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UZWATER NEWSLETTER

15 November 2013

Dear Uzwater colleagues,

This is a newsletter to keep you all updated on the work and development in the Uzwater project. There are close to 100 persons involved now; that is great, but it makes it impossible to know what is going on everywhere in the network. Because of that we need a newsletter. It will be very simple but hopefully serve its purpose. I suggest that we take turn in producing the newsletter between all the partners, both in Uzbekistan and in the EU countries. I started just because of the need to have one.

All the best

Lars Rydén

Coordinator Uppsala university

Now when we are not together the homepage is our only meeting ground. Please visit the homepage at least once a week. www.uzwater.ktu.lt. Register so you have access to Intranet. The homepage will be in three languages – English, Uzbek and Russian.

Great visit to Uzbekistan

In the morning of October 19 a group of 13 members of the 6 EU partners landed in Tashkent international airport. It was the first day of a 7-day visit in the country and to 6 of the member universities in Uzbekistan. The week became a great experience and adventure for all of us from Europe. We enjoyed meeting our Uzbek colleagues, we enjoyed the fantastic historical monuments in the country and we had the second reference group meeting for the project in Samarkand on October 21-22.

The travel covered Tashkent (Oct 19) Samarkand (Oct 20-22) Bukhara (Oct 23) Travel to Tashkent (Oct 24) Meetings in Tashkent (October 25). Early on October 26 was the return home for Europeans.



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The Uzwater Centre at Samarkand Architecture and Civil Engineering Institute (SSACEI)

We had of course all heard about the difficulties in the country when it comes to water use and management. But it is a very different thing to see it and discuss with all of them who had first-hand knowledge about the situation. We were surprised to see the large wet areas, which were also salty. As this made them difficult to use for agriculture they were improved by draining with surface water! We noticed a very intense (too intense!) use of water for irrigation at least in Tashkent city.

It is interesting to note several parallels between the early system for higher education in Uzbekistan in the 16th century and several parallels to the first north European universities. The very interesting astronomical observatory of Uzugbek in Samarkand has a parallel on an island between Sweden and Denmark established at the same time. The data from this observatory were used by Kepler in his calculation of planetary movements. But were Uzbek observation used? Communications are better today! In any case the madrasas were fantastic to visit, both the better-known portals and the inner yards so beautifully decorated.

Each day the team enjoyed one or two extraordinary meals. They were great but in the end a little too many. Some restaurants were memorable, e.g. in Samarkand both days, and in Bukhara with an extraordinary welcoming team led by rector. We visited six universities and noticed that e.g. the Samarkand Architecture and Civil Engineering Institute (SSACEI) already has an impressive centre organised. It is a very promising start. We hope next time to see all equipment installed. The Europeans are all looking forward to future visits to Central Asia and Uzbekistan.

Lars Rydén



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Lunch in Samarkand.

Core courses

The work on the core courses is advancing. You will soon see on the webpage (go to Intranet) how the syllabus and curriculum for each core course should be filled in. To write the syllabus is a huge undertaking, several pages. Never-the-less it is needed in the Uzbek system, so we have to do it. On this page we also expect all the teams for the 15 core courses to appear. It will start today, November 15, as we decided at the reference group meeting.

Partner teams

It is very important to have possibilities to reach everyone in the teams at each university. For example to send this newsletter we need all e-mails. Go to the Uzwater homepage (www.uzwater.ktu.lt) and click on the partners. Then you should find everyone in the project there. Presently there is only a very minimal presentation but in the future we may want more.



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