



ISDC-IFAS

First Forum
Representatives of the Civil Society Organizations
of Central Asia Countries
“Society, environment and sustainable development”
(26-28 September 2006, Almaty, Kazakhstan)

Summary

In September 26-28, 2006, the First Forum of CSOs of Central Asia “Society, Environment, and Sustainable Development” was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Delegations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan comprised of representatives of the government and nongovernmental organizations, youth ecological networks and mass media participated in the Forum. Working Group of CSO of CA with one representative from each Central Asian country organized the Forum with support of Interstate Sustainable Development Commission (ISDC) of CA, Regional UNEP Office for Asia and the Pacific, Global Water Partnership of CA and Caucasus, Regional Environmental Center (REC CA) of CA.

The objective of the Forum was to establish Public Council (PC) under ISDC that will serve as a connecting-link between public communities and Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development.

The attempts to establish regional organization that would forward the interests of public communities of Central Asia on the international and regional level were already undertaken. There was an abortive attempt to establish Public Board under the International Fund for Aral Sea Saving (IFAS). The attempt undertaken by the leaders of the well-known environmental organizations from five Central Asian countries to establish Public Council under Interstate Sustainable Development Commission of CA (ISDC) succeeded. However this success required five years of hard work.



The leaders were Sestager Aknazarov from Kazakhstan, Emil Shukurov, and later Oleg Pechenyuk from Kyrgyzstan, Firyuza Abdurakhimova from Tajikistan and Oleg Tsaruk from Uzbekistan. In 2002 the group acquired the status of the Working Group of CSO (WG CSO) on REAP by the decision of ISDC. This allowed the Group to represent public community at the meetings of ISDC. Memorandum of Partnership and Cooperation between ISDC CA, Regional UNEP Office and WG NGO as well as, Regulations of the Public Council (PC) under ISDC and work plan was prepared. In November 2004, during the ISDC meeting Regulations on PC were approved, and WG NGO became the executive body of PC. It was also decided to review the action plan for participation of public in implementation of REAP of CA for 2004-2006.

In June 2004, Central Asian countries held national seminars on development of regional mechanisms of participation of public in the process of REAP. The seminars discussed draft Regulations of the Public Council under ISDC and the concept of the programme of actions on organizing and developing participation of public in the process of REAP implementation,

candidates for PC under ISDC were proposed. In December 2005 – January 2006, the seminars and forums “Society, Environment, and Sustainable Development” were held in the countries. The participants were briefed on the activity of PC under ISDC. The issue of preparation of the environmental forum of NGOs on the sub-regional level with the aim of joining the efforts and making participation more active in international environmental and decision making processes on transboundary environmental problems. Participants proposed the agenda of the subregional forum of representatives of CSOs and NGOs of Central Asian countries, establishment of the regional network of the youth ecological organizations and other networks of the Central Asian communities were discussed. Networks of the youth environmental organizations were established at the seminars with the aim of supporting and developing existing organizations and active citizens, establishing new youth NGO that will be then included into the network. The goal of the first Forum of NGOs of CA was developing the basis for uniting the representatives of communities of Central Asia in solving transboundary problems, and implementing national programmes on sustainable development. An important objective of the Forum was to inform on regional activity of ISDC and UNEP, activity of NGOs and their associations in Central Asia. The Forum discussed wide range of issues concerning activity of NGOs, their place and role in fulfilling the obligations of CA under various environment agreements. General approaches to more active participation of nongovernmental organizations in nature protection and sustainable development were also discussed. Special attention was focused on the role of youth in this process and establishment of the youth ecological network in CA.

Youth Forum “The Role of Youth in Sustainable Society Development”



Within the frames of this event, Youth Forum “The Role of Youth in Sustainable Society Development” was held. Representatives of the youth environmental organizations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan participated in the Forum. At the Forum, the participants shared the experience in the field of nature protection, and promotion of ideas of sustainable development, discussed priorities of development of the youth movement in countries of CA. Considering the necessity of strengthening cooperation between youth organizations in nature protection and forwarding the ideas of sustainable development, the

Youth Forum decided to establish Youth Environmental Network of Central Asia (CA YEN), drafted action plan up to 2008, which was considered as the platform for cooperation of youth ecological organizations of CA via implementation of joint programmes and projects. This initiative will allow youth organizations to join their efforts and forward the ideas not only on the local, but also national intergovernmental and subregional levels. The Report on activity of the youth of CA in the field of environmental protection and SD prepared by the group of youth organizations under UNEP project and presented to the meeting of ISDC could be the mechanism for forwarding the interests of CA YEN.

The first Forum of NGOs of CA established Public Council under ISDC, elected secretariat of PC, approved its action plan for 2006 – 2008. NGO Forum created the basis for uniting NGOs of CA for solving transboundary problems, consolidating the efforts in support of national programmes of sustainable development and Regional Action Plan of environment protection.

*Prepared by
Saidrasul Sanginov, NGO “Logos”
Member of Public Council under the ISDC*

First Forum

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Agenda

Day 1		
Time	Activity	Speakers
08:30 – 09:30	Registration	
09.30 – 10.00	Opening remarks	
	Welcome speech by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative from WG CSO of CA - Representative from ISDC - Representative from SIC ISDC Representatives from international organizations
10.00 – 11.00	Plenary session Sustainable development and perspective activities of CA countries Civil Society and REAP strategy goals Q&A	Representative from ISDC Representative from SCO
11.00–11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 12.30	Plenary session SIC ISDC Strategy in REAP process Priority projects and CSO participation in their implementation Q&A	Representative of ISDC
12.30 – 14.30	Lunch	
14.30 – 15.30	Plenary Session Youth and future of the country Activity of Public Council under ISDC Q&A	Representative from youth leaders Representative from WG of SCO of CA
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 – 17.30	Plenary Session Presentation by international organization Presentation by international organization Presentation by donor's Q&A	CA REC
19.00	Dinner	
Day 2		
09.30 – 10.00	Plenary Session (Arrangements for brake out sessions)	
10.00-11.00	Brake out sessions on three directions: 1. Development of the mechanisms for SC participation in implementation of the objective 3 of the REAP strategy and participation in other objectives of the strategy.	

	2. Enhancing of the Youth attitude, establishment of young leaders network movement, strengthening of the capacity and youth involvement in REAP and PC under ISDC activity. 3. PC ISDC activity, organizational issues.	
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 12.30	Breakout sessions (continue)	
12.30 – 14.30	Lunch	
14.30 – 15.30	Group presentation Discussions	
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 – 16.30	Plenary Session (Arrangements procedures for breakout sessions)	
16.30- 17.30	Breakout sessions according to the thematic project proposals: 1. REAP Strategy and CSO role. 2. Identification of PC ISDC priority directions 3. CSO participation mechanism in REAP and other ISDC activity. 4. PC Concept of the activity for the nearest future	
19.00	Dinner	
Day 3		
09.30 – 11.00	Breakout sessions (continue) Group presentation Discussions	
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 12.30	Breakout sessions (continue)	
12.30 – 14.30	Lunch	
14.30 – 15.30	Group presentation Discussions	
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 – 16.30	Plenary Session Organizational and procedure issues on PC ISDC activity. PC action plan for the nearest future. Discussions	
16.30- 17.30	Closing plenary session Reviewing of the results. Discussions. Decision making and resolution	
19.00	Dinner	

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Youth Forum “Role of youth in sustainable society development»
27 September 2006
Almaty, Kazakhstan

List of participants

No.	Name	Organization	e-mail	Country
1	Mr. Anatoliy Tsoi	Youth environmental protection group	toliksoy83@yandex.ru	Tajikistan
2	Mr. Rahim Obidov	Environmental Center	tabiat@tajmail.tj	
3	Ms. Umeda Karimova	Youth Debate club “Yasam”	sukhani@mail.ru	
4	Mr. Khurshid Dadabayev	Children environmental organization “Zumrad”	ngo_zumrad@tjiter.com	
5	Mr. Timur Idrisov	For the sake of Earth	forearth@yandex.ru	
6	Mr. Qayirbolat Sakhmetov	Youth institution “Zherdem-Sodeystviye”	batys_center@mail.ru	Kazakhstan
7	Mr. Bakhytzhан Badygulov	Youth organization “Naurzum Bionet”	naurzumbionet@mail.ru	
8	Mr. Timur Yunusov	Youth 21	youth21@tajmail.tj	Tajikistan
9	Mr. Alexey Kobzev	Live, CARNet	ecopol@tps.uz	Uzbekistan
10	Ms. Sofia Kim	CSO “Poisk”	biotexnolog@bk.ru	
11	Mr. Bekmurad Eeberdiyev	ISDC	eyeberdyev@yahoo.com	Turkmenistan
12	Ms. Olga Yaroslavceva	"Environmental press center"	olga@ecopress.kz	Tajikistan
13	Ms. Zh. Baylabulova	Institute of Geography	zhannaeco@mail.ru	Kazakhstan
14	Mr. Timur Kaysarov	Youth environmental network of Uzbekistan, Club "Eremurus"- Eco center "Biostan"	eremuruskt@mail.ru	Uzbekistan
15	Mr. Rustan Murzahanov	Center on Environmental Law "Armon"	naraspashku@gmail.com	
16	Mr. Dmitriy Tereshkevich	Youth organization "Institute on human health "	dim41082@mail.ru	Kazakhstan
17	Mr. S. Ergashev	Organization "Ak Kyzmat"	akkyzmat@mail.ru	Kyrgyzstan
18	Mr. Dmitriy Vetoshin	Environmental Movement "Biom"	dmitryv9@list.ru	