

# **GENDER and WATER in CENTRAL ASIA**

**Newsletter of GWANET Network** 

N° 3, August 2007

Workshop «Gender Aspects of Water Management in the Kyrgyz Republic»

On 3rd August 2007, in the Bishkek city the national coordinator of Kyrgyz Republic Ye.P.Sakhvayeva together with the project manager G.V.Stulina organized first national workshop "Gender aspects of water management in the Kyrgyz Republic" within the framework of the project "GWANET Gender and Water Network in Central Asia" supported by ADB. Representatives of national water sector, sanitation and hygiene, leaders of Water User Associations, and NGOs took part in the workshop.

The workshop was opened by the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry, Kyrgyz Republic, B.T.Koshmatov. He briefly dwelled on gender concept and highlighted the process of establishing WUA in the republic.

G.V.Stulina presented to the participants the purposes and objectives of the workshop, as well as of the GWANET project and stated outlines of gender mainstreaming in water management. Then she reported on experience in gender analysis, which was conducted under the projects implemented by SIC ICWC and GWP CACENA.

The primary purpose of the workshop was to encourage the participants to share their opinions about the workshop theme, state the actual stateof-affairs in the sector, in situ, in WUA, and discuss their practices in solving the problems. All the participants were given the possibility to share their wishes.

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Workshop «Gender Aspects of Water Management in the Kyrgyz Republic»



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



Prof. V.A.Dukhovny, Director of SIC ICWC made his report on Gender, Water and MDGs. This report generated great interest and got positive responses.

M.A. Tyubeyev, technical manager of Kyrgyzstan WUA Union presented results of gender research in Water User Associations as undertaken in 2006 under the ADB project "Studying the pricing system and the irrigation cost recovery mechanism". This report provoked active discussions.

Ye.P.Sakhvayeva gave brief analysis of gender equality in the sector.

Reports of F.Mendikulova (Partnership initiative for development), N.S.Vashneva (State sanitary & epidemiological supervision), Ch.Isayeva (Issykkul district water authority), B.G. Shabdanbekova (NGO Ledy-Shirin), etc.

As a result of sharing opinions, the following issues were identified:

Direct dependence of human health, especially of women and children, on drinking water quality, quantity and access. Until now people take water for drinking from the open sources in some areas such as Osh town and many small settlements.

2 Direct dependence of human health, particularly of children, on following the sanitary hygiene rules.

3 Direct dependence of population on their way of using and protecting water conduits and on maintaining of drinking water protective area.

4 There are no projects of water source protective area.

5 As population and in-migration grow, nonirrigated lands that cannot be supplied with water due to lack of appropriate water transportation system become developed. This leads to increased tension on water supply.

Due to deforestation in some river basins, there is intensive soil erosion causing siltation of intake structures. This leads to unsustainable water delivery to members of WUAs.

Lack of equipment (tractors, combines, autotransport, computers, water meters) in WUA. This impedes efficient management in WUA.

8 Lack of knowledge by women of their rights and responsibilities and their inability to protect them.

Solution Low salaries in water sector causes outflow of skilled staff and non-inflow of young specialists. As a result, female staff and managers bear double load.

10 Low involvement of women in leadership of water sector.

Poor awareness of women and men about gender issues.

2 Lack of knowledge, skills and practices in environmentally sustainable nature and land use.

Lack of knowledge and incentives for application of resource-conservation technologies, especially for water.

Lack of research of gender aspects in water, agricultural and environmental sectors.

Irrational use of drinking water (this water is used for irrigation of backyard gardens and not only for drinking and sanitary-hygiene purposes).

**1C** Low paying capacity and ignorance of population as concerns, for example, selection of water-intake types: they select the cheapest one, which cannot guarantee supply of high-quality drinking water.

Poor national economic conditions. This leads to migration outside the republican boundaries, and, as a result, children are left in the charge of grandmother and grandfather or of relatives.

Women, besides paid work, are occupied with (non-paid) housekeeping, children care, which are not taken into account when accounting pension, i.e. social security protection is much lower than that of men. In accounting pension, number of children is not taken into account as well.

Recently, payments to mothers for child birth and care were reduced. As a result, there is not social support of mother and child and the head of family bears triple load for family maintenance.



Based on discussion and written proposals of the participants, the following ways were suggested to solve the problems:

Undertake awareness-raising campaign among the staff of water and agricultural sectors and the farmers about gender issues in form of training, seminars and courses.

Promote environmental education, especially among rural population, and personal hygiene training among children.

3 Decisions regarding supply of population with drinking water should be made on participatory basis.

Implement government programs on drinking water supply and inform population about program progress.

5 Carry out research in order to identify gender problems in water, agricultural, and environmental sectors.

6 Recommend decision-makers to nominate women for managerial positions in the sector and WUA.

7 Train women in methods of gender analysis and gender approach in all fields of activity.

Organize permanent work with farmers and rural people to identify problems.

9 Take part in development of gender-sensitive legislation.

The workshop indicated to awareness of the problems, great activity and interest of the participants. Therefore, it was decided:

• to establish NGO "Gender green movement!" in the Kyrgyz Republic. SIC and ADB are requested to render assistance in its registration;

• to include additional seventeen people, who filled in the registration forms, in GWANET Network;

• place regularly information about project progress on the web-site of the Department for Water Resources.

Finally, the participants expressed their thanks to the Asian Development Bank, SIC ICWC and the organizers for such an important events and hoped on further joint activiti

Gender experience in Central Asia countries: National policy in the field of gender equality in the Republic of Kazakhstan

National Commission on Family Affairs and Gender Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan was formed on February 1, 2006 by the Decree of the Head of State.

The National Commission consists of Parliament deputies, representatives of government bodies, scientists, public figures, heads of large enterprises and non-governmental organizations from all regions, in total 26 people. National Commission's activity is supported by Secretariat composed of 9 people, members of RK Prime Minister Chancellery.

At the local level, assistance is provided by Commissions on Family Affairs and Gender Policy under Akims of the national provinces, of Astana and Almaty, as well as of districts and towns headed by Deputy Akims.

The approved "Strategy for Gender Equality in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2006-2016" defined National Commission's main activity directions. Priority activities of the National Commission of Family Affairs and Gender Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan are as follows:

• Achieve 30% of women representatives at the decision-making level;

• Adopt the Law "On equal rights and opportunities for men and women" and the Law "On domestic violence";

• Gender analysis of current and developed normative legal acts;

Introduction of gender learning and education;

• Increase of women employment especially of rural women;

• Education and involvement of women in small and medium business; introduction of flexible forms of employment;

 Introduction of gender approach into all-levels budget preparation and governmental programs of socio-economic development;

 Strengthening reproductive health of men, women and youth;

• Social support of family, moral and sex education of children and youth;

• Fighting with sexism in the society;

• Informational and educational work aimed to increase gender culture of the society.

Additional information is available at:

#### www.gender-family.kz

Foreign Experience: Gender Water Network

Bringing together students, researchers and professionals in gender & water issues

The Gender Water Network (GWN) links students, professionals and researchers with interest related to gender concerns in water resource management. This includes a gendered view of farming, irrigation, community-based water management, and intra-household allocation and interests in water. The members of the network have a primary focus in the developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. However, we have increasingly come to appreciate the commonalities in the gender concerns in water resource management between Australia and the wider Asia-Pacific region. The Network, therefore, welcomes water professionals and academics from academics from Australia to share their expertise with others.

GWN was established by Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt in 2003 after the success of the Fluid Bonds Workshop held at ANU to celebrate the International Year of Freshwater. In this wellattended workshop, participants shared experiences, case studies and stories about the significant role of gender in water management in Australia and the Asia-Pacific Region.

The workshop was accompanied by the launch of the Fluid Bonds booklet, which outlined in simple words many of the crucial issues linking gender and water.

The GWN is growing as interest arises from students, researchers and professionals working in the field. It now acts as a major voice in 'engendering' the water management sector in the region, as a clearinghouse of information and a platform for sharing common experiences.

#### Currently, the ANU members are from:

Resource Management in the Asia Pacific program (RMAP)

 Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies (RSPAS)

The ANU Institute for Environment

Additional information is available at:

http://rspas.anu.edu.au/gwn/

### Women say ....



# Tajikistan

Tahmina Ergasheva: "One can usually observe that at secondary school, girls study better and more actively until 6th grade". However, after 6th grade for some reasons boys gradually take the lead. This may be because boys do not pay much attention to studies at the beginning, while after some time, having become more mature, they start to perceive studies more seriously? There is another side of the issue. Girl studying at 6th grade is already 12 years old and since that age she becomes involved in domestic tasks such as cleaning, washing, taking care of little brother or sister and other domestic responsibilities that are born by women. As a result after 6th form girls begin to gradually move away from studies. One can also observe different attitudes of parents to daughters and sons: traditionally parents pay more attention to son than to daughter".

### Kyrgyzstan

According to Aynagul Nasyrova, a manager of Rural Consulting Agency, there is no gender problem in relation to women protection on the other hand, men need protection today. As Aynagul stated, men, in contrast to women, experience difficulties with adaptation to market conditions after the collapse of USSR. Unconditionally, the problems with protection of men exist not only in Kyrgyzstan but also in all Central Asian countries; apparently, Aynagul was right and her statement conformed to the discussion of that issue held at international seminar-conference in Almaty in 2004. The lack of working places, low salary in public organizations in cities, absence of startup capital for opening own business, technology, high credit interest rates, small land plots in rural areas force male to move to big cities or outside of the country in search of income.

During the discussion of current issue by rural women of Jil Keldi village, Karasu district, Osh province, women noted that at present a part of men (husbands, sons) in their village are outside of Kyrgyzstan. For this reason, women have to fulfill not only usual domestic tasks but also manage crop areas.

Nine women from this village at the age 50 joined into a group, took 2ha of land and decided to keep house together. Answering the question why they decided to join and work together women "it is easier to work together". For responded example: "I have a plot for growing cotton, without husband I can not handle this area because it is not only difficult physical work but also there is a lack of knowledge. This year I have watered my plot only once, although I should have watered three times by this time; I am not able to confront to men in getting irrigation water in turn by myself, therefore I have to watch my plants drying. Whereas here in group we chose the elder Aynish Kyrgizbaeva, she is our manager, smart, prudent and competent about agriculture. Here we do not have problems with getting water and men do not argue with us. However the problem was with watering the field. Aynish negotiated with male irrigator about watering our field, he agreed and told that for us he would water our field for a half of the price 300 sums per hectare. Aynish said: "We will pay you for watering as everybody else, we do not need trade-offs". However all the womenmembers of the group decided that paying 600 sums to outside worker was too much for one watering, and two women decided to water plots themselves. That is how women without payment water their plots, saving 600 sums from every watering for common benefit".

Discussion conducted with women at the field

revealed an interesting fact: women tend to join into groups in order to survive. It should be noted that this idea belongs to Rural Consulting Agency. However composing group of only womenmembers is the idea of women living in the same village.

During the discussion with women from rural group it was found out that mainly women at the age of 45-50 or older can work at the field. The point is that by this period woman is getting liberated becoming free from domestic responsibilities either her daughter have grown up or the daughter-in-law have appeared, or both factors; moreover, after a long period of marriage both husband and wife adapted to each other and the wife of this age is not a "slave", but has equal rights in the family, and she is no longer under the pressure of husband's parents or brothers and sisters. She either lives separately or husband's parents have died long ago. Of nine members in the rural group half of the women do not have their husbands alive and the women are of advanced age. But they have to earn money for their families. Thus it can be concluded that until certain age woman brings up her children, doing all the housekeeping and she does not have time to work neither at the field nor anywhere else. After children grow up, daughters and daughters-in-law replace them in keeping the house and women become free, getting an opportunity to work outside the house.



Gender mainstreaming in relation to water is defined by the World Water Vision as follows:

"It (the gender approach) includes addressing both practical and gender needs such as improving women's conditions through the provision of water and sanitation closer to their houses as well as strategic gender needs: improving women's position in society by increasing her awareness of her situation and her capacity to take decisions and influence change. A gender approach also seeks to prevent further overburdening of women and stresses the importance of not automatically reinforcing and perpetuating traditional roles. This implies the needs to address men as well as women, since men are required to change their attitude and behaviour to support this".

World Water Vision, 1999



Women have primary roles in the collection, transport, use, and management of water and the promotion of sanitary practices, and yet are hardly involved in decision making in the sector.

> Asian Development Bank. ADB Gender Checklist: Water Supply and Sanitation

In developing the full and effective participation of women at all levels of decision-making, consideration has to be given to the way different societies assign particular social, economic and cultural roles to men and women. There is a need to ensure that the water sector as a whole is gender aware, a process which should begin by the implementation of training programmes for water professional and community or grass root mobilizers.

> Global Water Partnership. Integrated Water Resources Management



#### «Country gender assessment: Republic of Kazakhstan», «Country gender assessment: Kyrgyz Republic», «Country gender assessment: Republic in Tajikistan»

(in English; publications are available for Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan in Russian).

Given country gender assessments (CGA) were prepared with the support of the Regional Department for Eastern and Central Asia and the Department for Regional and Sustainable Development as a part of Asian Development Bank's regional technical assistance project covering four countries Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. In addition to supporting those four states' efforts in promoting gender equality and implementing integrated gender approach in national strategies to reduce poverty, those CGA are aimed to guarantee that ADB operations meet the requirements and responsibilities of the countries in gender-related issues. The authors hope that the reports will also be helpful for governmental and nongovernmental organizations and for people who work in the field of gender issues and development.

«Country gender assessment: Republic of Uzbekistan» (in English and Russian)

This report is one of the series of publications on Country gender assessment undertaken by the Asian Development Bank in order to provide information and gender analysis in developing countriesmembers of ADB. The main objective of the series is to prepare information for elaboration of programs and cooperation strategies, as well as to develop and implement projects. Given CGA for Uzbekistan contains updated information presented in the earlier published brief report "Women in Uzbekistan" issued by ADB in February 2001.

Publications can be downloaded in pdf format on ADB website:

www.adb.org/gender/cga.asp

# Regionalnews

THE NUMBER OF WOMEN-ENTREPRE-NEURS IS INCREASING IN KHORAZM RE-GION

The opportunities for small business development and private entrepreneurship are effectively realized in Khorazm region. As a result of this, the number of women contributing to improvement of human well-being is increasing.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/02-07-2007.htm

#### MEETING AIMED AT ENCOURAGING WOMEN TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY LIFE WAS HELD IN TASHKENT

At the initiative of Women Committee of Uzbekistan, the meeting dedicated to encourage active women participation in community life and the role and importance of Media in this process, took place in Tashkent.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/02-07-2007.htm

THE MESSAGE OF UN SECRETARY GE-NERAL ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD POPULATION DAY

On June 2007, UNFPA, UN Fund for Population Activities, in collaboration with national partners Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Women Committee of Uzbekistan distributed the message of Mr. Pan Gi Mun, the UN Secretary General, on the occasion of World Population Day dedicated this year to the "Men are the partners in protecting maternal health".

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/06-07-2007.htm

WOMEN COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AND UNDP CONDUCTED A SEMINAR ON SOCIAL PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WOMEN

Representatives from state authorities, mahalla committees and non-governmental, non-profit

organizations of Tashkent province participated in the two-day seminar "Social protection of women engaged in migration processes in Uzbekistan", which was organized by Women Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan under assistance of UN Development Program (UNDP) Agency in Uzbekista

The seminar covered the following issues: migration of women, the role of interaction among different organizations in solving the problems of women migration related to job-search, information activity in the context of social protection of women migrated due to job-search and other. The event was organized in the context of declared Year of Social Protection.

More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/09-07-2007.htm

#### BOARD MEETING OF WOMEN COMMITTEE OF UZBEKISTAN WAS GATHERED IN TASHKENT

Responsible officials from ministries, municipalities, agencies, public organizations, activists from mahalla, women committees, consultants on religious and spiritual-moral education took part in the meeting. During the session it was noted that in our country, under the direction of the President Islam Karimov, particular attention is paid to further activation of women participation in government and social building, to increase of their status, to all-round protection of their interests.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/10-07-2007.htm

#### CRISIS CENTER FOR MEN WAS ESTABLI-SHED IN JALALABAD

"Pleada" Crisis Center for men was established in Jalalabad. According to Ulugbek Abdusalomov, the Head of the Center, Chief editor of "Dier" newspaper, the foundation of the Center was triggered by increase in the number of unemployed men and growth in alcoholic dependence.

As Abdusalomov U. asserts, Crisis Center will be aimed to attract funds of international organizations in order to provide legal and psychological assistance to men.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/10-07-2007.htm

MIGRATION, GENDER AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED IN DUSHANBE

International conference "Interaction between government and civil society: experience, results and perspectives" started in Dushanbe on June 9th. The organizer of this event is Social Fund "Perspective plus" under support of Tajikistan government and Tajik Branch of the Open Society Institute Assistance Fund (TBOSIAF).

As TBOSI AF reported, the conference included discussion on three main issues: migration, domestic violence and gender education.

More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/10-07-2007.htm

# THE CHAIRMAN OF CITY WOMEN COUNCIL WAS ELECTED IN JALALABAD

On July 9, at the conference of City Women Council in Jalalabad, Sanamkan Narmatova, the Head of General Service of Jalalabad city administration, was elected as a chairman.

More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/10-07-2007.htm

ISSUES RELATED TO POPULATION AND PROBLEMS WITH MALE DEATH RATE IN KAZAKHSTAN WERE DISCUSSED IN ALMATY

For the last years, the death rate of men capable of working in our country increased almost twice. This has been reported today by Tatiana Slajneva, Deputy Director of National Center on Problems of Healthy Lifestyle Formation (NC PHLF), at the press-conference "Population and problems with male death-rate in RK" in Almaty.

The event is devoted to World Population Day celebrated today. The organizer of the event is UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). According to its representatives, this year the motto of the Day is "Men in work". Current topic is focused on four main areas: support of pregnant women, care for young children, participation in education of daughters, equal responsibilities of fathers and mothers in bringing up their children. THE PRESENTATION OF JOURNAL "RAVZANA BA CHAHON" TOOK PLACE IN KULYAB

Presentation of illustrated journal "Ravzana ba chavon" (meaning "window to the world") took place at the end of the last week in Kulyab. The editorial staff of the journal has discussed how should the journal revealing topical gender problems look like today.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/16-07-2007.htm

ISHANGULIEVA O. WAS ELECTED A CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL CENTER OF TRADE UNIONS AND WOMEN UNION OF TURKMENISTAN

As State Information Agency of Turkmenistan reported, organizational issues were considered at the meeting of National Center of Trade Unions and the plenary session of Women Union of Turkmenistan conducted in the Turkmen capital city. Due to appointment of Yazmuhammedova M. to the position of vice-premier, elections of chairman of National Center of Trade Unions and Women Organization took place in the state government. Ogulhadjat Amanmyradovna Ishagulyeva was unanimously elected for those positions.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/16-07-2007.htm

"61 WOMEN WERE AMONG THE CAN-DIDATES NOMINATED BY PARTIES FOR OLIY MAJLIS MEMBERS" TURGANKULOV R., THE CHAIRMAN OF CEC, RK.

Of 400 RK Parliament's Majlis membercandidates 61 were women. This information was provided by the chairman of Central Election Committee, Kaundyk Turgankulov, at the CEC meeting.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/18-07-2007.htm

#### "50 WOMEN, 50 DAYS" CAMPAIGN WAS COMPLETED IN NOOKEN DISTRICT

"50 women, 50 days" campaign was completed in Nooken district of Jalalabad region. According to Tajikan Samidinova, the Deputy Akim, the Chairman of Women Council, meetings with population, aimed to clarify goals and objectives of that republican campaign, were held in 8 rural and 1 town councils during a month.

As Samidinova T. notes, the networks of women were organized at those meetings to facilitate active participation of women at the upcoming elections at the local level. In order to implement this, as Samidinova T. says, particular funds are currently established to provide financial assistance to women who decided to participate at the elections.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/18-07-2007.htm

OFFICERS OF UNDP ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS GAINED SKILLS TO INTEGRATE GENDER APPROACHES INTO THEIR ACTIVITIES

Officers of UNDP Environmental projects participated in the training on "Integration of gender approaches into UNDP Environmental project activities". The trainers - Anastasia Divinskaya, the coordinator of UNDP Gender programs, and Olga Filippova, the expert of economical and social policy, Department of KR President Administration, told about theoretical and practical aspects of gender relations, formation of "gender" concept in UN, policy and strategies of the countries to achieve gender equality, as well as about the results of gender analysis of UNDP project "Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Sustainable Development".

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/23-07-2007.htm

#### TRAINING ON DEMOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

On July 2428, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the support of UNFPA, UN Fund for Population Activities, will conduct training on "Demographical processes and their effect on socioeconomical development" for ministerial staff. Given training program is held in the context of collaboration of UNFPA with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection on capacity building in the field of demography and population, including collection and analysis of statistical data. UNFPA invited international consultant in order to conduct current training session.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/24-07-2007.htm

FINAL REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE OF WOMEN WING "FAOL AYOLLAR" TO BE CONDUCTED

In the second decade of August 2007, the final republican conference of Women wing "Faol Ayollar" will be conducted in Tashkent city. The objective of current conference is to form coordinating bodies of the party's women wing at the national level and identify priority directions of active women members of the party, taking into account program directives of NDP of Uzbekistan for ensuring full participation of women in social and political, spiritual and cultural life and development of their political activity.

More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/24-07-2007.htm

#### UN COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN CELEBRATES ITS 25 ANNIVERSARY

The CEDAW Committee started its 39th in New York on Monday. For the first time 23 experts of the Committee from different regions around the world gathered together 25 years ago. As News Center of UN reports, they were to implement into practice noble principles of new Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

The Convention was adopted in 1979. Today 185 countries are the parties of the Convention. All of them have to comply with the provisions of Convention and be accountable to the Committee of independent experts.

More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/25-07-2007.htm

THE STUDENTS OF LAW CLINIC DISCUSSED THE ISSUES OF GENDER EQUALITY

Students of the Law Clinic at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) took part in summer school "Protection of civil rights in judicial proceedings", with particular attention to gender and ecological issues.

The summer school was conducted in the context of the UNDP project "Legal assistance and increased legal competence of population for improved access to justice" aimed to ensure access to justice for people who do not have or have limited resources to get legal services of attorneys.

About 40 students of the Law Clinic attended this school, which covered the issues related to international and national standards of gender equality in Uzbekistan, ecological rights of citizens and their protection, declamatory art and ethics during judicial proceedings.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/26-07-2007.htm

# SEMINAR FOR WOMEN-CANDIDATES TO DEPUTIES TOOK PLACE IN SHIMKENT

A seminar-training "Selective techniques and increased electoral activity of women" was held in Shimkent "It was organized and conducted by the representatives of Association "YUKO Civil Alliance" and Commission on Family Affairs and Gender Policy under akim of the region" reported Kazinform.

The seminar-training in the context of women political leadership school was devoted to elections for local representative agencies which would be held on August 18, 2007. Womencandidates for deputies of local maslihat at all levels took part in the seminar.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/26-07-2007.htm

#### 15 PERCENT OF CANDIDATES FOR RK PARLIAMENT'S MAJLIS DEPUTIES ARE WOMEN ROUND TABLE

In the list of registered candidates for RK Parliament's Majlis, 15% of the total number of participants are women. This information was

reported by Rashida Naybetovayu, the chief expert of National Commission on Family Affairs and Gender Policy Secretary under the President of RK, during the round table "Provision of gender equality in the electoral processes".

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/26-07-2007.htm

KYRGYZSTAN ADOPTED ACTION PLAN FOR 2007-2010 AIMED TO ENSURE GENDER EQUALITY

Kyrgyz authorities adopted action plan for 2007-2010 aimed to ensure gender equality. According to observers, in order to strengthen the role of women in policy making, the plan requires stable financial inflow and changes to electoral legislation.

More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/28-07-2007.htm

# JAPAN OPENS THE CENTER FOR RURAL WOMEN SUPPORT IN UZBEKISTAN

As Economic Cooperation Department of Japan Embassy in Uzbekistan reported to REGNUM IA, the opening ceremony of the Center for rural women support in Qibray district of Tashkent province will take place today, on June 31, at 10 a.m. (mosc).

The Japanese government's grant for smallscale social projects, amounting more than 20000 USD, was used to equip the Center with sewing machines, computers, and office furniture. A representative of Japan Embassy added that women of Qibray district are now given an opportunity to increase qualification, exchange experience and solve employmentrelated problems at the Center.

> More information on: www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/31-07-2007.htm



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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:

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