

## EECCA NWO Activity Report 2013-2016

### Introduction

The Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Network of Water Management Organizations (EECCA NWO) was established to promote exchange of ideas, accumulated experience, and information on different aspects of water management activity.

The Network's activity is facilitated by the Scientific-Information Center of ICWC (as the Network's Secretariat) and AO "Vodstroy" and supported by the Government of the Russian Federation and the UN Economic Commission for Europe. The Network closely collaborates with the International Network of Basin Organizations.

Membership in this Network is voluntary, based on professional unity and mutual understanding, and excludes any financial fees.

The Network's activity is focused on:

- Organization of annual (as far as possible) conferences gathering all members of the Network
- Publication of scientific paper collections
- Maintenance of a web-site, which serves as the Network's "knowledge hub" accumulating and shedding light on know-how, scientific developments and intellectual products of the Network members.

The web-site contains reports and resolutions of the Network Conferences, information about its members' events, and e-versions of scientific paper collections.

- Preparation, publication and dissemination of the Russian version of «INBO Newsletter»

Currently, the membership of the Network comprises 84 organizations from 12 countries, including: Russia - 19, Ukraine - 6, Kazakhstan - 12, Tajikistan - 4, Turkmenistan - 1, Uzbekistan - 17, Azerbaijan - 2, Belarus - 4, Moldova - 3, Kyrgyzstan - 14, Georgia - 1, Armenia - 1.

### Conferences

Since August 2013 to May 2016 the Network organized and held the following conferences:

- **International Conference "Community of water professionals - a framework for interstate water cooperation" (8 November 2013, Moscow, Russia)**

The key areas of discussion during the Conference were:

- Political will of improvement and its implementation in practice
- Implementation of IWRM
- Water conservation - achievements over the five years

- Public participation in water management
- Improvement of water supply
- Food-water-energy nexus and solution of related problems
- Discussion of water sector problems in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (together with representatives from Central Europe (Romania and France))

The Conference was organized by OAO “Vodstroy”, the Russian Union of Water and Land Reclamation Professionals, VNIIGiM named by A.N.Kostyakov (Moscow) and SIC ICWC. This event was supported by GWP CACENA and UNECE (through the RF grant).

64 persons representing Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Sweden, Switzerland, Romania, and France participated in the Conference.

- **International Conference “Water Conservation and Effectiveness of Water Use” (21<sup>st</sup> of May 2015, Minsk, Belarus)**

The key areas of discussion during the Conference were:

- Report on EECCA NWO activity in 2014
- Growing water scarcity presenting challenges for water security: natural ones – climate change; and, anthropogenic ones – rising demands, future development, including of hydropower
- Issues related to application of high-tech in water uses (automation, water conservation, energy conservation, etc.)
- Water accounting and quality of water delivery services

The Conference was organized by OAO “Vodstroy”, SIC ICWC, and Belarusian Research Institute for Land Reclamation.

Financial support to the Conference was provided by UNECE (through the RF grant) and GWP CACENA.

33 persons from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Switzerland, and France took part in the Conference.

The roundtable on improvement of EECCA NWO activity was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2015.

- **International Conference “Cultural and Educational Issues Related to Water Management in the EECCA Countries” (9 February 2016, Almaty, Kazakhstan)**

The key topics for discussion were:

- Water and culture;
- Water and civilization;
- Water and ethics;
- Water and education.

Organizers – SIC ICWC, Kazgiprovodkhoz Institute.

Financial support – UNECE (through the RF grant), GWP CACENA, and Kazgiprovodkhoz Institute.

50 participants from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, China, Sweden, Switzerland, and France took part in the Conference.

A round-table dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the State Program for Development of Land Reclamation and Water Management Activity was held on 10 February. The new President and Board of Directors of the Network were elected at the round-table.

Members of EECCA NWO were involved in preparation and participated in the two forums “Clean Water of Russia” in Yekaterinburg, the 13<sup>th</sup> “EUROPE-INBO 2015” International Conference on the Water Framework Directive Implementation (Thessaloniki, Greece), the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference “The Rivers of Siberia and the Far East” (Irkutsk, Russia), the 66<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICID International Executive Council and the 26<sup>th</sup> European Regional Conference “Innovate to Improve Irrigation Performance” (Montpellier, France), the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Budapest, Hungary), and others.

It is planned to organize a Network’s conference in 2017 on the theme “**River basin management problems in context of climate change**”, including:

- transboundary river basin cooperation,
- sustainable water management and implementation of information-communication technologies (ICT) at basin level,
- adaptation of water management to climate change and anthropogenic impact,
- water-food-hydropower-environment nexus,
- SMART technologies in the water sector,
- water supply and sanitation.

### **Collection of scientific papers**

The following collections were published over the given period of time:

- **Water, Energy, and Food Security in the EECCA Countries: Challenges and Solutions (2013)**

*The collection contains papers on the state-of-affairs in the sphere of water, energy and food security in the EECCA countries.*

- **Water Conservation as a Way for Survival under Growing Water Crisis (2015)**

*This collection presents the papers that highlight the state of affairs in water conservation under growing water crisis in the EECCA countries. It analyzes growing water scarcity and water security challenges: natural, due to climate change; anthropogenic, because of ever increased resource consumption; and, those of future development, including in hydropower.*

- **Water Conservation and Effectiveness of Water Use: EECCA NWO Conference Proceedings (21-22 May, Minsk, Belarus) (2015)**

*It collects the reports presented during the EECCA NWO International Conference “Water Conservation and Effectiveness of Water Use”.*

- **Cultural and Educational Issues Related to Water Management in the EECCA Countries (2016)**

*Given collection contains the papers highlighting the role of water in the development of civilization, the moral-ethical aspects of society attitudes to water as a resource, and the value of water in terms of culture and education in the EECCA countries.*