



2017 Almaty – ‘Transboundary cooperation in Central Asia - stability and well-being of the whole region’ Conference

Cooperation opportunities – Transboundary water resources management in Central Asia and the Berlin Process



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Historic overview and definition of the Berlin Process

The Berlin Process is an offer of the German Federal Foreign Office to the countries of Central Asia to support them in water management and to make water a subject of intensified transboundary cooperation.

Open to all stakeholders in the Central Asian region

Supplements the EU Strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia

Main goal: political rapprochement in Central Asia





Water as a topic in foreign and security policy

Water supply – economic
development – political stability

Prevention of conflicts of interest
by joint and cooperative measures
in using water in a fair way causing
no harm to others

Cooperation process

Technical & administrative
experience to support independent
solution finding - based on
scientific knowledge and fair
balance of interests according to
internationally acknowledged
norms

Berlin Conferences:

2008: “Water Unites – New
Perspectives for Cooperation and
Security”

2012: “Blue Diplomacy for Central
Asia” – Berlin Declaration

2015: “Water and Good
Neighbourly Relations in Central
Asia” – Second Berlin Declaration

2017 autumn / 2018 spring:
planned regional conference



The three pillars of the Berlin Process

Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme
implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Water and Climate related Research in the CAWa Project implemented by
Geo Forschungszentrum Potsdam and the University of Würzburg

Master Programme “Integrated Water Resources Management” at the
German-Kazakh University in Almaty

Cooperation partners: CAREC, UNECE



Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme

www.waterca.org

Phase 1

Building trust by implementing pilot projects (13) as to national water policy priorities in all 5 Central Asian states- motto: avoiding negative influence on / mediating between different forms of water use

Initiation of a dialogue process to reform / strengthen regional institutions – focusing on EC IFAS

Phase 2

Focus on creating best practice examples in four selected small trans-boundary river basins: Aral-Syrdaya Basin; Murgab; Padshaota; Isfara-Khodzhabakirgan



Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme

Phase 3

Focus on Strengthening Regional Water Cooperation through:

Improved / uninterrupted functioning of and cooperation among various regional water management institutions

Up-scaling of experiences from small trans-boundary basins to Amu Darya / Syr Darya Basin Organisations

Regional ownership of the initiative in order to sustain achievements; training manuals, capacity building, river basin management plans elaborated (www.riverbp.net) - CAREC as a hub for capacity building



Central Asia Water Project www.cawa-project.net

4 main activities:

1. Ground-based and space-based monitoring of water resources
2. Seasonal runoff forecast and drought monitoring
3. Space-based land and water use efficiency monitoring
4. Capacity building



Master Programme “Integrated Water Resources Management”

www.dku.kz

Students are trained in capacity development in the region, including:

- Land and water interactions/water systems and climate
- Cultural, political, legal, ecological, and economic issues that have an impact on water distribution
- Comparable regional studies

Courses start each year in September

Masters: 2 years

Possibility to be selected for a PhD program after the conclusion of the Masters program



The Berlin Process

More information available at:

www.auswaertiges-amt.de

www.waterca.org

www.cawa-project.net

www.dku.kz

Central Asian Journal for Water Research at:

www.water-ca.org

Facebook: water governance in Uzbekistan

