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## PRESS RELEASE

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### NATIONAL TRAINING ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND NEGOTIATING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2 November 2010, Dushanbe – Current ongoing large-scale economic, political and social processes in Tajikistan have an immediate and substantial impact on such important for the region resource as water. In connection with these changes, innovative trainings on conflict prevention and dispute resolution in water allocation gain distinct relevance.

A three-day national training on integrated water resource management and negotiation for sustainable development in Tajikistan was held in Dushanbe from 26 to 28 October 2010 and was organized by the EU-UNDP project “*Promoting IWRM and Fostering Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia*” with the support of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, United Nations Development Program office in Tajikistan, Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Among the 22 participants of the training were representatives of the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Energy and Industry, State Administration of the Hydrometeorological Service, Tajik Branch of the Board of International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Tajikistan Agro-Industrial Union and Association of farmer (farmers) and agricultural cooperatives in Tajikistan.

The highly qualified national and international consultants were invited to conduct the training. Also, most innovative communication technologies and up-to-date information materials were employed. In the business game “Water distribution” consultants presented information on activities in the Nile, Indies and other transboundary basins. Representatives of Isfara and Hojabakyrghan transboundary basins, shared by Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, in their turn gave an insight on positive interaction between water agencies of these two countries both on district and regional levels. Particularly, practical provision of contractual obligations in percentage water allocation; water circulation within the established quotas; as well as joint coordination of operation schedules of interstate irrigation canal “Machoi” (Aktatyr), Tortgul reservoir and other facilities were noted. These efforts help to reduce tensions in these basins and maintain friendly relations on various levels.

To consolidate the obtained knowledge, special presentation on international water law was demonstrated, which was followed by a discussion on water allocation mechanisms in Central Asia and institutional developments in the framework of the International Fund for Saving Aral Sea. Besides, the participants discussed opportunities for cooperation between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to resolve existing problems of interstate water supply, water accounting and forecasting the water availability of the river Isfara and rehabilitation of hydrogauging post “Tangivorukh” (Tashkurgan) in the interests of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Upon completion of the training all participants received certificates of completion and information materials.

The project “Promoting IWRM and Fostering Transboundary Dialogue in Central Asia” was launched in 2009 and will run until 2012. Its main objectives are to facilitate the implementation of the IWRM in the region and support regional dialogue on water related matters. The main financial partner of the project is the European Union contributing 1.5 mln. Euro.

To learn more about the project, please, visit our website: [www.centralasia.iwlearn.org](http://www.centralasia.iwlearn.org)