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UZWATER

UZWATER NEWSLETTER

26 May 2015

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

Visit of EU partners to Uzbekistan on April 11-19

The European delegation, which arrived to Tashkent in the middle of the night and in the morning the following day to Urgench, was very well received and taken care of by our Uzbek colleagues in Tashkent regardless of the very inconvenient hour. It included three delegates from Sweden (Uppsala University, Aral Sea Society, KTH), one from Belarus (Minsk but part of the Uppsala delegation), two from Kaunas, one of them a student (KTU) and two from Warszawa (SSGW).

In Urgench we were met by Professor, vice Rector Sardor Hodjaniyazov and his team. The first day, Sunday 12 April, was almost entirely used for a visit to ancient Khyva, a most remarkable experience for all of us, and with an excellent guide, to make the visit even more memorable. We notice that Uzbekistan in the best place for historic sites in Central Asia!

Monday to Wednesday was focused on lecturing and discussions at Urgench State University. A group of teachers, researchers as well as 8 students aspiring to join the new master programme took part. Most remarkable was the official opening of the Uzwater Centre at Urgench State University. It included a demonstration of the laboratory equipment to be used for studying water and soil, an exhibition of paintings from the University's art school, and the presentation of new books for the library of the centre. And, of course, a toast for the future success of the new centre.



Gates of the Khyva fortress.
CC Photo: [Jean-Pierre Dalbéra](#).





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From the opening of the Uzwater Centre at Urgench State University. Sardor Hodinayasov and Lars Rydén surrounded by Uzwater project partner representatives.

On Wednesday a round table for university researchers and stakeholders of the surrounding society was organised. Of special interest were the representatives of the very productive NGO KRASS, a sort of consultancy working with water issues in the region, and with a number of lecturers and researchers at the university as members. In this way the discussions of the Round Table became very concrete. After the meeting we travelled by to Nukus over the deserts of this part of Uzbekistan.

In Nukus we were very warmly received by Dr Rustam Eshniyaziv and Prof. Rifkat Gimush of the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning. Again the series of lectures were visited by a large group of teachers and researchers. An opening of the centre, complete with demonstration of the new laboratory equipment, was organised although it had moved in just days before we came, due to the on going extensive rebuilding of the campus. Also the Round Table was executed with extensive discussions with a number of participants, some of them responsible for water and land management in Nukus and Karakalpak.

Saturday was the most interesting day with a visit to the Aral Sea after a long travel with bus on bumpy roads. Although we have seen pictures from the site coming there in real life does give an experience you will not forget.

The European team is gratefully acknowledging that the visit was a very strong and positive experience and ways to continue to be in contact with our partner universities after the formal end of Uzwater project is on-going.

Lars Rydén, Uppsala University

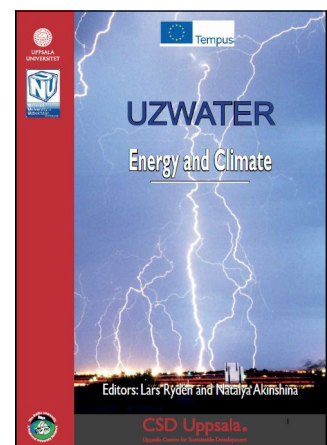
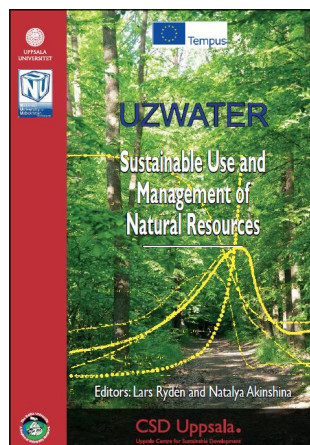


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Compendia for Uzwater courses

As we all know the main, perhaps the biggest, job for the project, the collection and writing of material for the courses, is now approaching its end. There should be 15 sets of study material when we are ready. Some of it will be newly written books, some will be compendia of existing material, and finally some will be mostly a collection of Internet links with some explanatory words how to use them. They will all be produced in English but translated to Russian and perhaps Uzbek as well. The material will first be produced in pdf format and appear on the project website, and later be printed in a very small number as physical books. Printing is very expensive and thus restricted.



At the moment the first book in Module A exist since December last year. The first two books on Module B (Use and Management of Natural Resources, and Energy and Climate) produced by Lars Rydén at Uppsala University and Natalya Akinshina at the National University of Uzbekistan are ready. So is also the Water Diplomacy (relying on Internet links) by Gunilla Björklund and the Research Methods and Thesis Work by Xingqiang Song and Björn Frostell (relying on Internet links). A number of others are in an advanced stage.

Visit to Uppsala from Urgench

A visit of a team of three from Urgench State University for June 4-14 is presently planned. The visitors will follow work at the university and as well visit KTH in Stockholm and hopefully enjoy Sweden at the best time of the year. The small delegation is led by Vice Rector Prof. Sardor Hodjaniyazov.



The Uzwater team at the remains of the Aral Sea.