



# GENDER and WATER in CENTRAL ASIA

Newsletter of GWANET Network

№ 5 October 2007

## Workshop “Gender aspects in water resources management in the Republic of Tajikistan”

Workshop “Gender aspects in water resources management in the Republic of Tajikistan” took place on 20 October 2007 in Khodjent, Tajikistan. The workshop brought together key specialists from the Ministry of Reclamation and Water Resources of Tajikistan, TajikNIIGiM, OO “Chashmai Khayot”, Sogd Province Water Administration, CECI Tajikistan, Association “Andargon”, SPA SANIIRI and SIC ICWC.

The major objective of the workshop was to consider problems related to gender aspects in water resources management in the Republic of Tajikistan.

D. Bokikhodjarova made a welcoming speech to the workshop participants.

In her presentation, G.V. Stulina told about the goals and objectives of the workshop and GWANET, showed women's role and rights in rural areas, and how labor should be divided.

Kh. Isломov underlined that in order to take some burden from women living and working in rural areas, the Ministry of Reclamation and Water Resources of Tajikistan has developed a strategy and program for clean drinking water supply to the population in the republic. This program should

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Workshop  
“Gender aspects in water resources management in the Republic of Tajikistan”



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reduce the morbidity among women and children, improve the access to drinking water for population in mountainous and hard-to-reach areas. In 2007 the President of the Republic of Tajikistan called Central Asian countries for sharing Lake Sarez for drinking water supply purposes.



B. Rakhimova noted that proposals on gender equality on dekhkan farms, in land use and equal rights of men and women have been submitted to the government, based on which a Law on State Guarantees for Equality of Men and Women in Equal Opportunities for Their Implementation” has been adopted.



“In this period the heaviest burden is on women living in rural areas, and we should study the problem of gender equality in detail and note that many women have proved to be more active than men. It is necessary to relieve women from hard work,” said Sh. Mukhamedjanov.

*The Gender approach is distinct in that it focuses on women and men and not on women in isolation. It highlights:*

- *the differences between women's and men's interest even within the same household and how these interact and are expressed.*
- *the conventions and hierarchies which determine women's and men's position in the family, community and society at large, whereby women are usually dominated by men*
- *the differences among women and among men, based on age, wealth, ethnic background and other factors*
- *the way gender roles and relations change, often quite rapidly, as a result of social, economic and technological trends*



The participants noted that in Sogd province of Tajikistan there are many woman irrigators, men don't go to low-wage jobs. Actions should be taken to solve the problem.

N. Khasanova presented a brief review on gender issues in the Republic of Tajikistan.

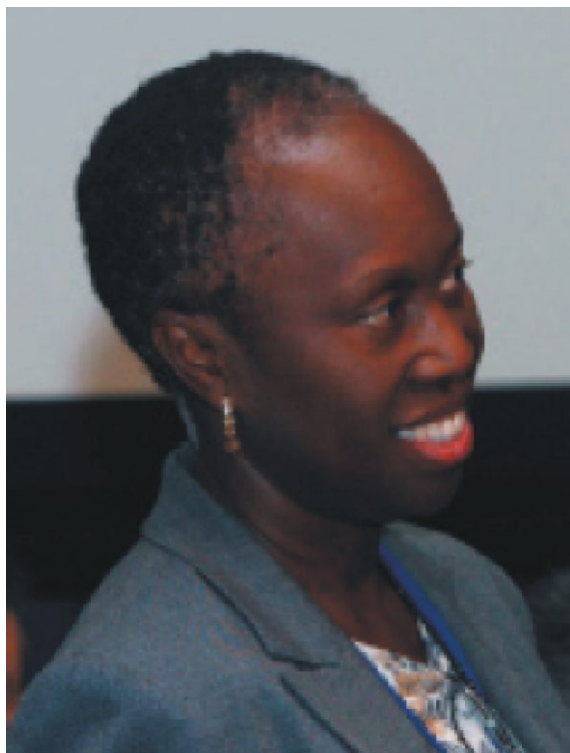
In conclusion, the participants of the workshop decided to study the gender problem in the context of northern and southern provinces and districts of the country in detail and analyze



| Problems                                 | Ways to solve   | Actions   |
|--|---|---|
| Lack of woman specialists in water       | Governmental quotas for entrance of girls to higher education institutions (hydrologic faculty) | Assistance of ministries, agencies and public organizations for entrance to higher education institutions |
| Quality of drinking and irrigation water | Program for clean drinking water supply in Tajikistan   | Information sheets on existence of the program, raising public awareness                                  |
| Water supply                             | Program for clean drinking water supply in Tajikistan   | Information sheets on existence of the program, raising public awareness                                  |
| Woman irrigators                         | Study of women employment   | Awareness of women of gender issues in districts and provinces of the republic                            |
| Debts of dekhkan farms to the government | Extension services  | Establishment of groups of consultants and solving of problems at local level                             |

## THE NEW NAMES

### *New Chair for GWP*



Letitia A. Obeng is the new Chair of the Global Water Partnership (GWP), succeeding Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson, a long-time partner of the World Water Council who has always been involved in Forum preparatory processes. Dr. Obeng has held increasingly important positions since joining the World Bank in 1982, most recently as Director for Environment, Water Resources, Rural and Social Development in the Middle East and the North Africa Region.

When accepting this chair position, Dr. Obeng stated, "The work of the Partnership in supporting the development of sustainable water resource management is vital and much needed. I am truly honored to contribute in this way and look forward to working with the members of the GWP family."

She will assume her duties as Chair of the GWP at the end of the year.

*Source*

The bulletin  
The world Water Council № 27



### *New Chairperson of the Gender and Water Alliance*

The Steering Committee of the Gender and Water Alliance had her 11th meeting from 5-7 September 2007 in Arnhem, the Netherlands. Because the sitting Chair had fulfilled her term, the SC members elected a new Chairperson.

We are very happy to inform you that Dr Sara Ahmed from India was elected the new Chairperson of GWA. For over one year she has been representing Asia in the SC, and the GWA in Asia, so she is well prepared for her new position.

Ethne Davey, who was our Chairperson for four years, handed over her position to her successor. Ethne has helped improve the position of GWA and she was our face to the world, for which we are very grateful to her.

Fortunately Ethne was re-elected by the members and will continue as SC member for one more term.

Joke Muylwijk  
Executive Director Gender and Water Alliance

*Source*

Gender and Water Alliance

## Point of view...

*Women and Men of Kyrgyzstan*

E.P. Sakhvayeva

Chief Specialist, Water Department

There are more than 40 different international documents ratified to by now in the Kyrgyz Republic, in which an idea of protection of rights and elimination of any women discrimination forms stands out.

A National Council on Women, Family and Gender Equality at the President of the Kyrgyz Republic was established in 2001 by the President's Decree. The tasks of the Council are to coordinate actions for implementation of national policy and strategy for gender equality, and monitor observance of international commitments concerning gender development, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), by the Kyrgyz Republic.

A National Gender Equality Action Plan 2002-2006 of the Kyrgyz Republic was confirmed by the Decree issued by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on 2 March 2002. A recently developed Gender Equality Action Plan 2007-2012 was approved at the meeting of the Government. The statistical digest dedicated to the position of women and men in our republic has come out the ninth year.

A brief review of the republic is proposed based on the latter (according to data for 2005).

In 2005, the level of extreme pover

Ty or percentage of the population with consumption below national food poverty line reduced by 2.3% as compared to the previous year and amounted to 11.1%; the proportion of the very poor in urban population amounted to 6.5%, while this proportion in rural population amounted to 13.8%. The highest percentage of the population with income less than 1 dollar a day is registered in Batken and Naryn provinces, where the number of the poor has grown since 2002. In other provinces this figure is close to the average national level.

The poverty level among complete and incomplete households according to gender of householder in 2005 (according to survey data, 5016 households) is illustrated by the data given in the table 1 below.

As is evident, in complete households where the head of household is woman, the level of non-poor households is slightly higher than in households where the head is man. Moreover, the percentage of poor and very poor households is smaller in those households where the head is woman.

The percentage of the poor and very poor among incomplete households is 1.5-2 times higher than among complete households, at that the poverty and extreme poverty level is much higher among households where the head is woman.

Over the last four years the number of children with underweight in the republic has reduced from 12.4 to 6%. However, over the same years the average percentage of underfed girls and boys has amounted to 9% and 7.6%, respectively, i.e. the number of underweight girls is higher than that of underweight boys.

The ratio of girls to boys in primary and lower secondary education shows that the number of girls going to basic school (classes 1-9) is smaller than boys. However, girls more often acquire education within complete secondary school (classes 10-11), while boys leave education system after class 9 more rapidly. In school year 2005/2006, the coverage ratio of boys at lower secondary school is slightly lower as compared to girls in practically all provinces. The highest value of this ratio is registered in Chui, Batken and Jalalabad provinces, amounting to 9.4, 9.7 and 7%, respectively, which can be explained by that young men pass to professional lyceums, secondary professional education institutions or short-time courses preparing to soonest entry to labor market.

The first national population census of 1999 shows a practically equal education level between women (99.61%) and men (99.35%), and this tendency is observed in all provinces. However, the education level among youth has reduced as compared to 1989. The proportion of women and men at the age of 15-24 and with specialized secondary education has reduced by 2.3 and 3.4 times, respectively.

As compared to 2000, in 2005 the ratio of wages of women to those of men in the republic declined and amounted to 62.5%. Moreover, lowest ratio has been registered in Jalalabad, Chui, Talas and Issyk-Kul provinces, i.e. the wages of women is almost 40% lower the wages of men.

Over the last six years the unemployment rate in the republic has been relatively stable, amounting to 2.8-3.3%; at that, the unemployment rate among women is 1% higher than among men. The unemployment rate in Naryn, Jalalabad and Batken provinces is higher than republican rate. Notably, a higher unemployment rate among women being 1.2-5.4% higher than the republican indicator is also registered in Naryn and Jalalabad provinces.

The number of women and men employed in agriculture in 2004 is characterized in the table 2 below:

It can be concluded from the table above that 39% of men and women out of the total employed in economy are employed in agriculture of the

country, but the ratio between men and women in both the whole economy and agriculture of the republic is different, where approximately 42% are women and 58% men.

Overall, the ratio between women and men being heads of enterprises in the country amounts to 19.8% and 80.2%, respectively. Moreover, the percentage of leader women in Batken, Osh and Jalalabad provinces and Osh town is lower than the republican figure.

The distribution of government officials employed in governmental authorities according to their work status as of 1 November 2005, in percentage terms, is given in the table 3 below:

As it can be seen from the table, the ratio between men and women employed in governmental authorities in the republic amounts to 58% and 42% respectively, where this ratio is characteristic for both the Zhogorku Kenesh and Government. However, for the agriculture and processing industry, the employed men account for 80.3% and women only 19.7%. Notably, at all positions in the agricultural sector whether top, chief, senior or junior, men have a leading status. Leader women are completely absent in the Government and Zhogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The world practice shows that until there is at least equal ratio of men and women in higher bodies of state authority, it is early to talk about democracy, and the progress in economic and social reforms conducted by our government slows down. In this regard, the experience of Sweden, the most advanced country in gender issues (the gender movement in Sweden has more than 40 years of experience) is noteworthy. Women account for 45% of the parliament, and 54% of the Stockholm State Council. Former mayor of Sodertalje City Signe Anderson considers that it is a result of a strong political will supported by the authorities, which declared a slogan "Every second job in management to woman".

The given data from the statistic digest give evidence of that the implementation of equal rights of men and women in the considered aspects lacks finish that means that there is an issue to think about and work on.

### Application 1

Table 1

|                                | Total | Including            |                    |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                                |       | Incomplete household | Complete household |
| <b>Head of household man</b>   |       |                      |                    |
| Non-poor                       | 65,1  | 59,3                 | 76,7               |
| Poor                           | 34,9  | 40,7                 | 20,3               |
| of them,<br>very poor          | 7,9   | 9,0                  | 5,6                |
| <b>Head of household woman</b> |       |                      |                    |
| Non-poor                       | 73,7  | 47,3                 | 78,5               |
| Poor                           | 26,3  | 52,7                 | 21,5               |
| of them,<br>very poor          | 6,4   | 15,3                 | 4,8                |

Table 2

|  | Number of people (th.) |         | Unit weight (%) |      |
|--|------------------------|---------|-----------------|------|
|  | Woman                  | Man     | Woman           | Man  |
| Employed in economy, total                     | 850,5                  | 1 140,7 | 42,7            | 57,3 |
| Including in agriculture,<br>hunting, forestry | 328,5                  | 445,4   | 42,4            | 57,6 |
| %  | 39                     | 39      |                 |      |

Table 3

|  | Total |      | Top  |      | Chief |      | Senior |      | Junior |      |
|--|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|--------|------|--------|------|
|  | Wom   | Man  | Wom  | Man  | Wom   | Man  | Wom    | Man  | Wom    | Man  |
| Total  | 41,9  | 58,1 | 14,4 | 85,6 | 29,7  | 70,3 | 38,5   | 61,5 | 45,4   | 54,6 |
| Zhogorku Kenesh<br>of the Kyrgyz Republic                              | 41,7  | 58,3 |      | 100  | 42,0  | 58,0 | 41,5   | 58,5 |        |      |
| Kyrgyz Government  | 41,5  | 58,5 |      | 100  |       |      | 30,8   | 69,2 | 51,4   | 48,6 |
| Ministry of Agriculture,<br>Water Resources and<br>Processing Industry | 19,7  | 80,3 |      | 100  | 7,4   | 92,6 | 5,3    | 24,7 | 27,5   | 72,5 |

## REGIONAL NEWS

**TASHKENT PROVINCIAL ROUND OF CONTEST «THE WOMAN OF THE YEAR» WAS HELD**

Tashkent provincial round of contest «The woman of the Year» was held in Chirchik. The contest's aim was to demonstrate the best merits of our women such as kindness, cooking talents, ability to do housekeeping as well as their important role as loving mother and custodian of heart and home.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/18-09-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/18-09-2007.htm)

**«ROUND TABLE» IN UZBEKISTAN WOMAN'S COMMITTEE**

A round table was held in Uzbekistan Woman's Committee. The issues related to achievement of objectives set in the report of the Head of the State were discussed in details. Activists of Woman's Committees from our capital and Tashkent province and consultants on religious education and moral and spiritual fosterage took part in the event held by the Deputy Chairman, Women Committee, G. Magrupova.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/19-09-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/19-09-2007.htm)

**BUSINESS WOMEN ASSOCIATION «TADBIRKOR AYOL» HELPS WOMEN TO FIND JOB**

Uzbekistan Business Women Association «Tadbirkor Ayol» assists women to master a profession and find a job. This year the activity is being conducted according to the Government program «The year of Social Protection».

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/20-09-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/20-09-2007.htm)

**OUR SOCIETY IS NOT READY TO RECOGNIZE A DISABLED WOMAN BOTH AS A PUBLIC FIGURE AND AS A GOOD MOTHER AND WIFE THE WORKSHOP IN ALMATY**

Two-day workshop «The role of a disabled woman in the family and society» has been opened today in Almaty and devoted to this issue.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/20-09-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/20-09-2007.htm)

**TRAINING OF VULNERABLE WOMEN WILL BE PROLONGED IN OSH**

As it was informed in the South Regional Agency of the National Red Crescent Society, a new project phase within the program «Improvement of a Role and Social and Economic Conditions of Vulnerable Women» would be prolonged in Osh.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/22-09-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/22-09-2007.htm)

**COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN AND OSCE ODIHR PROJECT'S EXPERTS DISCUSSED THE ISSUES RELATED TO ADVANCEMENT OF WOMAN'S RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN**

On Friday, Bolat Baykadamov, Commissioner for Human Rights held the meeting with the experts of the ODIHR/OSCE Project «Reinforcement of Human Rights in Central Asia», the representatives of the International Education Center on Human Rights «Equitas» Maria Holchak, Vincenzia Nazari, the Kazakh representative of «Equitas» Tatyana Markina, and Division Head on Human Factor in OSCE Center, Astana Eugenia Beninive.

The meeting was of advisory nature and urged to assess situation of woman's rights in Kazakhstan. This Project component «Monitoring over Woman's Rights in Kazakhstan» is implemented in the country from September 2007 up to March 2008.

The experts informed on major events planned within this project and implementation dates in short.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/23-09-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/23-09-2007.htm)

### **PROVINCAIL ROUND OF CONTEST «THE WOMAN OF THE YEAR» FINISHED**

The national contest called upon to reveal the best representatives of fair half is held in the country for the first time by the initiative of public association "Woman's Meeting". This contest provoked a great interest. More than 500 applications were received from female inhabitants of this ancient land. 17 candidates, who were nominated as "The woman of the Year" in their areas and towns, came through to the final.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/26-09-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/26-09-2007.htm)

### **STAFF MEMBERS OF STATE AND PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS TOOK PART IN THE WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL PROTECTION OF WOMAN LABOR MIGRANTS**

The regular workshop on social protection of woman labor migrants was conducted in Karshi. The representatives of state bodies, «Makhallya» Fund branches and non-governmental non-profit organizations in Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya provinces took part in the workshop. The key workshop objective was to raise awareness of staff members from state departments, law bodies and non-governmental non-profit organizations regarding social and legal protection of migrant women.

Such themes as women migration, the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the international legislation in the light of labor migration, cooperation of various departments and organizations to resolve women labor migration issues, information activity in the field of social protection of woman labor migrants were discussed during the workshop.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/02-10-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/02-10-2007.htm)

### **OSH STUDENTS DISCUSSED GENDER EQUALITY ISSUES IN DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND ELECTION CODE**

A work meeting of active student youth from Osh institutes of higher education was held on October 3 at the Osh State University. The public fund «Kovcheg» organized this meeting with the support of local OSCE's Office.

As PF Project Coordinator Mirlan Kydyrmyshev informed, the meeting aim was to discuss institutional mechanisms for achieving gender equality in policy within draft Constitution and Election Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan as proposed by the President of the Republic for referendum on 21st of October 2007.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/03-10-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/03-10-2007.htm)

### **WOMEN IN BUSINESS WORLD OF KAZAKHSTAN**

This year the first women's business forum will be held in Almaty on 22nd of October. The organizer is the Woman's International Business Council (WIBC) in collaboration with the Kazakh Business Women Association. This event is a part of initiative directed at reinforcing woman role in economic life of the country, as well as establishing and supporting structures for assisting womanowners of SME not only in Kazakhstan but at international level through experience and information exchange.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/04-10-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/04-10-2007.htm)

### **THE PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR GENDER EQUALITY ACHIEVEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN HELD IN OSH**

The presentation of National Action Plan for gender equality achievement in the Republic of Kazakhstan was held on October 15 in Osh Provincial State Administration.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/15-10-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/15-10-2007.htm)

## **THE PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR GENDER EQUALITY ACHIEVEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN HELD IN BATKEN**

The presentation of National Action Plan for gender equality achievement in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2007-2010 was held on October 15 in Batken Provincial State Administration.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/15-10-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/15-10-2007.htm)

## **EXHIBITION «MOTHER AND CHILD» STARTED IN THE CAPITAL**

The exhibition company "Inter Tashkent Expo" opened the first National Exhibition "Mother and child" on October 23 under the support of the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan. The exhibition is held in metropolitan hotel "Le Grand Plaza" and devoted to such problems as protection of women health, maternity, and healthy generation. Today this event is a unique one according to its themes. The exhibition is meant not only for specialists and medical workers, interested persons working in this field, but also for prospective mothers, young parents and people interesting in their health and health of their children.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/23-10-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/23-10-2007.htm)

## **WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL PROTECTION OF WOMAN LABOR MIGRANTS WAS HELD WITH PARTICIPATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE AND PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS**

The workshop «Social protection of women involved in labor migration processes in Uzbekistan» was conducted in Andijan. The representatives of state bodies, «Makhallya» Fund branches and non-governmental non-profit organizations from Andizhan and Namangan provinces took part in the workshop. The workshop aim was to raise awareness of staff members from state departments, law bodies and non-governmental non-profit organizations regarding social and legal protection of woman migrants.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/25-10-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/25-10-2007.htm)

## **210 THOUSAND SOMONI ALLOCATED FOR TRAINING WOMAN-LEADERS IN SOGD**

From this week, Kayrakum Committee for Women and Family Affairs has begun to conduct workshops for woman-activists in Sogd province.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/25-10-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/25-10-2007.htm)

## **PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES ARE GOING ON TO HOLD CAMPAIGN FOR ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN OSH PROVINCE**

Regular work meeting of Osh Coordination Gender Council was held on October 26, 2007 in Osh city. As press-center of the Association of Independent Human Rights Organizations «Advocacy Center on Human Rights» informed, such issues as development and organization of international campaign for eradication of violence against women in Osh province were discussed during the meeting.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/29-10-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/29-10-2007.htm)

## **ENTREPRENEUR WOMEN AT WORKSHOP IN ISRAEL**

The international workshop "Entrepreneur women and information and communication technologies" is being held for the whole week starting from 22 of October in Haifa city, Israel. It was organized by the Center for International Cooperation MASHAV under the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Israel. Four women from Uzbekistan take part in this workshop. The workshop is being held in the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center.

It should be said that Israeli people share their experience in the field of agriculture and medicine with the Uzbek colleagues for many years. Various Israeli technologies are operating for sufficiently long time in many regions of our country. Since 1958, the Center for International Cooperation MASHAV is a department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Israel.

Detailed information on:  
[www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/31-10-2007.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/31-10-2007.htm)



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