

**In Central Asia** 

Nº 4 (11) April 2008

# and WATER

**Newsletter of GWANET Network** 

## Seminar "Gender and Water in Central Asia", Almaty, 3 April 2008

The seminar "Gender and water in Central Asia" was held on 3 April in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The seminar was attended by 31 people. The seminar was held somewhat unusually. Or rather the beginning of the seminar was unusual. Seminar was delayed because everybody waited for Omarbekova Aliya, the national coordinator.

Aliya 'was stolen" for marriage from the gender seminar. All people were very glad and enjoyed in a certain sense to hear this news. The folk traditions are still taking place. Of course, it is impossible to "steal" such a modern educated girl like Aliya without her consent. And let a wedding ceremony remains in the traditional form. Let it will be an amusing game. But let us wish to all Kazakh girls to have the right to choose a partner in their lives and let them to be picked up on a horse by their beloved and cherished men. We sincerely congratulate our Aliya and wish her the everlasting happiness.

Kazakhstan is a republic where the gender legislation is developed and valid.

Policies and programs aiming to achieve the gender equality are adopted in Kazakhstan: The public policy concept on advancement of women status in the Republic of Kazakhstan (1997); The National Action Plan on the Advancement of Women Status in the Republic of Kazakhstan (1999); The gender policy concept in the Republic of Kazakhstan (2003); The gender policy concept and the Millennium Development Goals (2004); The Education Development Concept (2004); The policies for gender equality in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the period of 2006-2016 (2005).



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The institutional mechanism to guarantee the gender equality was developed. But until now there is a difference: economically inactive population is 61.8% among women and 38.2% among men with the human development index is higher for women than for men; the average monthly earnings for women is 61% of earnings for men. The selective survey data of the Population Time Budget (PTB) are characterized by the inequality of the gender distribution of the timing budgets and allow drawing a conclusion about the existing gender disparities in the society:

• The time distribution structures reflect the national stereotypes of the distribution features of gender's roles in housework.

• Women bear the main responsibility for carrying out the everyday problems. Their homework is not paid but their contribution to ensure the household functioning is more than of men.

• The family responsibilities turn women to a less profitable labour force and do not allow them to be competitive in the labour-market like men.

• Unpaid work reduces the leisure-time and affects the health of women. Maintenance of the subsistence farming requires unpaid work by all family members, especially by women, for the crop processing and for cooking. In the less provided households this takes more time than in the more wealthy ones, which can buy food with money.

• Unpaid work of women in the market conditions replaces a large number of social services earlier provided by the State (care for the sick, children, etc.), which leads to the decreasing aggregate demand for services and products from poor families.

• Differences in the gender distribution of the timing budgets underlie the differing status of men and women in the labour market and in the economic sphere.

• Women have not only less opportunities at the labour market but they have less spare time, which can be used for investments to their human capital.

At present, the Gender and Water Movement is being developed with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank. The seminar was attended by representatives of UN and of the water organizations.



## Aral Sea Basin: Conditions and Living Standards Gender Aspect in Socio-ecological Situation in Priaralie

#### G. V. Stulina, O. G. Poltareva

The Aral Sea disaster and ecological crisis in the region has caused huge economic losses, affected living standards and health of population in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and in the Aral Sea basin as a whole. The socially vulnerable groups (women and children) were the first who have been affected by the ecological disaster. In the epicenter of ecological disaster attention should be focused on reproductive health, maternal mortality, and social status and role of women in the rural community, as well as on women's employment in the rural area because it has reached 90%. ("Reclamation of dried Aral Sea bottom and situation in agriculture and economy of the Republic of Karakalpakstan", GTZ, 2004). Unemployment rate in Karakalpakstan is two times higher than that of on average in Uzbekistan with its highest level in Muinak region. There is also a significant proportion of population in Priaralie with part-time employment. Such situation leads to increase in number of households with guite low income, population impoverishment and decrease of living standards.

Priaralie is the zone with the most difficult socioeconomic conditions in Central Asia. By the purchasing power parity the gross national product per capita here is less by 40%, and the average monthly salary is 1.3 times less than that of on average in Uzbekistan. Amongst human development indices identified by the oblasts and zones of the Republic of Uzbekistan the lowest one is in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.



Dry channel of the Amudarya river



Population migration has led to the significant losses in mental and qualified workers. Provided that working capacity coefficient of each family is 3.0, loss of workers is estimated as 5.5 thousand of the most qualified specialists. Taking into account that education cost per capita is USD10 thousand, the total losses of the intellectual capacity in Priaralie is estimated in the amount of USD55 million.

Population migration from the littoral districts of Karakalpakstan (especially from Muinak district) reached its peak in 1970-1980, when highly productive fishery, fish processing industry and navigation have lost their economic significance. During this period some 14.5 thousand people, (including 3.2 thousand of qualified specialists, German, Russian, Ukrainian with their families who from everlasting have worked as sailors, fishermen, in fish processing industry) moved out from Priaralie.

After 1996, migration (from Priaralie, in particular) was stabilized to some extent. However, population number is decreasing in some districts. Population migrates mostly from rural areas to cities, causing problems associated with overpopulation of the latter. Dwellers of such settlements as Muinak are mainly women and schoolchildren.

Population diseases in the region are first of all associated with deterioration of drinking water

quality, climate change, and malnutrition due to low households income. As a result, infant mortality rate as well as population in general is higher in this region.

Comparison of food pattern and nutrition standards has indicated that over the period 1994-1996, consumption of meat and milk products was sharply reduced in Karakalpakstan, while consumption of bakery foods and pastry increased. Overall foodstuff consumption in Karakalpakstan is lower than that of on average in Uzbekistan. The main reasons for this are decrease of households' income and growing difference between foodstuff availability and purchasing capacity of population.

There is no considerable difference in age structure of population in Priaralie as well as in the level of education. However, variation in employment pattern and income distribution is wide.

Review and analysis of trends in the current situation, and identification of problems to be addressed in the Khorezm Oblast (Uzbekistan), Dashoguz Veloyat (Turkmenistan), the Republic of Karakalpakstan (Uzbekistan), and Kzylorda Oblast (Kazakhstan) completed by SIC ICWC within the framework of preparation of preliminary feasibility for transition to the "Integrated Water Resources Management in the lower reaches and deltas of Amudarya and Syrdarya", have revealed that the primary destabilizing factors here are instability of water supply and drainage operation, and growing water shortages aggravated by uneven water distribution, especially in dry years. Another problem in these areas is poor attention to, and very often disregard of environmental requirements that caused desertification and degradation of natural conditions in deltas.

Change of rivers hydrological regime has caused significant deterioration of river flow quality. Increased content of highly mineralized drainage water has led to significant growth of river water mineralization and deterioration of its sanitary conditions. Ecological changes associated with reduced water inflow to deltas has in turn caused deterioration of drinking water quality due to increased mineralization and reduced ground water inflow.



Delta desertification, dried Asiatic poplar trees

There were never such acute problems here with drinking water supply as now. Only about 56.8% of Karakalpakstan's population has access to water pipe system. Quality of tap water in 24 to 100% cases does not comply with requirements to drinking water standard (ASBP-2, 2004). Woman is the one of the most affected water users in the region. Many spheres of rural woman life are associated with water. She uses it in housekeeping and for crop irrigation. She knows where to find and how to keep water when it is in a short supply, as well as how good its quality for drinking purposes. Although, there is a reduction of infant and population mortality rate due to initiatives in developing drinking water supply, controlling over water, air and soil pollution, and developing public health services undertaken over the recent years the problem is still awaiting its solution. So, there is an acute problem in this region with such diseases as diffuse goiter, anemia, renal diseases, especially amongst fertile age women and children. In terms of percentage, anemia occupies the first place (around 30%) with the ocular diseases on the second one (15%). Growing climate aridity and desertification of the Aral Sea bottom have led to frequent occurrence of dust storms (Figure 1) that spread in the Muinak direction.

Decline of economic and ecological situation in the lower reaches of Amudarya has led to deterioration of population health not only within Priaralie, but also along the entire lower reaches of river. This is due to the following reasons:

• deterioration of river water and ground water quality, first of all due to increased content of pesticides, herbicides and salts;

• adverse climate change and increased desertification in Priaralie;

• overall decline of economy development paces in this region, including Priaralie.



Dust storm at the dried Aral Sea bottom

Any economic activity (fishery, livestock breeding, agriculture, etc.) has practically dropped to nothing in many regions of Priaralie.

Critical situation with water supply in the lower reaches of Amudarya in 2000-2001, with water shortage of 23-27% on average, was provoked by wrong water allocation, when Khorezm Oblast and Karakalpakistan (Uzbekistan) received 45 and 58% of their limits, Tashauz Veloyat (Turkmenistan) - 50%, and Amu-Darya delta got only 22% of limit!!! As a result, according to our estimation these parts of Karakalpakstan made losses in the amount of USD45 -50 million/year and the national income here falls down to USD150-180/capita. At the same time fish, muskrat and bird population were completely destroyed and some recovery of these species was observed only in 2003.

There are people behind these figures. Lack of ecological water releases to the Priaralie's wetlands (Muinak and Rybachiy gulfs) in 2006, bereft local population of fishery (fishing for men and fish processing for women) and therefore, the main source of income. Drought caused fires and destroyed wild life. Irrigated crop yields have reduced and cropping pattern changed. If in Uzbekistan area of arable land had been reduced by 11%, that of in Karakalpakstan was 15%. Since 1990, rice growing area, the main food crop in Priaralie, was reduced by 51%.

Gender problems are closely related with living standards of both women and population in general, as well as with water use problems and employment.

The main reasons for contraposition of man and woman's roles are the social ones. The latter are aggravated by economic difficulties that in turn restrict achievement of financial stability for people, moreover, limit woman's control over her own money within the family. Women are especially vulnerable because they either are unemployed or have low income and part time job.

There are Committee of Uzbekistan's Women, Business Women Association, "Orient Women" foundation and a number of other nongovernmental organizations studying gender issues in Uzbekistan. There is also a variety of informational Internet portals devoted to the gender aspect.

All this allowed to stress high degree of public involvement in study of the gender problems, and women in particular. The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan also increasingly more takes into account outputs of gender analysis in strategic decision-making and management. There is no doubt that special attention should be paid to the region with ecological problems, gene pool conservation, women's health and future generations.

#### **References:**

1. Climate and Water Dialog (UNO, 2001) and Adaptation to Climate Change (SIC ICWC, CIDA, 2001-2003).

2. Economic Assessment of Joint and Local Measures Aimed at Reduction of Socio-Economic Damages in the Littoral Zone of Aral Sea (INTAS, 2000-2004).

3. "Gender Aspects Relating to Access to and Management of Water Resources", 2003-2004.

4. "Gender Aspects and Integrated Water Resources Management", 2006.

## Rural water supply and sanitation in Kyrgyzstan (program "Taza suu")

#### N.S. Vashneva, E.P. Sakhvaeva

#### 1. Introduction

Until 1990, rural water pipelines belonged to collective farms. After breaking up of those farms, the rural water pipeline service system, Kyrgyzaylsuu has been liquidated. Most existing systems of rural water supply needed capital repairs, deterioration of water mains exceeded 40% of their total length, 191 pipelines had not sanitary protection zones and water treating facilities, 111 pipelines were not subjected to water disinfection, and 8940 of 36768 water-pumps were out of operation.

Lack of access of rural population to safe drinking water under conditions of poor sanitation caused epidemiological tension in terms of acute enteric infections and helminthism. There are records of typhoid related to poor-quality water (Zhalalabat, Osh, and Batkent provinces). In 2002, people in 608 villages (more than 700 thousand) had no access to drinking water sources and had to use water from irrigation canals, aryks and rivers. This aggravated gender relations and increased poverty. Low level of access to clear drinking water and better sanitation is a factor of poverty in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The primary goals of on-going projects "Taza suu" ("Rendering infrastructure services at settlement level" and "Rural water supply and sanitation", as well as of the project "Hygiene and sanitation in rural area" under DFID grant) are: a) improving access to drinking water in most villages using community approach, i.e. where local communities own, operate, maintain and manage water supply system on sustainable basis; 6) improving hygiene, sanitation and water use at individual, family and institutional levels.

#### 2. Relevance of the matter or initiative

Limited access to water in the households complicates use of water for personal and family hygiene, washing, bathing, cleaning, washing up, etc. Moreover, women and children bear heavier burdens in searching for water sources and fetching water. In addition, this hampers fostering of personal and public hygiene skills and, thus, makes it more difficult to prevent diseases that have mitigated effect in case if the above hygienic procedures are followed.

Economic costs related to water contamination lead to reduced property value, business opportunity losses, less job places, lower tax proceeds, decreased agricultural productivity; less income from recreation and tourism, additional costs for drinking water treatment and searching new sources, and public health costs (hospitalization, income losses, deaths).

About 30% of schools and 20% of kindergartens are not supplied with water from the centralized systems. In combination with poor hygienic skills, this causes high level of children parasitic diseases. According to research conducted under DFID project "Hygiene and sanitation in rural area", 60% and 50% of younger and school children, respectively, were affected by one or more intestinal parasites in pilot villages in the northern region. About 45 thousand parasitic diseases are recorded annually in the Kyrgyz Republic. The annual economic damage from those diseases is about 100 thousand US\$ only according to official statistics.

WHO's data show that 80% of all diseases are caused by poor-quality water. It is well-known that death and diarrhea incidences decrease by 15% when water quality is improved and by 55% in case of better sanitation in settlements and higher water quality and quantities. According to the data of Kemoniks Inc and Finnish Environmental Institute, the water-borne diseases result in about 125 M\$ of annual losses for the Kyrgyz Republic. While estimating the economic costs related to water supply, health recovery costs are not taken into account usually. The costs of typhoid episode mitigation amounted to more than 5 million soms in Osh province in 1998. Typhoid episodes were registered also in Aravan, Karasu, Nooken, and Nookat districts and in Osh and Mailuusu towns.

#### 3. Research

In order to solve drinking water supply problems, a law about drinking water was adopted upon initiative of the National Ministry of Health in 1999 and new drinking water standards (GOST P 512 32-98, SanPinN 2.1.4.002-03) were introduced. A long-term rural water supply and sanitation strategy was elaborated. Given the great importance of water supply, the Republic takes measures to ensure financing of centralized and local water-supply infrastructure. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic made a decision about the free transfer of rural water pipelines to rural communities of drinking water users (RCDWU) that directly would be responsible for receipt and repayment of credits, operation and maintenance of water-pipes and would set water tariffs and water-pipe operating schedules.

By the Kyrgyz Government's Decree No. 418-p of 07.11.2001 the Coordinating Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation under umbrella of the Government and the Steering Committee for WB Project "Rural Water Supply and Sanitation" were established.

In 2002, The Kyrgyz Government introduced the program "Taza suu", which included the projects "Rendering infrastructure services at settlement level" and "Rural water supply and sanitation" supported by WB and ADB. Including co-financing by the Kyrgyz Republic, 70 M\$ were allocated for rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation networks in all the regions throughout the Republic. The projects are aimed at rehabilitation and construction of rural water-pipes and improvement of access to safe drinking water, at raising of supplier's responsibility for water quality and no-break operation of water-pipes, at creation of better conditions of life and other social benefits for population. Activities were planned to undertake in 1000 villages and 7 cities during six years. Implementation also should give an economic effect through decreased incidences of acute enteric infections. The above projects are in their final stage now.

The projects apply the demand-driven participatory approach, as well as extensive mobilization process.

Besides, in 2002-2006, the British Department for International Development (DFID) implemented the project "Hygiene and Sanitation in Rural Area" in three northern provinces in the Republic. The project components included local community mainstreaming and sanitation and hygiene propaganda, as well as construction of aerated toilets and wash-stands in rural schools. By improving sanitary conditions, fostering hygiene and changing water consumption practices, it was to improve people health in 310 project villages: "reduction of diarrhea incidences by 10% and of helminthic invasion by 20%". The above project supported synergies with the projects financed by ADB and WB and was based on an understanding of the inseparable relationship between water supply, hygiene, sanitation, and health.

Education of the local population relied on community mobilization using the principle of participatory modification of hygiene and sanitary practices, through joint approach of the local population to health and hygiene problems.

In 2003, a medical examination of 1289 pupils in primary school was made in Talass, Issyk-Kul and Naryn provinces to control effectiveness of education component. The analysis of examination data showed that lambliosis incidences decreased to 76% in project villages. In 2004, 4171 children were examined also in 24 project villages in Talass province; the lambliosis disease rate was 39% lower there than that in villages outside the project coverage. Since July 2006, an education component "Sanitation" has been implemented within the framework of ADB's project "Rendering infrastructure services at settlement level".

Smaller scale activities are undertaken for rehabilitation and construction of water-supply infrastructure by the Central Asian Water Alliance (CAWA), ARIS within the framework of rural investment program and by Agha-Khan Fund.

#### 4. Outcomes/lessons learnt

#### What was done and why?

By the beginning of 2008, the ADB's and WB's projects had completed construction and reconstruction of water-pipes in 506 villages enveloping 959. 9 thousand dwellers. 504 RCDWUs were established. Those communities have their own management structure, including

elected representatives, and deal with planning, implementation or management of their own water-supply systems and collect water tariffs.

To get involved in the project, communities made a contribution (20% of the total project cost), of which 5% is cash contribution and 15% is in in-kind form (earthwork). Collection of money fees and process of discussion inside the community improved understanding of a need for contribution and collection of water use fees in order to cover water-pipe O&M costs. The projects contributed to decentralization of rural water-supply management system and promoted the establishment of Rural Water-Supply Department (RWSD) to deal with policy development and support RCDWU.

During implementation of the DFID's project "Hygiene and Sanitation in Rural Area" (2002-2006), sequentially about 25000 households and 40000 schoolchildren were educated and more than 2000 trainers were trained to educate the communities. Within the framework of the project, capacity of the Republican Health Promotion Center (RHPC) was developed, water quality monitoring and protection were enhanced and computer quality monitoring was introduced. Safe water-supply plans are developed and implemented, water quality control program, which includes short list of controlled parameters, is developed for RCDWU.

An independent expertise of DFID and WB projects' impacts on people health in 35 villages where construction and rehabilitation was completed and dwellers were educated in hygiene - has revealed positive impact on health. In order to have an unbiased estimate of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project's impact, rural water users were questioned regarding water quality, adequate quantity and regularity of water supply. School directors, teachers, and children were asked about existing conditions for personal hygiene of pupils, the state of drinking water supply and of toilets.

In each village, the experts involved representatives of RCDWUs (chairmen, operators) to study the status of water-pipes. In collecting data on morbidity and tap water quality, specialists from 14 district and three province centers of sanitary supervision & disease control (CSSDC) were involved. Those centers have sanitary-hygienic and microbiological laboratories and keep state statistical records of infection diseases. Thus, participation of the abovementioned groups in the expertise allowed the adequate estimate of the project's impact, based on different opinions.

The projects had positive impact on:

- better access of rural people to safe drinking water;
- rates of infection and parasitic diseases;
- drinking water quality in microbiological terms;
- changes in hygiene and sanitary skills;
- cooperation in solving the water supply problems;
- sense of ownership and responsibility in RCDWUs;
- sanitation infrastructure;

#### What did not work and why?

Loan usage did not provided for its prior allocation to the areas with high disease rates caused by the lack of access to safe drinking water sources. Due to increase in the cost of building materials, the cost of the projects rose and, thus, rural water-pipe construction and reconstruction volumes were reduced almost twofold.

A number of rural water-pipe designs were based on unreasonable selection of new water-supply sources and of sanitary protection zone (SPZ) boundaries and lacked feasible plans for establishing SPZ.

The projects' policy was aimed at the transfer from groundwater sources requiring energy inputs for pumping water to gravity flow sources (springs, stream underflows). However, in many cases this did not prove itself. For example, stream underflows froze in winter period and supply of water stopped in Naryn province. Springs were not enough stable sources as well since changed their capacities. Besides, the use of water from the surface sources required chlorination, with regular control over disinfection. The unstable economic position of RCDWUs does not allow them to organize production laboratories or conclude contracts for necessary examination.

Periodical or regular water disinfection was made only in 10 cases among 35 checked chlorination plants at rural water pipelines in Isykkul, Naryn, and Talass provinces. Moreover, the problem related to centralized provision of rural water systems with chlorine-containing substances has not been solved yet.

According to the territorial CSSDC's data, 482 villages (32.2%) with more than 500 thousand dwellers are not covered by centralized public water supply. In order to reduce costs and save electricity, RCDWUs often practice water delivery on hourly basis that has negative effect on water quality (microbial contamination is recorded in 13.4% of examined samples).

It should be noted that in developing centralized water supply systems, the projects did not make adequate provisions for disposal and treatment of wastewater. In rural area, 3% of residential buildings and public places is connected to sewerage system. Project funds allocated per dweller have limited supply of water to houses. Thus, this actually did not change situation regarding access of dwellers to better supply (45% water admission), especially in the resort Preissykkulie area.

Education of people living in south area and Choo province under the ADB's project "Rendering infrastructure services at settlement level" started with big delay since the second half of the year 2006, thus decreasing its positive impact on project sustainability.

## 5. Key points for knowledge sharing and transferability (to a larger scale)

If the program "Taza suu" is to be extended, the identified shortcomings should be taken into account.

1. Selection of pilot villages should be based on epidemiological conditions and people's access to safe drinking water. The projects did not consider connection of schools to water pipes. As a result, water for nutrition units, wash-stands, coolers and cleaning is fetched from street water-pumps and even from irrigation networks.

2. The Rural Water Supply Department should tackle the issue of centralized supply of disinfectant agents and spare parts for disinfection plants and take measures to organize departmental water quality laboratories and services for rural water-pipe maintenance. Manufacturing of equipment for chlorination plants should be organized and their designs should be approved in Gosstroy (State Committee for Construction and Architecture) of the Kyrgyz Republic.

3. Gosstroy should undertake selected expertise of developed project designs on free basis.

4. Review of relations between CSSDCs and RCDWUs under the Safe Water Supply Program indicated to a need for further use of administrative resources of the Department for Sanitary Supervision & Disease Control for closer partnership, development of appropriate documents and additional training of CSSDC and RCDWU's staff.

5. Timely inclusion of education component in rural water supply construction and rehabilitation projects is essential.

6. RCDWU should be enhanced and further developed.

7. While designing new water-pipes, water sources should be selected upon availability of full package of survey data and with the development of sanitary protection zone designs.

#### 6. Contact information

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#### 7. References or additional sources

• Report «Impact assessment made on the basis of direct and indirect impact indicators, as agreed with Karl Bro company and proceeding from aims and objectives of the Project "Hygiene and Sanitation in Rural Area" and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, in 35 villages in Issyk-Kul, Naryn, and Talass provinces, Kyrgyzstan.

• Long-term rural water supply strategy (RWSD, Atkins and Karl Bro companies)

Reports of joint ADB and WB's review missions

• Terms of References for projects

## **Meeting in GWA**

Joke Muylwijk, Executive Director



Not all of you know what the GWA Secretariat looks like, who all work here, and what we do. I would like to use this opportunity to introduce our staff and explain the process. It is now nearly three years ago that the Secretariat moved out of the IRC office to Dieren, a small town in the East of the Netherlands.

At that time, I was on my own, and there was no structure, or management system. After some months Alejandra Acosta joined me, she took responsibility for the financial administration and lots of other chores. She comes from Mexico and helps with translating communications in Spanish. Then Esther de Jong joined us, a Dutch irrigation specialist with gender expertise. She has learned so much about the GWA work that she has become indispensable! Amongst other tasks, she takes responsibility for Source Bulletin, the GWA website (English and the coordination), the Travelling Exhibit, and the South East Asian and Pacific region.

Christine Verheijden is also a Dutch development specialist with communication specialism. She deals with the complex region of Latin America and the Caribbean, e-conferences and elections. Chrisje van Schoot has a similar background, but has vast experience in the Arab region, for which she has responsibility. She is an experienced trainer. Shilpa Bentinck, from India, is a social geographer who supports our work in South Asia. She works in India with Shalabh Mittal who acts as our regional focal point. During summer 2007, Charles Dieme, an environmental specialist from Senegal, joined us. He manages our Francophone work together with Stanislas, who acts as our regional focal point for Francophone Africa in Cameroon.

Our latest addition is Behar Ali, from Iraq. She manages the Arabic website and is a qualified translator. The GWA Arab website is much in demand and the statistics show very high numbers of hits and downloads! All other regions are managed by me, in addition to my other work.

It is extremely difficult to get a work permit here in the Netherlands. GWA's foreign staff are all residents of the Netherlands, mostly with Dutch passports, but their international background is an extra benefit for us!

You see, that we have an interesting and very pleasant and capable group of colleagues, but demand for GWA's work increases explosively, so the need for more working hands and minds remains. We will always continue to work with our partners and especially our members all over the world!

Source: IRC Source Bulletin, No. 51, February 2008

#### In April, the project manager G. Stulina met with the GWA Secretariat. The following matters were discussed:

Present status of GWA	<ul> <li>Annual Plan and Regional Plans</li> <li>Donors and resources</li> <li>SC and Members</li> <li>Workshop in Chile</li> <li>West Asian Region</li> </ul>
Proposal for Aral Sea	<ul> <li>Current proposal</li> <li>Guidelines for proposals to GWA</li> <li>How to improve the proposal</li> </ul>
GWA in Western Asia Region (or Russian language region)	Other activities of GWA: - Strategic Planning workshop - Training of Trainer Gender and IWRM - other







**Newsletter of GWANET Network** 

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### ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY IS ONE OF WAYS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY

## www.gender.cawater-info.net

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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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