

EURO-INBO
THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2005
THIRD ROUND TABLE OF THE FIRST WORKSHOP

Co-Chairman: Mr Robert GOURD (IJC USA/Canada)
Mrs. Galina BALUSHEVA (Bulgaria)
Rapporteurs: Mr Mario CERUTTI (International Meuse Commission, IMC)
Mr. Petr KUBALA, (Povodi Vltavy)

Mr. Pulatkhon UMAROV, Interstate Coordination Commission of Central Asia, presented training and capacity building experiences in Central Asia. Since many rivers returned recently into transboundary rivers, there is an increasing need for partnerships. He illustrated the organization of the training in fields like project management, irrigation, and environmental protection.

Mr. Nikola MARJANOVIC, Water Director of Serbia & Montenegro explained that although not being a member of the European Union, Serbia & Montenegro is in the process of renewing its water law to harmonize with EU legislation. Most rivers in Serbia & Montenegro are transboundary and very diverse. The national reports of 2003 and 2004 were forwarded to the European Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.

Mr. Sergej KOSTAREV, International Commission of the Irtysh, Russia, presented the international legal instruments and the international projects in which Russia and Kazakhstan participate. The next step would be to create a basin council to facilitate the decision making process. Mr Kostarov would also appreciate extension of the Russian-Kazachstania cooperation with participation by China.

Mrs. Elena KREUZBERG, Kazakhstan, explained that a basin approach would allow to achieve a sustainable long term use of water resources. Based on an ecosystem approach this would specifically be necessary in the case of the Ili Balkhash Basin. The problems encountered here like desertification, unsustainable water use, continuing pollution and a weak economic development are risk factors for the high biodiversity and unique international value of this basin. More coordination between administrations and elaboration of an integrated basin management plan would be desired.

Conclusion / recommendation

Central Asian countries and a non EU member in central Europe, are taking the basin approach to develop integrated (international) water basin management. Training, project management and legal instruments are needed to support this.