

Abstract
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Interstate collaboration in the Aral Sea basin – success and problems

The Interstate Coordination Water Commission of the Aral Sea basin established after collapse of Soviet Union celebrated 16-th anniversary of collaboration between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Three principal agreements between these states (1992, 1993, 1994) on creation of Commission, on collaboration in the sphere of joint management of use and protection of water resources, on joint activities on the Aral Sea problem and social economic development of the Aral region and on the program of concrete actions (ASBP – 1) created political framework for strong cooperation between water organizations of the five states. ICWC consists of 5 members authorized by Government's leader of national water organization of each state and Executive bodies: two Basin Water organizations (BWO "Amudarya" and BWO "Syrdarya"), Scientific Information Center (SIC), Secretariat, Metrological and Training Center. The main results of ICWC's activity for this period are as follows:

- implemented system of annual planning, monitoring and operation of rivers' flow in close communication between regional and national waters' bodies;
- water allocation and delivery to the national water heads helped to avoid conflict between states even in conditions of 3 water scarce and 4 flood years;
- information system is open for stakeholders of all states and outsider on the website www.cawater-info.net;
- training system with Head quarter and their branches was organized and has been functioning successfully;
- average water delivery to irrigated lands was reduced from 14,0 thousand m³/ha in 1990 to 11500 m³/ha in 2007.

But growing water scarcity, climate changes and growing interests in use of huge hydropower potential causes certain doubt about water and environmental stability in future. Of specific importance is development of geopolitical situation in Central Asia arena, including mega forces China, Russia, USA, EU and other. Ways for achievement of water stability in this situation are described in the presentation.

Different scenarios of future development introduced range of water availability in region in 2030 from 1850 m³/person in optimistic scenarios to 1340 m³/person in pessimistic compared with 2540 m³/person now. Achievement of optimistic scenarios required:

- regulation of population grow;
- adaptation to climate change;
- increase degree of this regulation;
- achievement of high degree of collaborative (not only coordinative and communicative) relations between riparian countries and different branches of economy; avoiding conflict between "upper watershed", interested in hydropower and low and middle reaches, interested in ecology and irrigation;
- implementation of IWRM;
- creation of strong legal and juridical framework of interrelation and collaboration;
- implementation of financial tools for sharing cost and benefit in the transboundary waters.