

**Local action report
Draft version**

LOCAL ACTION:

Russian/ Kazakhstan's Irtysh river basin information system (IRBIS)

Framework theme:

Risk Management

Cross-cutting perspectives:

Institutional Development and Political Processes.

Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge.

Targeting, Monitoring and implementation Knowledge.

SESSION

5.13 Developing and implementing Water Information Systems- WIS

SYNOPSIS

The Irtysh is one of the largest rivers in Asia. The catchments area of the Irtysh is a major basin of Siberia and Central Asia shared between Russia, Kazakhstan and China. It covers a 1.65 million sq. km surface area and Irtysh general length is 4,370 km (China: 525 km, Kazakhstan: 1,835 km, Russia: 2,010 km). Total population in basin is more than 4 million people and several principal cities situated on the river: Ust-Kamenogorsk – 300 thousand citizens, Semipalatinsk – 300 thousand citizens, Pavlodar – 300 thousand citizens, Omsk – 1.2 million citizens, Tobolsk – 150 thousand citizens, Hanty Mansiisk – 50 thousand citizens.

Water resources of Irtysh River are used extensively in branch-wise interests: hydro-power engineering, irrigation, water supply for cities and interests of separate water-users. Moreover industry and cities have a lot of waste water discharge without clearing. So water supply for each country (China, Kazakhstan and Russia) and water quality are main problems in this area.

Two international projects were implemented in Irtysh basin. FASEP Project (1999-2000) with the support of the French Ministry of Finance the "Action Program for improving water quality in the Irtysh basin in the Republic of Kazakhstan" was elaborated. FFEM Project (2001-2004) with the support of the French Fund for Global Environment "Transboundary Water Resource Management of the Irtysh River Basin" established a joint management of the Irtysh water resources between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A most important issue was creating **Irtysh River Basin Information System (IRBIS)** combined Russia and Kazakhstan. This IRBIS network is now operational; a web-site (www.irmic.org) make available to the public any information requested by the International Irtysh Sub Commission. New international project should be development IRBIS for better water management in Irtysh basin.

LESSONS LEARNED

Three countries (France, Kazakhstan and Russia) were united for Irtysh River problems solved. Two of them (Kazakhstan and Russia) was one State not long ago and separated after Soviet Union destruction in 1991. They had a lot of difficult at inter-countries relation and at water management issues but could to start reestablish

relations with French supported. In this case project results should be demonstrate reinvesting water management activities based on modern information technology. Moreover original technical results will be present such as model for Irtys River that can be used for same type of rivers. This model showed scenario of river conditions and provided decision making process.

KEY MESSAGES

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