



Tempus

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UZWATER NEWSLETTER

17 June 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

Urgench State University visited Uppsala and Stockholm in June 4-14

A team from Urgench State University visited Uppsala University and partners in Stockholm on June 4 -14. Team members were vice-Rector Sardor Hodjanliyazov, Dr Inna Rudenko representing the NGO KRASS and Sanat Duschanov, master student in chemical technology.

Education was a main concern. The visitors became acquainted with the international master programme in Sustainable Development at Uppsala University and the University of Agricultural Sciences, including the presentation of six of this year's master thesis works. They were also shown how the bachelor's courses in Sustainable Development were organised, mostly as a student managed project, a rather unique arrangement at the Student Centre for Environment and Development Studies, CEMUS. Finally the team also visited the quite large Department of Education of Uppsala University and compared the education of schoolteachers at all levels, in Uzbekistan and Sweden.

A morning was used to visit the Global Water Partnership (GWP) head office in Stockholm where manager Danka Thalmeinerova and Swedish Aral Sea Society chair person Gunilla Björklund explained their experiences from Uzbek water management projects as compared to water management in other parts of the world. A visit to the GWP website (www.gwp.org) is highly recommended.

The team also took time to visit the Royal Institute of Technology, KTH, in Stockholm where Björn Frostell and Xingqiang Song helped to guide and then chaired a long discussion on possible future cooperation (See



Inna Rudenko lecturing on the Aral Sea Crisis.



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below). Finally the team also took part in research seminars and discussion on research development in sustainable development at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala.

Vice-Rector Sardor Hodjaniyazov and Dr Inna Rudenko both gave seminars on the Aral Sea and water management and the development of higher education in Uzbekistan. Both presentations were highly appreciated by the Swedish listeners. Dr Rudenkos presentation is available on the Uzwater website.

What's next?

The partners at KTH in Stockholm took the initiative to organise a first informal discussion of the possibilities to continue cooperation in the Uzwater team after the end of the Tempus project. As a background (a SWOT analysis) they had concluded that the substantial effort to build partnership had been successful and the network itself now is a great resource for the future. They also noted that the material, now on its way, is another resource to be used, as is the experiences gained by all partners. Problems in the project included difficult economic management and administrative difficulties, including visa troubles.

Possible directions for a future cooperation include education (capacity building in Erasmus+ or similar programmes) and research. Research could either be directed towards better monitoring of water flows, which now lacks international standards and monitoring equipment, and analysis of the losses of water. Especially worrisome are the huge losses of water through infiltration in the ground and evaporation. A second direction is focusing on quality rather than quantity. Thus many industries as well as agricultural companies and farmers emit wastewater without any treatment. This is serious for the downstream, both ecosystems and use of water in society. Finally the incentives for improvement were mentioned as a special issue to address.

The team agreed that the possibilities mentioned will be further discussed to see which partners are interested and willing to contribute.

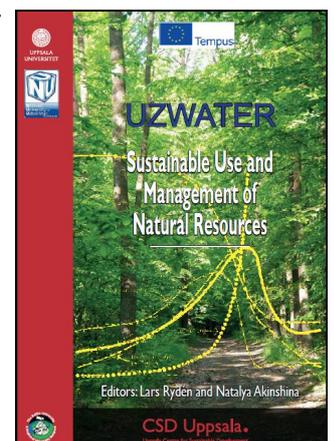
Compendia for Uzwater course

Work for the study material for the Uzwater courses is on-going and probably will for a long time yet. Today a second book is made available on the Uzwater webpage for the course B1:

Sustainable Use and Management of Natural Resources

Editors: Lars Rydén, Uppsala University and Natalya Akinshina, National University of Uzbekistan

You may all download the compendium and get updated on the topic.





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The Uzwater web site

The web site, uzwater.ktu.lt situated at the Kaunas University of Technology is an important part of the Uzwater project. At this web site you may find and download the study materials as they get ready. Registered and approved users may also find information on project activities and contact information to other participants in the project network.

During the spring semester 2015 the web site has had 700—800 individual visitors per month. The visitors mostly come from Russia 45%, Uzbekistan 13%, United States 11%, and Sweden 3%. However, during the spring visitors from no less than 82 countries has payed one or more visits.

Summer

Summer is coming and at least in Sweden and in the Baltic Sea region countries Midsummer is an important holiday during which we enjoy and celebrate the return of light and warmth. We understand that it is not the same in Uzbekistan where the temperature may be more of threat than a blessing. Nevertheless we wish you all a nice summer with much work for Uzwater and hope for important steps forward when the 2015 fall semester begins.



Midsummer in Haninge, Sweden. CC Photo: bengt-re.