



GENDER and WATER in CENTRAL ASIA

Newsletter of GWANET Network

№ 4, September 2007

Training workshop «The basis of gender theory and gender analysis methodolo- gy in context of water resources management»

The workshop was organized by SIC ICWC and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and held in the city of Tashkent from 25 to 28 September 2007.

This regional workshop brought together water professionals and representatives of non-government organizations from all the five Central Asian republics. The objective was to give training on gender and water issue. Since the workshop was held within the framework of the joint project of SIC and ADB on the establishment of network GWANET, the project manager Galina Stulina described to the participants the project and its objectives. She pointed to the following project objectives:

- Raising awareness and promoting gender mainstreaming in the region
- Attaining more knowledge and understanding of gender issues in water management
- Building a platform for women's voices within the water governance structures of the region
- Laying the foundation of further cooperation leading to successful gender sensitive water management
- Creating the network among concerned agencies and individuals to facilitate further cooperation both at national and regional level.

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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*



The ADB's representative Mekhri Khudai-berdiyeva told about ADB activities and stressed in particular that ADB realized an importance of this issue and supported it since water sector concerned both men and women. Gender mainstreaming may contribute to increased efficiency of water sector and related agriculture, thus improving the well-being and finally achieving the main ADB's goal of poverty reduction in the region.

Dinara Alimjanova, gender expert and director of Tashkent Training Center, gave training adapted to the audience. The training workshop was held in form of presentations made by the trainer and trainees, group-work and practices. The following issues were addressed: gender concept; interpretations of this concept; gender stereotypes; and, methods and tools of gender analysis. Each training day was started with monitoring and assessment of the previous day by each national group.

In the first day, the participants were proposed to formulate their visions of given problem. Some of them are listed below:

Sakhvayeva Yekaterina, Department for Water Resources, Kyrgyzstan: "Gender is a mutual understanding by and mutual opportunities for men and women in water resources management. I was glad that ADB has undertaken this activity."

Isayeva Chinar, chief of District Water Management Organization, Kyrgyzstan: "I am a hydraulic engineer and I like my job very much. However, I was wondering always why women were not enough active in water sector. Moreover, recently, social activity has gone down, especially

among the youth. I am glad that this subject is addressed at last."



Tyubeyev Moldabek, WUA Union, Kyrgyzstan: "this topic is important for both men and women. Lack of consideration for men and women creates social tension."

Ergasheva Takhmina, SESI, Tajikistan: "I have been dealing with gender issues for two years. Gender is possession of equal rights by men and women. Currently women have no access to the decision-making. Such situation should be reversed since all interests are to be considered equally in the water sector."

Bakhojayeva Dilorom, SESI, Tajikistan: "Tackling gender problems helps to improve the lives of both men and women."

Khasanova Natalya, Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, Tajikistan: "After the civil war, farming mainly fell on shoulders of women, who had no special education, especially in irrigation. Thus, there is a need for raising their educational level."

Umarbekova Aliya, Committee for Water Resources, Kazakhstan: "Gender implies equal opportunities. Unfortunately, there are very few women-decision makers in managerial state machinery, including in water sector."

Tileukulova Svetlana, OO, Kazakhstan: "Gender is possession of equal rights. We should promote this process and I wish success to all of you in this endeavor."





Kozhamkulova, BWA, Kazakhstan: “Men dominate over women in water sector. The involvement of women will increase efficiency of the sector since women always know clearly their responsibilities and arrange business.”

Akhmedhojayeva Ifoda, NTC Toza Darya, Uzbekistan: “Eastern mentality implies that the main destiny of woman is to breed children and keep her house. We should provide opportunities for woman to find herself as a professional and educate men in such a way so that they offer such opportunities for women.”

Each national representative made a presentation, which addressed issues proposed beforehand to national coordinators for discussion in their reports:

- ① Socio-economic analysis of national situation, including the basic indicators of economic growth
- ② Comparative analysis of indicators regarding gender equality in area of education, health-care, market labor, and inputs (including water) access
- ③ Visions by the participants of gender issues in area of water resources management in their respective countries

The presentations were made by the following national coordinators: Sakhvayeva Yekaterina, Kyrgyzstan; Umarbekova Aliya, Kazakhstan; Akhmedhojayeva Ifoda, Uzbekistan; Khasanova Natalya, Tajikistan. Veliyeva Gulalek made a presentation as a representative of Turkmenistan.

All the presentations indicated to current gender problem in water sectors in CAR.

D. Alimjanova showed in expert analysis of Gender-related Development Index (GDI) that none government approached an ideal gender balance (taken as 1.0). The more advanced country in this respect is Norway, with its index of 0.96. The Central Asian republics take the next positions: Kazakhstan 61st place, GDI = 0.772; Kyrgyzstan 83rd place, GDI = 0.701; Uzbekistan 84th place, GDI = 0.694; and, Tajikistan 91st place; GDI = 0.648.

The negative factors of gender inequality are linked with the following:

- Real democracy cannot be developed if 50% of population is disregarded
- Insufficient activity of women implies a loss of qualified and educated human resources
- Gender inequality may lead to social tension and instability in both family and society as a whole.

The issue of gender and development:

- Raises issues of unequal social roles of men and women in the development process
- Helps to identify a source of gender inequality and influence the former
- Is aimed at reaching equal social roles of men and women in a society
- Takes care of equal rights and responsibilities for men and women
- Considers the needs of each family member
- Leads to projects, where both men and women are involved
- Puts emphasis on equality to attain goods.

All those items were addressed in the presentation of D.Alimjanova. She illustrated



gender stereotypes through the division of men and women by profession, the gender analysis of school manuals, and development of these stereotypes since the childhood. Moreover, the list of male and female characteristics and the following interchange of the titles showed that there was only one distinction, that is male cannot be a biological mother and female cannot be a biological father. Gender deconstruction does not imply the disappearance of distinctions between men and women but it means their social equal rights.

The workshop discussions were very lively. Two days dedicated to consideration of general concepts and methodologies brought the participants to the issue of gender and water. The participants raised several problems and proposed ways for solution. The topics under consideration included a gender component: "Investigation of water users' society for availability of woman-leaders at present and in the future in Uzbekistan", "Improvement of living conditions of rural men and women", "Promoting women to the top echelons of power in the water sector", "Ensuring quality drinking water for rural settlements under gender policy", "Improvement of water management, automation of gauging



stations and establishment of a united network", "Improving conditions of the irrigation network in WUAs", and "The strategy of promoting gender movement in water and agricultural sectors".

The work was organized in form of group debates, with following discussion of results by all the participants.

Finally, each participant prepared an individual work plan. In such plans the participants planned monitoring of gender balance in water-related agencies, lectures, trainings in focus groups, discussions in situ on the topic "Water and gender", extension of GWANET network, writing of articles, and contributions to the project web-site.



The individual plans were submitted to project managers and will be returned to each participant in 2 months to supervise his/her obligations.

The interesting answers of the participants to a questionnaire are shown below:

1 Which problems, in your opinion, are the most topical and need deeper studies in the context of Central Asian region?

Answers:

"Qualitative and quantitative methods of gender analysis"; "Education and job placement of woman-water workers", "Role of women in water-related system management", "Irrigation water saving and WUA development, women participation", "Quality of teaching staff", "Stereotypes regarding roles of women in the society and industry", "Statistics in water resources use and management", and "Gender statistics in water sector".

2 Which directions should address additional training at the macro-level?

All the participants answered that it is necessary to raise awareness of leaders and decision-



makers at all levels, including local administrations, ministries, and water management organizations. There is a need to inform the leaders about the results of social polls on gender aspects. It was proposed to hold training on gender and water for the members of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC).

3 What do you propose for holding such trainings in the future?

Answers:

“Holding trainings in each republic, at rayon level, with involvement of farmers and wider representation of men”.



Gender equity requires equal enjoyment by women and men of socially valued goods, opportunities, resources and rewards.

Gender equity does not mean that women and men become the same, but that their opportunities and life chances are equal.



Foreign Experience: The Socio-economic and Gender Analysis Programme (SEAGA)

The Socio-economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) Programme was established in 1993 to promote gender awareness when meeting development challenges. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initially undertook the development of the SEAGA materials.

Aims

To increase awareness of and sensitivity towards gender issues, as well as to strengthen the capacity of development specialists to incorporate socio-economic and gender analysis considerations into development planning.

Goal

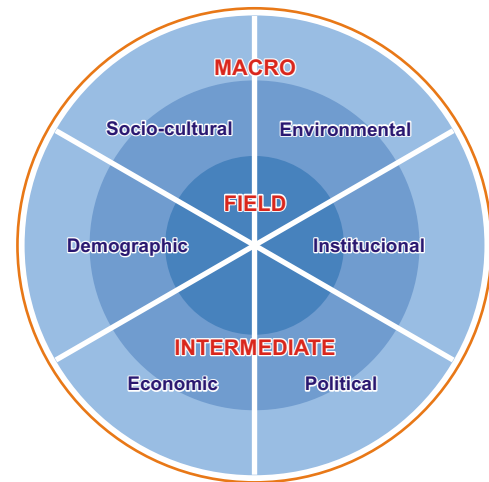
To incorporate socio-economic and gender considerations into development projects programmes and policies in order to ensure that all development efforts address the needs and priorities of both men and women.

Guiding Principles

- Gender roles and relations are of key importance.
- Disadvantaged people should be a priority in development initiatives.
- Participation of local people is essential for sustainable development.

Approach

SEAGA emphasises the socio-cultural, economic, demographic, political, institutional and environmental factors that affect the outcome of development initiatives and the linkages between them from a gender perspective. Furthermore, SEAGA examines the linkages among these factors at three levels - macro (programmes and policies), intermediate (institutions) and field (communities, households and individuals).



Through this holistic vision of development, SEAGA provides an approach that seeks to:

- understand gender roles and relations, understand the socio-economic factors that affect development,
- account for and support disadvantaged people,
- ensure the active participation of all stakeholders,
- identify the linkages among different stakeholder groups,
- use bottom-up approaches to prioritise development initiatives,
- promote a participatory process in planning and implementing development activities and policies,
- facilitate network building among development workers and encourage the exchange of views and experiences.

How does the SEAGA programme work?

The programme:

- has developed a set of handbooks (Field/Intermediate/Macro Level) and guides and it continues to revise and update these publications based on feedback and experiences from its users;
- develops new guides that incorporate socio-economic and gender analysis into a specific sector/technical field;
- disseminates its publications to development specialists.
- Organises workshops in "socio-economic and Gender Analysis" and "Training of Trainers" worldwide;
- collaborates with other projects and programmes within FAO and with other external development initiatives in providing technical support in socio-economic and gender analysis;

- establishes a network of development specialists familiar with the Socio-economic and Gender Analysis Programme so that they may exchange views and experiences on integrating gender issues into development strategies;
- releases a newsletter that promotes the exchange of information amongst development specialists.

SEAGA Publications

The SEAGA publications offer practical tools and methods for integrating socio-economic and gender issues at different levels and within different technical areas.

- macro, Intermediate and Field Level Handbooks

The three Handbooks provide practical information on how to undertake socio-economic and gender analysis at the respective levels. Each Handbook presents case studies and tools to help development practitioners collect, analyse and use information. Each Handbook also suggests methods for integrating the findings to policy programme and project identification and formulation.

- the Guides

These are issue and sector specific guides that integrate socio-economic and gender analysis. For example, the 'SEAGA Sector guide on Irrigation' combines irrigation issues and practices with socio-economic and gender analysis concerns.

The emphasis is on 'why' and 'how' to plan activities in a participatory way. The guides use real examples and studies to illustrate main issues and the practical use of tools and concepts.

- the SEAGA information kit

These documents briefly illustrate what the programme is about and how it works.

Target Audience

SEAGA targets three levels of people who work in development.

- field workers

Extensionists, government and non-government field workers, private- and public-sector development consultants, community organisers and leaders of local groups and institutions. The SEAGA Field Handbook assists these agents who work directly with local communities in the participatory identification of the needs and priorities of local men and women from different socio-economic groups.

- development planners

Development planners in public and private sector institutions. The SEAGA Intermediate Handbook supports the identification and analysis of the linkages between macro and field levels. It also assists in the assessment of the institution's organisational mechanism from a gender perspective.

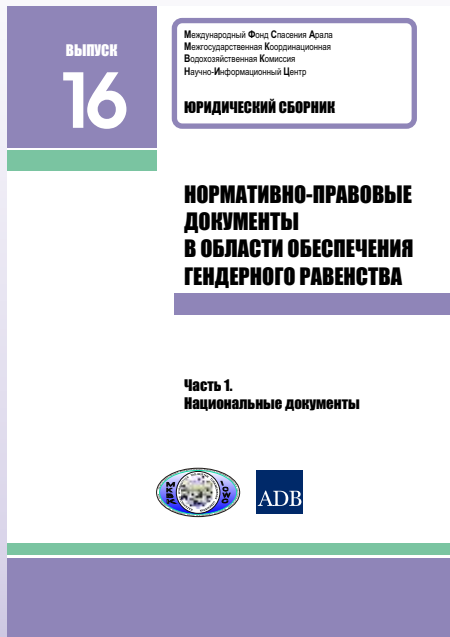
- policy makers

Policy- and decision-makers who work at the international and/or national level; ministry officials, heads of non-governmental agencies or private institutions, who are involved in national or international policy making. The SEAGA Macro Handbook not only facilitates gender mainstreaming in programmes and policies, like the other SEAGA Handbooks it also provides a conceptual framework, methods and tools that support participatory development planning.

To know more please visit:

www.fao.org/sd/seaga/

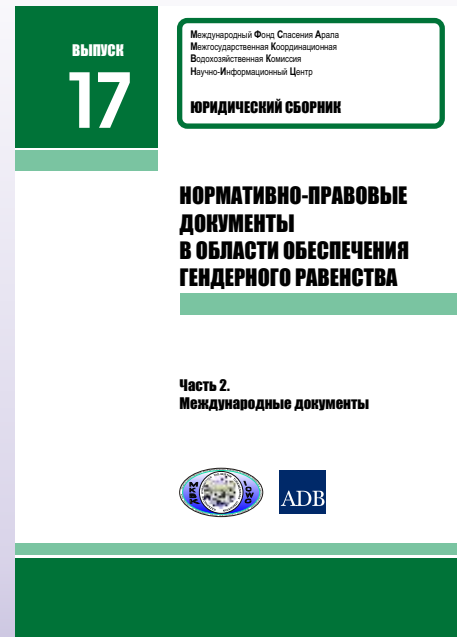
Bookshelf



Legal and regulatory framework for gender equity.

Volume 1: National framework

(series «SIC's Collection of Legal Documents», issue 16, August 2007)



Legal and regulatory framework for gender equity.

Volume 2: International framework

(series «SIC's Collection of Legal Documents», issue 17, September 2007)



The collections published in SIC ICWC contain international and national legal And regulatory frameworks for gender equity.

The collections are downloadable on

www.gender.cawater-info.net/publications/books.htm

Regional news

FEMALE TYRANT

More accidents of husband beating by their wives have led to the establishment of Crisis Center for Men in the city of Karaghanda.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/01-08-2007.htm

FERGHANA WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL PROTECTION OF FEMALE MIGRANT WORKERS

About 30 representatives of public agencies, "Makhallya" Foundation branches and NGOs in Ferghana province took part in the two-day workshop on "Social Protection of Women Affected by Labor Migration in Uzbekistan", which was organized by Women's Committee of Uzbekistan under support of UNDP Office in Uzbekistan.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/02-08-2007.htm

FOR THE FIRST TIME A WOMAN LEADS UNESCAP

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Noeleen Heyzer of Singapore as Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/03-08-2007.htm

«TRUSTBANK»: STIRRING UP WOMEN'S BUSINESS

Proceeding from the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan of 25 May 2004 "About additional measures to support activities of Women's Committee in Uzbekistan", «Trustbank» is placing special emphasis on stirring up economic activity of women and supporting their business. To this end, the bank allocated almost 879 M soms for the development of the industrial sector of businesswomen.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/05-08-2007.htm

A BOOK ABOUT 100 FAMOUS WOMEN IS WRITTEN IN ZHALALABAD PROVINCE

As the book's author, a journalist of Zhalalabad State television and radio broadcasting company Mubara Abdulatipova tells the heroines are women, who became famous for their work in various spheres of life, as well as mother-heroines who gave birth to and brought up 10 children and more.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/06-08-2007.htm

KAZAKH EXPERT ABOUT FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS: FEW OR NONE WOMEN ARE IN PARTY TICKETS

There will be more women than men in election centers during the day of election to madjilis (the lower chamber of Parliament) and maslikhats (regional legislative assembly). Nevertheless, gender issue is still topical. This opinion was shared by Karlygash Nugmanova, Doctor of Political Science and a member of Kazakhstan's Businesswomen Association.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/06-08-2007.htm

ALMATY WILL SEE THE FIRST ISSUE OF BUSINESS JOURNAL FOR WOMEN - BUSINESSWOMEN.KZ

The presentation of the business journal «Businesswomen.kz» will be held on 14 August in the city of Almaty. The main idea of the journal is to present the business world through the eyes of women. An ideological initiator and founder of the journal is the Kazakhstan's Businesswomen Association, which experience and authority over 11-year activity in the Kazakh society is backed by such big and successful projects as Eurasian Summit of Women, Almaty Gender Ball, and the program "History. Women. Kazakhstan".

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/10-08-2007.htm

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION FOR FAMILY AFFAIRS AND GENDER POLICY AT AKIM OF SOUTH-KAZAKHSTAN PROVINCE HAVE SIGNED AN APPEAL TO ELECTORATE

Members of the Commission for Family Affairs and Gender Policy at Akim of South-Kazakhstan province have signed an appeal to electorate of South Kazakhstan. The activists call on their compatriots to take active part in elections and vote for candidate member-women of maslikhats at all levels.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/10-08-2007.htm

REVIEWING ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN'S COMMITTEES IN TASHKENT PROVINCE

The portback election meetings of Women's Committees in cities and rayons of Tashkent province analyze work progress and achievements over the last two years, propose correction measures and plan future activities.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/18-08-2007.htm

WOMAN IS PROPOSED AS A CANDIDATE VICE-MAYOR IN ZHALALABAD

A day or two ago, Zhalalabad province Coordination Women's Council submitted to the Mayor Duishonaly Mamasaliyev an application, where the authors stated that "the city administration did not create favorable conditions for exercising women's rights and freedoms" and thought that "this did not meet the gender policy in the Kyrgyz Republic".

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/21-08-2007.htm

THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY FOR 2007-2010 WAS APPROVED IN KR.

As press relations service of the Head of State informed, the respective decree was signed by the President of KR.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/22-08-2007.htm

FOUR WOMEN ARE THE MEMBERS OF NEW PROVINCIAL MASLIKHAT

Four women were elected to a new membership of East Kazakhstan Province Maslikat, while other 39 members are male.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/23-08-2007.htm

ANNOUNCED CONTEST FOR THE BEST COVERAGE OF ISSUES ON ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The UNDP Project "Legislation and Institutional Capacity Development for Women's Empowerment in Uzbekistan" in partnership with Women's Committee of Uzbekistan announced a competition for journalists for the best coverage of issues on elimination of discrimination against women in order to promote implementing the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in print-media, TV and radio stations and Internet outlets in Uzbekistan.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/23-08-2007.htm

WOMEN GOVERN MORE THAN 17 THOUSAND INDIVIDUAL FARMS

Out of current 212 thousand individual farms in Uzbekistan, women govern more than 17 thousand farms. Therefore, raising their level of professional, legal, and economic knowledge and assisting them in farm inputs and production become more important.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/24-08-2007.htm

PROJECT FOR PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY IN ESTABLISHING GORKENESH INITIATED IN OSH CITY

Social fund "Kovchieg" and Association of Women's Initiative Center "Ayalzat" with the support of OSCE Resident Mission initiated awareness campaign in order to promote gender equality in establishing Osh City Kenesh.

More information on:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/25-08-2007.htm

TWICE AS MUCH DEPUTY-WOMEN IN NEW CONVOCATION OF MAJILIS

Deputy-women will be as twice as much in new convocation of Majilis. This was stated by Deputy Party Chairman Bakytjan Zhumagulov at briefing after the meeting of People's Democratic Party bureau.

More information on:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/25-08-2007.htm

WOMAN'S LEADERSHIP SCHOOL IN SEMEY

Woman's leadership school keeps on its activities in Semey. Regular meeting of the school was held in City Akimat (administration). The meeting was dedicated to recently adopted constitutional reforms. Cand. Sc. History Maigul Matayeva presented analysis of those reforms.

More information on:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/28-08-2007.htm

SEVERAL WOMEN FROM BATKENT WON UNIFEM COMPETITION

Several women from Batkent won the competition of UNIFEM "Kyrgyzstan's women in rural development".

More information on:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/30-08-2007.htm

OSCE WORKSHOP ON GENDER ISSUES IN CONTEXT OF SECURITY IN TAJIKISTAN

Gender mainstreaming in security of Tajikistan was the topic of workshop organized by OSCE Center in the city of Dushanbe. As OSCE Center reported, the two-day workshop helped to raise public awareness about a role of woman in searching ways for implementing UN's resolution 1325 on woman, peace and security.

More information on:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/05-09-2007.htm

MODERN WOMAN: FACETS OF TALANT

Public Association "Women's Assembly" announced a new competition "Woman of Year". Now the most tender, kindest, and economical representative of the fair sex will be granted this title on annual basis.

More information on:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/06-09-2007.htm

SURVEYS OF RED CRESCENT IN KYRGYZSTAN: WOMEN SUFFER MORE OFTEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SOCIALLY VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENT

A survey conducted by the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan showed that domestic violence and discrimination of women and gender inequality are the most critical issues in socially vulnerable environment. Thus, low educational level, poverty, and lack of possibilities became the reasons of woman's engagement in prostitution. According to data of Red Crescent, due to despair and in search of a job, about 4 thousand women in Kyrgyzstan every year go to Gulf countries, where they often fall a prey to white slavery.

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

THE KYRGYZ RED CRESCENT SOCIETY'S PROJECT ON SUPPORTING SOCIALLY VULNERABLE WOMEN IN KYRGYZSTAN IS EXTENDED TO 2009

The Kyrgyz Red Crescent Society's project on supporting socially vulnerable women in Kyrgyzstan will be operational till 2009. This was reported to mass media by Djamilya Shayahmetova, Coordinator of the Society's Program "Strengthening and improving socio-economic conditions for vulnerable women".

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

CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FAMILY AFFAIRS AND GENDER POLICY AT THE PRESIDENT OF RK REPORTED AT THE WORLD WOMEN'S FORUM IN SEOUL

The World Women's Forum was organized by the Ministry for Gender Equality and Family of South Korea and the State TV Company "Munhva" on 12-14 September in the city of Seoul. Aitkul Samakova, Deputy of Parliament Majilis and Chairman of National Commission for Family Affairs and Gender Policy reported at the forum as a specially invited guest in section "Role of women in governance and their success".

More information on:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/14-09-2007.htm



SEMINAR ON EQUAL RIGHTS OF MEN AND WOMEN

On 89 September in Tashkent province, Uzbekistan, representatives of Women's Committee of Uzbekistan took part in the two-day workshop "Activities of Women's Committee of Uzbekistan in implementing the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)" organized by UNDP Office in Uzbekistan.

More information on:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/15-09-2007.htm

ACTIVITY OF REHABILITATION CENTER FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN

A press-conference on activities of the Rehabilitation Center for Vulnerable Women was held in Zhalalabad Information Center for Democracy Support.

More information on:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/17-09-2007.htm

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