

***Regional Network of Basin  
Water and Land Reclamation  
Organizations of Eastern  
Europe, Caucasus and  
Central Asia (EECCA NWO)  
now officially with you!***

**Prof. Victor Dukhovny,  
Director, SIC ICWC**

On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010, a Constitutive Convention of the Regional network of basin water and land reclamation organizations from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA NWO) gathered 50 delegates from 11 countries in Moscow.

The participants were welcomed by :

- Deputy Director Sergey Natal'tchuk from the Federal Russian Water Resources Agency;
- Head of the Land Reclamation Department at the Russian Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Petrov Yu.A.

16 reports reflecting major tendencies in the current regional water sector were presented during the Convention.



Water sector and land reclamation in EECCA region go through a period of unstable development causing various difficulties and sometimes unexpected results. This is typical for both the countries of the former Soviet Union and the Eastern Europe countries that previously have been considered as a bastion of market economy development (Poland, Hungary, Romania), with enough high economic potential and per capita national income.

Here, the following common tendencies are notable:

- Drop of unit GNP – from 3088 \$/capita in 1985 down to 1086 \$/capita in 2008;
- Dramatic reduction of state subsidies for water sector and land reclamation;
- Loss of integrity by the water sector as an independent economic sector (excluding some countries);
- Transfer of water management at lower water-use levels to water users themselves;
- Loss of general water productivity;
- Dramatic reduction of annual operational costs from 60 \$/ha (the 1990-es) to 8-10 \$/ha (present) in irrigated land;
- Abrupt decrease in irrigated areas;
- No accounting and reporting on water use

# What can we oppose against those tendencies?

- All-round adoption of IWRM
- Exchange of information ;
- Demonstration of water professionalism and the sainthood of water, return to old traditions;
- Water and ethics;
- Water and education;
- Forecasts of the future and their interpretation;
- Propaganda of best practices;

The development of EECCA NWO will be oriented exactly towards the above listed directions.

Eventually, the participants, having discussed the reports and exchanged their opinions, have made the following decision :

- Recognize an importance of information-based and professional integration of water professionals, land reclamation experts, water users and other stakeholders in EECCA countries.
- Deem it expedient to support a proposal of the International Network of Basin Organizations regarding the establishment of a regional sub-network and establish EECCA NWO within this Network.
- Take the goals, objectives and methods of the International Network of Basin Organizations as a basis – i.e. promoting the adoption of the integrated water resources management at a river basin level as the main tool of sustainable development – and complement them by specific goals and objectives of EECCA NWO, such as creating conditions for comprehensive and environmentally friendly rational use of water and reclaimed land.
- The participants appreciate support of the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the Government of the Russian Federation for organization of this event.



Participants of the Convention meeting considered the following agenda:

- Approval of the Charter of EECCA NWO
- Election of the Network's President
- Election of the Board of Directors
- Review and approval of the Statute of Secretariat – the Network's executive body
- Assigning of the Executive Secretary of the Network – the head of the Secretariat

P.A.Polad-zadeh was elected unanimously the President of the Network, while Prof. V.A.Dukhovny – the Executive Secretary of the Network.

# Members of the Network

By present, 58 institutions from EECCA countries joined the Network:



11 – Uzbekistan

7 – Ukraine

7 – Russia

6 – Kazakhstan

3 – Byelorussia

4 – Tajikistan

14 – Kyrgyzstan

2 – Azerbaijan

2 – Moldova

1 – Turkmenistan

1 – Georgia



A number of events preceded the establishment of the Network where its objectives and activities got shaped



In 2008, at a meeting of stakeholders during the ECWATECH Congress in Moscow, the representatives of water organizations from Central Asia, Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Armenia decided to open a network of water organizations from Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA NWO).



The EECCA NWO activity was viewed and supported also at the 5th Asian Regional Conference of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the 60th ICID Executive Committee meeting (December 6-12, 2009, Delhi, India).

The participants of the meeting have prepared a proposal on creation of the work team “Irrigation and drainage in the countries of socio-economic transformation”. Prof. P.I.Kovalenko, ICID Vice-president was elected as the Chairman of the work team, while Honorable ICID Vice-president Prof. V.A.Dukhovny as his Deputy Chairman.

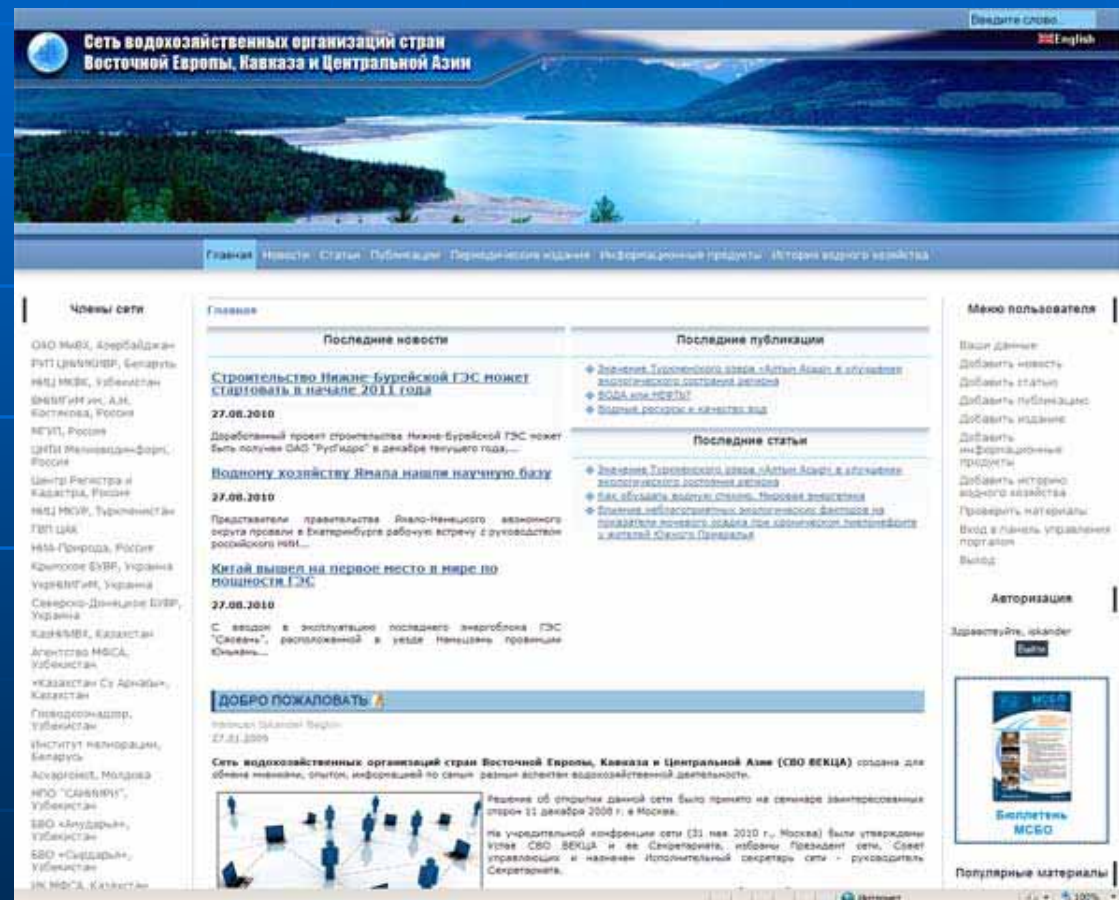


The EECCA NWO was presented at the 8th General Assembly of International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) (Dakar, Senegal, January 21-23, 2010) and widely supported.

The regional coordinator of CWP CACENA Vadim Sokolov was elected to the INBO Liaison Bureau as a representative of EECCA NWO.



Exchange of information via a specially opened web-site, which is an original “knowledge hub” accumulating and representing current problems, solutions, developments, intellectual products and approaches from the Network’s members.



[www.cawater-info.net/russian\\_water\\_network/](http://www.cawater-info.net/russian_water_network/)

Water professionals from 11 countries actively exchange information.

Over one and a half year, the below information was processed and posted on the web-site:

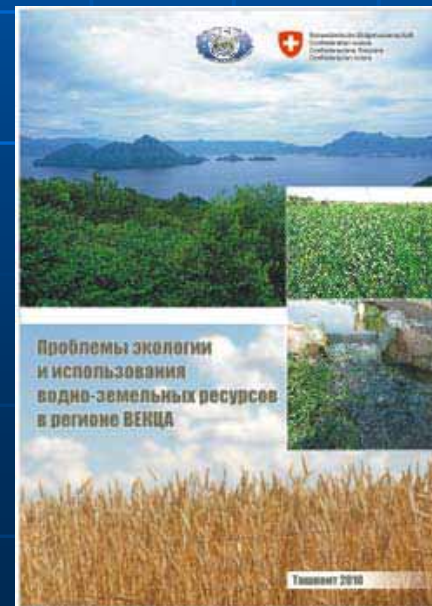
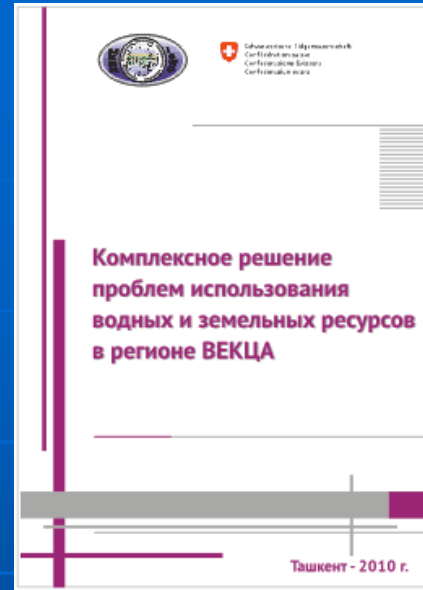
- News (377)
- Articles (56)
- Publications (*information about published books, brochures, monographs, etc.*) (84)
- Periodicals (*information about journals and newspapers*) (24)
- Information products (32)
- Water sector history (23)
- Brief information about the network's members (24)





The members regularly receive “INBO Newsletter” – the main press organ of INBO – in Russian

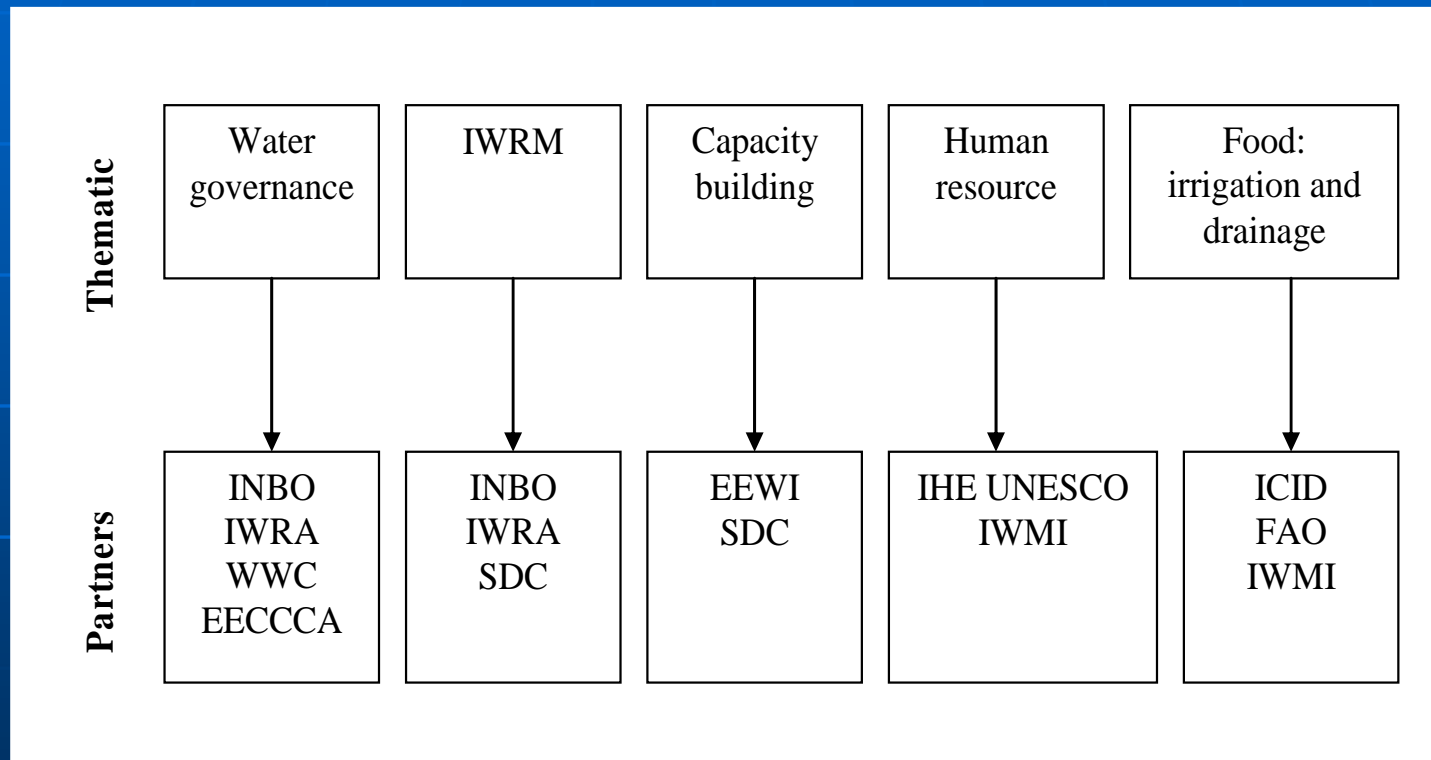
Since 2009, as requested by the *International Office for Water (IOWater)*, its newsletter “International News” is also published in Russian and disseminated within our Network.



## Directions for improvement of the Network:

- IWRM
- International water law
- Co-operation on transboundary waterways
- Water and environmental aspects
- Water and energy aspects
- Public participation
- E-learning

# Further activity is seen in creating virtual work groups





We welcome you to join our  
Network and expect financial  
contribution!

You can visit our new web-site  
[www.eecca-water.net](http://www.eecca-water.net)  
since 1<sup>st</sup> of October