

Regional training workshop “Gender Mainstreaming and Conflict Resolution in Water Governance”

In July 2015, the OSCE, in co-operation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) conducted a three-day regional training workshop in Almaty on gender mainstreaming and conflict resolution in water governance.

More than 30 water professionals from state agencies, NGOs, research institutes, water users associations, and organizations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan, learned about the importance of applying a gender perspective and involving women in water management.



In November 2015, the OCEEA and the OSCE Gender Section, in co-operation with the Women’s Water Initiative, organized a training course for female water professionals from Central Asia in Copenhagen. Water professionals from state agencies, regional organizations, NGOs, and

the private sector came together to enhance their professional capacities. The event also kick-started a one-year mentoring programme, which paired participants from Central Asia with Danish women who will support them in their future work.



Nazira Khaydarova,
Engineer of
Electromechanical
Equipment of Hydro
Power Plants, Pamir
Energy, Tajikistan

“My inspiration from Copenhagen is to follow the opened paths and make my own way to professional and personal success.”

More information on the OSCE project “Women, Water Management and Conflict Resolution”, its activities and results can be found here:
<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/176671>

OSCE Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

Side Event at the 2017 OSCE Asian Conference on Common Challenges and Common Opportunities
Berlin, Federal Foreign Ministry/ Europasaal, 19 June 2017, 5.30–6.30 p.m.

Engaging with Afghanistan and its Neighbours – the OSCE’s Contribution to Confidence-Building by Empowering Women

Join the OSCE Asian Conference Side Event where project participants and implementing partners of the OSCE project “Women, Water Management and Conflict Resolution” share their perspectives and give feedback on what impact this particular project has had on their career.



The complexity of today’s security challenges can only be addressed comprehensively with the full and equal participation of women and men. The link between environment, security and gender has been widely recognised. Women and men interact differently with the environment in terms of using and managing natural resources due to differences in the perception of gender roles and a gender-based division of labour. At the same time, women are still under-represented in decision-making and environmental governance processes.



Water connects Afghanistan and its neighbours in Central Asia: The northern part of the country is part

In rural Central Asia and Afghanistan, women and girls play a key role in collecting and managing water for household use, including cooking, growing produce, household duties and family hygiene. Furthermore, since many Central Asian men from rural areas migrate to work abroad, women have taken over farming responsibilities. Despite being major water users, women still have little influence on the major decisions on how this precious resource is governed, be it at the community, municipal, national or transboundary levels.

of the Amu Darya Basin, shared with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

The Panj River, the Amu Darya’s major tributary, forms the border of Afghanistan with Tajikistan starting from the high mountain regions in Badakhshan. Further downstream, the Amu Darya forms the border river of Afghanistan also with Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

“In a few decades, the relationship between the environment, resources and conflict may seem almost as obvious as the connection we see today between human rights, democracy and peace.”

Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2004

“Women, Water Management and Conflict Resolution in Central Asia and Afghanistan”

As a contribution to conflict prevention and comprehensive security in the region, the OSCE Gender Section and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) engaged in a project to foster the incorporation of gender perspectives in water governance and the participation of women in conflict resolution and water management at all levels in Central Asia and Afghanistan.

The project aims to build a regional network of female water

The countries along the Amu Darya River have a common interest in using water resources sustainably and equitably. The OSCE, in close co-operation with other organizations, is therefore supporting water-related dialogue and information exchange between Afghanistan and its neighbours.

Co-operating Partners

- The Central Asian Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC)
- Women’s Water Initiative of the Danish Water Forum

professionals to foster mutual understanding and make their voices heard in water management decisions.

Phase 1 of the project was conducted from 2015-2016 with funds from the Governments of Finland, Norway, and Switzerland. Phase 2 of the project will start in the second half of 2017 and will:

- 1) Increase capacities in water diplomacy with a special focus on gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills;
- 2) Empower female water professionals through career development and networking;
- 3) Enable the exchange of experience and mutual learning among OSCE sub-regions for increased awareness on gender-sensitive water governance.

Connecting water users and decision makers

During phase 1 of the project, the OSCE organized a regional seminar on gender mainstreaming and conflict resolution in water governance. The seminar was followed

by a training course and a mentoring programme for female water professionals from the region in order to empower them for leadership positions in the water sector.

