and children, regarding sanitary and hygiene.

Mrs. Salomat Erdjanova stressed a great problem of diffuse goiter, anemia, and kidney diseases in the province, especially among

fertile-age women and children. Therefore, work with children connected with Annsrrumlnum and Potassium iodide dissemination among girls is of prior importance. She also noted a need for research to identify reasons of disease incidence, that could be a direct result of water and soil quality deterioration.



In order to familiarize with agricultural practices in farm headed by woman, a meeting was arranged with the farmer Soliya Matyakubova in village "Bogalan", Yangibazar district. Mrs. Matyakubova has 79 ha of land, where she grows wheat and cotton and breeds 12 heads of livestock. She employs 33 people, including 17 women, who mainly do manual work in the field. Men operate machines. Soliya has 5 children, all having higher education, and only one son, hydraulic engineer, helps her in farming. What did induce her, graduated from Pedagogical Institute in biology, to head the farm? "The reason is that I was grown on land and I like this", she explains. At the same time, she tells frankly that this is hard labor and that for organization and keeping of the farm, one needs knowledge and experience and, moreover, woman needs support from family and social infrastructure in the village.

The information collected during the meetings served as a basis for the first regional workshop "Gender Aspects of Water Management in the Lowlands of Amudarya and Syrdarya" under the project "GWANET - Gender and Water Network in Central Asia". The workshop was held in ICWC Training Center's Branch in the Urgench city (Uzbekistan) on 29 June 2007. The representatives of water-management institutions

and of NGOs from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan took part in the workshop (total 16 women and 9 men).



Within the framework of the project “GWANET - Gender and Water Network in Central Asia”, it is planned to hold awareness-raising workshops for all Central Asian countries concerning gender equity in water sector and creation of GWANET Network. The Urgench workshop was dedicated to discuss gender issues in the lowlands and to present to the participants from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan the GWANET Network's aims and objectives.

Mr. Khudaiberganov Yu.Kh, the Head of BWO “Amudarya” opened the workshop. He presented briefly on the activities of BWO “Amudarya” and, in general, on water management along the Amudarya River. Finally, he wished successful work to the participants.

Then, **Ms. Ziganshina D.R.** informed the participants about aims and objectives of the workshop and the project and stated the principles of gender aspects development in water management. Dr. Stulina G.V. reported on experience of gender analysis made under SIC and GWP's CACENA projects. Dr. Mukhamedjanov Sh.Sh. presented information on gender equity problems in light of the implementation of integrated water resources management in the Ferghana Valley.

The workshop agenda was developed in such a way so that to get maximum response from the participants. Therefore, most time was

dedicated to discussion. Three main questions were raised before the workshop audience:

- ① *Which problems and key points do you consider as the most important?*
- ② *What should be done to their eradication and/or adequate addressing?*
- ③ *Which institutions should be involved in this process (potential members of GWANET)?*

As a result, the following key points were highlighted and gender issues were identified in water use and management:

- health of population, particularly of women and children due to significant environmental degradation, especially in the lowlands
- need for more focus on gender aspects in water resources use
- lack of awareness in various areas and levels of decision-making



- need for strong government support for consideration of gender factors
- general problem affecting gender aspects as well - bureaucracy
- reduction of number of women in water-management institutions
- while considering and discussing gender issues, such approaches should be used that do not cause conflicts between men and women but highlight problems and encourage their joint solution
- ignorance of state-granted rights and obligations and inability to protect them

- poor level of women's education, latent discrimination in education by women
- soil degradation and water depletion has negative effect on population, especially women and children
- lack of knowledge, skills and practices for environmentally safe nature and land use
- lack of knowledge and motivation for application of resource-saving technologies, particularly as applies to water
- lack of research addressing gender aspects in water, agricultural, and environmental sectors
- gender problems of professional segregation in area of education and in labor market.
- safe drinking water supply problem (shortage of water, poor water quality)
- irrational drinking water use (this water is used for irrigating homestead plots in addition to drinking and sanitary- hygienic purposes)
- problem with payment by population of drinking water supply services
- inactivity of population in protecting their rights, including as concerns drinking water, and ignorance of on-going programs for drinking water supply to rural areas in their countries
- general lack of job places due to economic situation in the countries; this affects both women and men and causes men to migrate and imposes additional load on women
- poorly developed rural infrastructure, as well as material and technical base; this results in domination of physical labor in agriculture and water sector

Based on the discussion, the following **ways for solution** were found:

- involve mass media in awareness-raising regarding gender issues in water sector
- implement national programs for drinking water supply and informing of population on program progress.
- carry out research to identify gender issues in water, agricultural, and environmental sectors
- take measures for raising awareness about gender issues at different levels and areas
- actively involve all stakeholders (not only water professionals) in this work
- teach the value of water in educational institutions, starting from schools
- raise legal awareness of population, including on access to water and other resources
- create conditions for improvement of women's

education and professional skills, including in water management at all levels

- conduct large-scale campaigns for propaganda and application of water-conservation technologies as concerns both irrigation and drinking water
- improve literacy of population in area of water conservation, hygiene and sanitation
- organize exchange of experience in application of gender aspects in water management among the Central Asian countries and the other parts of the world
- conduct training in raising gender awareness among water and agricultural staff from macro to local levels, as well as among farmers (more frequent and longer)
- organize regular work with farmers and rural people in order to identify problems
- develop gender-sensitive legislation, with respective financing of required measures
- in order to assist rural population, particularly women in the search for alternative sources of livelihoods (less dependent on agricultural production), revive national arts, develop tourism (cooperation between urban and rural areas)

The following **organizations that must be involved in this process** were highlighted (potential members of GWANET):

- 1 women committees (or commissions ensuring gender equity)
- 2 Public agencies with relevant competences (Ministries for water resources and agriculture, State nature conservation committees, etc.)
- 3 Local authorities
- 4 Environmental organizations
- 5 Media
- 6 Non-governmental organizations dealing with water, agricultural, and environmental issues
- 7 Research institutions
- 8 International funding institutes, foreign investors

All the problems mentioned will be taken into account during project implementation and lay the basis for recommendations to be developed for decision-makers regarding application of gender approaches in the national water policies.

Registration forms were disseminated among the workshop participants who wished to join the «GWANET - Gender and Water Network in Central Asia». Eventually, all the participants wished to become the members of this network. Thus, the first twenty members of GWANET were determined in Urgench.

The participants thanked the Asian Development Bank and the workshop organizers for important work and hoped that further joint actions on gender development in water sector will contribute to economic, social, and environmental security in the countries.

The workshop was finished and the participants had cultural visit to Khiva, the museum-town more than 2500 years old. Later, a meeting was organized between the GWANET project managers and the national coordinators from the Kyrgyz Republic (Sakhvayeva Yekaterina, senior expert of Water Resources Department of KR) and the Republic of Kazakhstan (Omarbekova Aliya, leading researcher of the Committee for Water Resources, RK). The tasks of national coordinators were set and organization of project activity at national level was discussed at this meeting.

National policy in the field of gender equality in the Republic of Tajikistan

1989

The first NGO (nongovernmental organization) called "Simo" was established

1991

Ministry of Justice registered the first women NGO Association of Women with University Education

1994

Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan was adopted, one article of which guarantees the rights and freedom regardless of nationality, race, gender, language, religion and etc.

Article 17 Men and women have equal rights.

1996

According to Governmental Decree issued on 23 February, the Regulation on the Committee for Women and Family Affairs at the Tajik Government was approved

1997

Tajik President Decree was issued on allocating quotas for girls from distant areas to enter universities

1998

National Action Plan was adopted to increase the role and status of women for 1998-2005.

1999

The first National Gender Report was issued
1 publication "Gender Statistics in the Republic of Tajikistan" was printed

The first manual for institutions of higher education "Gender and Culture" was published, which initiated gender education in the institutions of higher education

2001

"Main directions of government policy in order to guarantee equal rights and opportunities for men and women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2001-2010" Government Program was approved

2002

Commission on Ensuring International Responsibilities in the Field of Human Rights was established at the Tajik Government

Governmental Program "Education in Human Rights" was approved.

Law on "Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights" was adopted.

2003

Start of work on development and discussion of draft Regulation on Family Violence

Changes and amendments to the Land Code on improvement of access to land were made

Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan on human traffic problem were made

2005

Inter-departmental Commission on Fight against Human Traffic was established

Changes and amendments to existing official statistical forms were made in order to reflect women participation in agricultural activities

Law on "State securing of equal rights of men and women and equal opportunities for their implementation" was adopted

The first National Report on "Implementation of convention on liquidation of all forms of discrimination in relation to women in the

Republic of Tajikistan" was submitted to the Committee on Liquidation of All Forms of Discrimination in Relation to Women

Law on "HIV/AIDS reaction" securing all the rights and freedoms in accordance with the Tajik legislation in relation to HIV infected people, AIDS diseased and their family members

The evaluation of requirements for implementation of Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Tajikistan was conducted. Gender equality is considered as one of the key requirements for poverty extermination and achievement of sustainable development.

Tajik President Decree was adopted for extension of quotas for young men and women from distant regions for entering the institutions of higher education

For the first time, 4 women from Tajikistan were nominated and approved to be included into "1000 World Women" Book

2005-2006 National Development Strategy for 2005-2015 and the Poverty Reduction Strategy for 2006-2008 were developed where the primary steps for gender equality promotion in the context of Millennium Development Goals achievement were defined

Ravzana ba Chakhon
No. 1, 2007

Bookshelf



Gender Aspects of Integrated Water Resources Management. The Report on Gender Surveys in Representative Households in Republics: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Edited by Dr. V. I. Sokolov. Tashkent, 2005. - 142 pp.

Today it is no secret for water professionals that gender aspects do have the certain positive potential for improving water resources management and promoting efficiency of water use. Executors of this assignment are sure that presented findings of the gender surveys in countries of Central Asia and Caucasus (by the example of representative districts in rural areas) can help decision-makers, financial agencies, and water professionals to mobilize this earlier ulterior potential for putting it into real practice.



The first Central Asian on-line discussion on "Gender Aspects in Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection in Central Asia". Information and analytical report. Edited by D.R. Ziganshina Bishkek, 2006. - 100 pp.

This publication contains materials on Central Asian on-line discussion, which has reflected different opinions and facts about the influence of gender aspects on political and socio-economic development and on rational environmental use. Particular attention is paid to prospects and ways for sustainable development achievement ensuring gender equality in Central Asia.

The report has been issued by "Electronic Information Network on Environment Protection and Sustainable Development in Central Asia and Russia - CARNet".

News of the Region

UNFPA AND THE WOMEN COMMITTEE OF UZBEKISTAN CONDUCT SEMINARS ON LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

From 6 to 30 June 2007 the Women Committee of Uzbekistan with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) conducted a set of two-day seminars on legal and social issues related to family and assistance to women who have got into critical situation in Andijan and Fergana districts.

The program of each seminar organized for public servants, NGO representative, lawyers, psychologists, teachers and makhalla maslakhatchi (community advisers) includes discussion of gender issues, analysis of life events of women who got into critical situation, information about telephone-based consultation scheme and establishment of a social and legal support center for women.

More information at:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/13-06-2007.htm

STATE SECRETARY OF KYRGYZSTAN HAD TO POSTPONE FOR THE SECOND TIME THE CONSIDERATION OF A DOCUMENT PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN, FAMILY AND GENDER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESIDENT ADMINISTRATION

On 20 June, during the regular meeting of National Council for Women, Family and Gender Development of the President Administration, state secretary Adakhan Madumarov, chair of the Council, had to postpone for the second time the consideration of a document "National action plan for reaching gender equality in Kyrgyzstan for 2007-2010" of this council.

A. Madumarov expressed dissatisfaction with the work of members of the National Council for Women, Family and Gender Development related to elaboration of definite action plans for gender development in Kyrgyzstan for 2007-2010 and improvement of conditions for women.

More information at:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/20-06-2007.htm

JALALABAD LEADER WOMEN STRUGGLE FOR "ZEBRA PRINCIPLE" UNDER PROPORTIONAL PARLIAMENT ELECTION SYSTEM

According to the statement made by Zhanna Saralayeva, head of "Leader Women of Jalalabad" Association at a press-conference held on 20 June, representatives of the organization jointly with "Women can everything" NGO network proposed to introduce two initiatives into draft Code on elections in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In particular, as Zh. Saralaeva said, the organizers were proposed under proportional election system to make party lists based on so called "zebra principle" by alternating the surnames of men and women as well as to create three-mandatory districts on majority system and comprise three lists of candidates in such districts women, men and mixed list.

More information at:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/21-06-2007.htm

A STRATEGY FOR PROMOTION OF WOMEN TO CITY KENESH WAS DISCUSSED IN OSH

A round table discussion on "Strategy development for encouragement of women to active participation at elections of Osh City Kenesh in October 2007" took place On 20 June, in Osh city administration. The round table was organized by public association Center for Women Initiatives "Ayalzat" and Social Fund for Civil Initiatives Support "Kovcheg" under the UN Office in Osh.

As project manager Altyn Kydyrmysheva informed, due to the absence of women in local keneshs and in parliament there is a "lack of women vision in community life", which, in her words, results in a lack of kindergartens, care for young families, child-rearing practices. "Encouragement of women to active participation at elections of Osh City Kenesh, which is planned to take place in October 2007, should be a small rehearsal before Jokorgy Kenesh elections. Therefore, it is necessary to reach good results" said Kydyrmysheva. According to her words, round tables, work meetings with territorial councils representatives

and with future candidates of JK deputies will be conducted in the context of the project.

More information at:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/21-06-2007.htm

EFFECTIVENESS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In the report of President Islam Karimov at the meeting of Cabinet of Ministers dedicated to the results on social-economic development of the country in 2006 and to main priorities of economic reforms deepening in 2007, it was noted that the main priority tasks were all-round support to accelerated small business and private enterprise development and based on this employment welfare improvement.

This issue was discussed at the conference held in the capital which was dedicated to effectiveness of women entrepreneurship. The conference was organized by the Women Committee of Uzbekistan, Business Women Association "Tadbirkor Ayol" and other organizations, and attended by deputies the Oliy Majlis' Legislative Chamber, representatives of the state customs and tax committees, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, Central Bank, National association of nongovernmental noncommercial organizations of Uzbekistan.

More information at:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/25-06-2007.htm

XI SUMMER SCHOOL OF GENDER RESEARCH

The Institute of International summer schools of gender research announced a call for participation in 11th International summer school of gender research, and informs the website of International Center for journalists retraining.

The topic of the school is "Gender and new political challenges", duration time from 16 September to 6 October 2007. Location - Foros village, "Foros" sanatorium (Crimea, Ukraine).

Post-graduates and young teachers from CIS countries engaged in gender research are invited to participate in school.

More information at:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/26-06-2007.htm

EXTENDED CONSULTING MEETINGS RELATED TO GENDER-DISAGGREGATED ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT FOR 2007-2010 CONDUCTED IN BISHKEK

Extended consulting meetings related to gender-disaggregated accountability issues in the context of matrix indicators of monitoring and assessment of Country Development Strategy for 2007-2010 took place on 23-26 June 2007.

The organizers of the current event were the Economic and Social Policy Department of the President Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic and the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. Among the participants of the meetings, there were representatives from ministries and municipalities and other stakeholders who are both users and producers of gender statistics.

In accordance with the Program, a mechanism for presentation of gender-disaggregated accountability on matrix of indicators and figures for monitoring and evaluation of the Country Development Strategy was developed during the meetings.

More information at:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/28-06-2007.htm

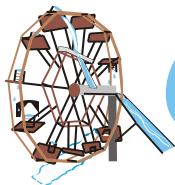
KYRGYZSTAN WOMEN HAVE THE HIGHEST LIFE DURATION AMONG CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

Kyrgyzstan women have the highest life duration among Central Asian countries.

This issue was discussed in annual report published by the UN Population Fund. The report writes that women live longer in Kyrgyzstan (71.9), Uzbekistan is at the second place (70.3), then Kazakhstan (69.7), Turkmenistan (67.4), Tajikistan (67.0). Russia indicators are 58.7 (men) and 71.8 (women).

Among Central Asian countries, Uzbekistan has the highest life duration of men 63.9, then Kyrgyzstan (63.5), Tajikistan (61.6), Turkmenistan (58.9), Kazakhstan (58.6).

More information at:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/30-06-2007.htm



GWANet
Central Asia

Logotype of Gender and
Water Network in Central Asia (GWANET)

GWANET logotype design is based on a water wheel that is a water-lifting facility broadly used in Central Asian countries for irrigation of gardens, vineyards and melon plantations. Water wheel or “charkhpalak” was invented as far back as the 3rd century by ancestry of Khorezm people. Cheapness, practicality and operational safety of this ancient mechanism are still riveting on it the attention of not only farmers, but also scientists who are offering various advanced constructions to apply stream energy under the current conditions.

Gender equality is one of tools for sustainable development of society. That is why a design drawing, which enables to reflect local traditions on the one hand, and the need for development on the other hand, appears to be logical. That water wheel lifts flows using its energy is symbolic. Thus, active participation of all “water wheel” elements - GWANET members will make it possible to use the energy of all stakeholders to ensure gender-sensitive rational use of water and land resources.

Movement as an element of development is the basis for the whole design. This becomes apparent in dynamic lines, quick writing of network title. Moreover, the similarity of lines to plant-beds prepared for irrigation is not accidental. The principal art in water wheel application is to properly locate aryks (ditches) for water supply. This element reflects the need to pave the way for development, i.e. raise awareness and knowledge of gender mainstreaming into water sector, which is the major task of GWANET.

At the same time, for the gender project, it is important to emphasize interaction of feminine and masculine aspects that is reflected in water wheel element. Water wheel includes the most perfect geometric figure, circle, which is a symbol of the world, light and the sun, and as known the sun is a masculine symbol of constructive power. In general, designs based on circle differ in sustainability and integrity.

Water wheel also includes feminine side. Some peoples name water wheel the Venus symbolizing feminine side, a morning star rising and setting as water wheel bucket. This is also a symbol of harmony.

Logo designed by Iskander Ziganshin.

Compiled by D.R. Ziganshina
Edited by I.F. Beglov
Designed by D. Abdurakhmanov

If you have any message or material you wish to post in the Newsletter
or on the project web-site, please, send it on the following address:

Scientific-Information Center SIC ICWC, B-11, Karasu-4, Tashkent, 700187, Republic of Uzbekistan
Tel. (998 71) 166 50 95, Fax. (998 71) 166 50 97
e-mail: info@icwc-aral.uz www.gender.cawater-info.net