Dear Uzwater colleagues,

This newsletter intends to keep you all updated on the work and development in the Uzwater project. Note that the homepage is there to be used. Please visit the homepage at least once a week, uzwater.ktu.lt. Register so you have access to Intranet. The homepage will be in three languages – English, Uzbek and Russian.

Lars Rydén, Coordinator Uppsala University

Next visit of the EU partners to Uzbekistan will be April 11-19

The first planned dates for the next visit to Uzbekistan partners from the European side, postponed from March, is now decided. It will take place in April 11-19. The team is this time 8 people from Uppsala, Stockholm, Kaunas and Warszawa. A main purpose of the visit is to go to Urgench and Nukus which were not included in the previous visit in last September. Discussion and also lectures will be part of the program. But of course the group will arrive to and depart from Tashkent which will thus automatically be part of the visit.

Hopefully at least some of the universities will organized so-called round tables with stakeholders outside the universities this time to start the process of cooperation outside the universities, which is an important component to of the Uzwater project. The connections are meant to open up possibilities for master thesis work.

The hosting universities may also use the visit to organise an opening event for the centres which is also part of the project.

The main work now is to write compendia for courses

The Uzwater project foresees that all courses will have a study material. Since there are 15 courses there has to be some 15 sets of material, which we call compendia or small books. At present the project partners are feverishly collecting material and putting together chapters in all these books. Hard work is done in Tashkent, Samar- kand, Riga, Kaunas, Warszawa, Minsk, Uppsala and Stockholm.

Material for two courses are already available in the book called Environment, pollution, development: the case of Uzbekistan. By a combined effort from University of Latvia and the National University of Uzbekistan. The book covers material for courses A1 and A3. It is 300 pages. It consists of three equal parts you may say. The first 100 pages covers general topics of the environment and Uzbekistan, the next 100 environmental chemistry, and the final 100 pages topics of policy, law, management etc. Each of the
two courses may be asked to use 150 pages as reading material. A thorough introduction to Uzbekistan in the first two chapters is very worthwhile reading for us westerners. However in the rest of the book we do not see much of Uzbek data so we do not know so much of the environmental data from Central Asia in the other chapters. I suppose it is simply lacking.

The book is very richly illustrated in full colour. It makes it beautiful to turn pages and attracts reading. The book can be downloaded from the Uzwater homepage in English. A Russian edition is coming.

Accreditation of the master programmes
The work on developing the material for accreditation of the master programme is ongoing. The first master programme focusing on water management is developed in Samarkand Institute of Architecture and Civil Engineering with Professor Abror Gadaev the other on environmental science and sustainable development at the National University of Uzbekistan.