

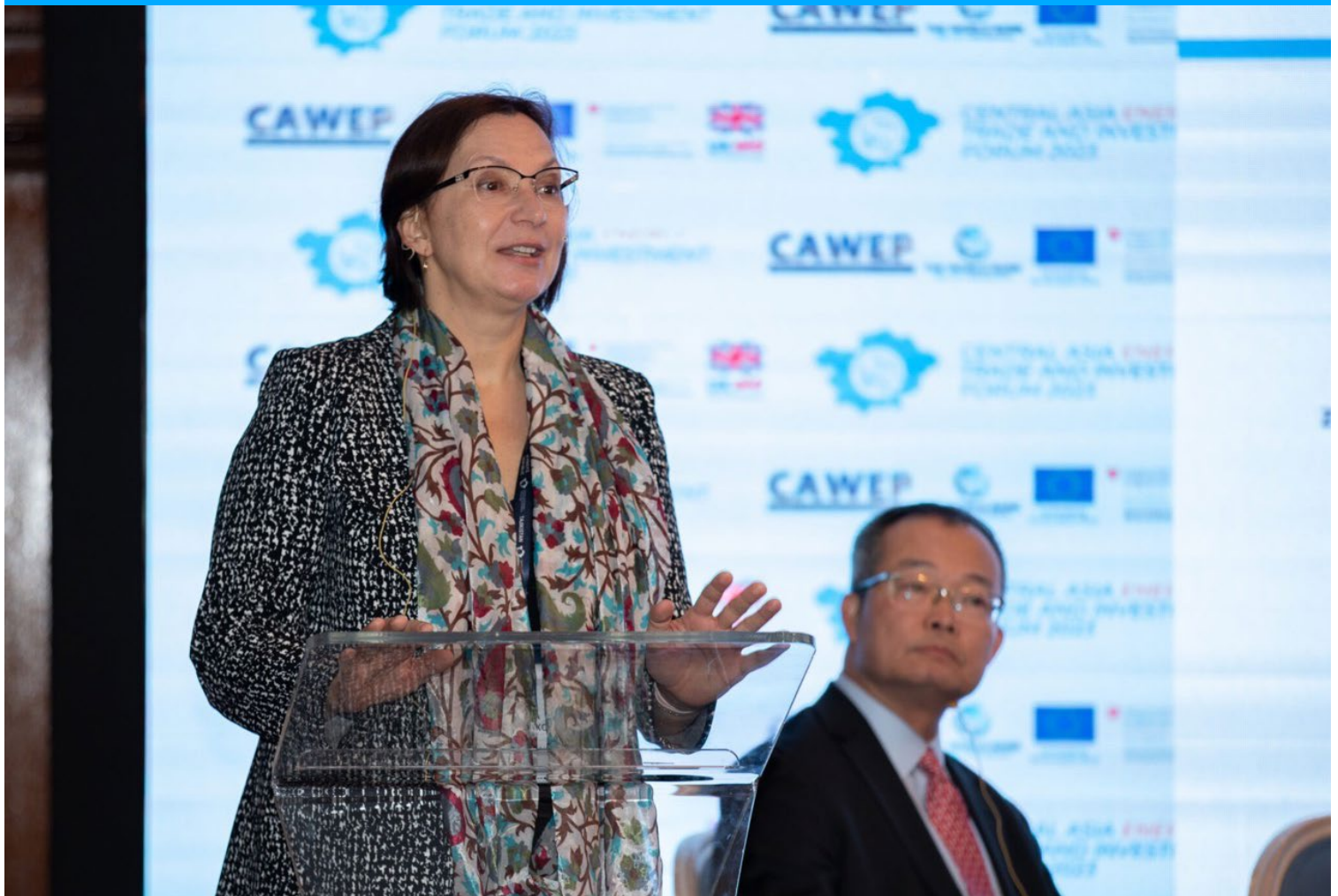
Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 6 / Issue 1 / January - March 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

- Central Asian Energy Trade & Investment Forum
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Training held in Uzbekistan
- Financing Options Analyzed for Kambarata-1 HPP at Workshop in Bishkek
- Improving Water Supply Services in Kazakhstan

ENERGY TRADE & INVESTMENT FORUM



Tatiana Proskuryakova, the World Bank Regional Director for Central Asia. Photo credit: World Bank

Central Asian Energy Trade & Investment Forum

Central Asian countries have sufficient natural resources and the know-how to achieve sustainable energy security through a transition to clean energy sources. The governments of these countries recognize the need for bold steps to promote cooperation, trade, and investment, and some have begun implementing reforms to create an enabling environment for scaling up renewable energy. However, transition to renewable energy will require mobilization of significant financing.

To attract investors and reduce the overall energy transition costs, countries need to accelerate reforms that allow the scaling up of renewable energy and build confidence in electricity trade. Enhancing sector governance and transparency, removing subsidies, ensuring affordability for the vulnerable, stepping up regional trade, and expanding the sector on a systematic least-cost basis will be key to promoting investments and attracting public and private financing.

The World Bank, with funding from CAWEP, co-organized [the Central Asia Energy Trade and Investment Forum 2023](#) in London, on March 2-3. At the forum policymakers from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of international financial institutions and the private sector discussed the interlinked challenges of energy security, decarbonization, and economic growth.

At the Forum, Central Asian governments reached an agreement to pilot a “day-ahead” electricity market – as a first step towards a fully-fledged regional electricity market – that will help build trust in trade, improve generation and interconnectivity, enable commercial solutions to energy shortages, lower costs for participants by introducing competition, and demonstrate that this approach can work.

The event was co-hosted by Central Asian governments and the government of the United Kingdom. It promoted the development of more efficient mechanisms for regional electricity trade and identified coordinated actions to improve regional cooperation as well as activities that can contribute to the transition to a carbon-neutral economy.



S U S T A I N A B L E G R O U N D W A T E R M A N A G E M E N T



Photo credit: World Bank Uzbekistan on Facebook

Sustainable Groundwater Management Training held in Uzbekistan

While improving water resources management is a common goal across Central Asia, the management of groundwater is too often overlooked. Groundwater is a critical water resource for development and environmental sustainability, and its careful management is essential.

CAWEP organized a two-day training course on sustainable groundwater management for Central Asian water experts in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on March 14-15, 2023. The event gathered 15 specialists from the five countries, who discussed the importance of integrating groundwater into national water management plans.

The training introduced open-source platforms and tools for analyzing groundwater data through practical exercises. Participants familiarized themselves with international best practices and accessed global groundwater datasets. They were able to expand their knowledge through peer-to-peer exchange and networking.



DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROPOWER PLANT



Photo credit: Caravanserai

Financing Options Analyzed for Kambarata-1 HPP at Workshop in Bishkek

The Kambarata-1 in the Kyrgyz Republic is one of the largest hydropower plant projects in the region that has the potential to make important contributions to water and energy security at both national and regional levels. Once functional, the HPP will also provide the country with foreign revenue from electricity exports. It will be a critical component of achieving the government's vision of a green and affordable energy future.

The World Bank, through CAWEP, in cooperation with the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, is evaluating financing options for Kambarata-1. On February 2, 2023, a workshop with 13 representatives of multiple ministries examined international experience of the implementation of large hydro projects and discussed how it can be applied to Kambarata-1.

Following the workshop, the World Bank team has started preparation of the project Technical Assistance to Advance the Preparation of Kambarata 1 HPP that will update the technical feasibility, safeguard studies, and commercial frameworks.



IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY



Improving Water Supply Services in Kazakhstan

Efficient performance of water service providers is crucial for ensuring high quality of water services to customers. Poorly performing service providers often lack financial resources and capacity to properly maintain and manage the supply system. This causes frequent disruptions to water supply and high losses in the distribution system. Strengthening the capacity of service providers should, therefore, be an integral part of the management of water infrastructure alongside regulation and oversight.

CAWEP and the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan held a two-day training for water experts in Astana, Kazakhstan on March 28-29, 2023. The training focused on strengthening both the technical and financial performance of service providers, as well as on improving water sector governance, including regulatory and institutional oversight functions.

Attendees included senior officials from the water service sector and regulators, policy makers, senior officials, representatives of water utility associations, and utility managers. They discussed how to improve water infrastructure management in Kazakhstan and considered ways to strengthen asset management so as to enhance service delivery and extend the life of infrastructure. Attendees also explored ways to reduce operational inefficiencies and costs, with the goal of improving sustainability and service delivery. The importance of integrating strong management with a clear customer-oriented vision to gradually improve performance using existing resources was emphasized.



CAWEP recently produced a series of videos, in which farmers from [Kazakhstan](#) and the [Kyrgyz Republic](#) share stories of how their lives were improved as a result of World Bank projects. CAWEP helps strengthen the enabling environment to promote water and energy security in the region and has provided technical and expert assistance for the assessment of the region's irrigation sector.

Another new [video](#) features Altynbek Turgiev, an engineer with Kyrgyz Hydromet, who talks about the critical role of accurate meteorological data for improving the livelihoods of farmers and for preparedness for extreme weather events. CAWEP is cooperating with hydromet organizations across Central Asia to strengthen their capacity and improve and enhance their services.

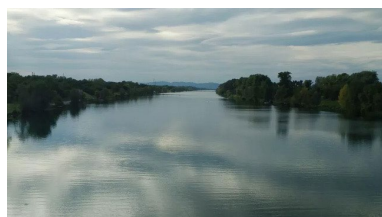


FORTHCOMING CAWEP EVENTS



Study Tour for International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) Working Group to the Mekong River Commission

1-7 April 2023, Laos



Study Tour for Central Asia Water Supply and Sanitation Experts to the Danube Region

May 2-6, 2023, Austria



The Central Asia Climate Change Conference: Climate Change and Development

May 16-17, 2023, Dushanbe, Tajikistan



[Subscribe](#) • [Unsubscribe from this list](#)

CAWEP funds initiatives that improve water and energy management, strengthen national and regional institutions, and facilitate regional dialogue on water and energy security.

This newsletter was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the

World Bank and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

For more information visit [our website](#).

Copyright © 2023 The World Bank Group. All rights reserved.