



Almaty
Office



UNESCO Chair on water resources
management in Central Asia,
German-Kazakh University, Almaty

UNESCO Water Family: Cooperation in Education and Science in Central Asia - Online Pre-conference Event -

at the occasion of the Silk Road of Knowledge conference.

Date: 24 November 2020

Time: 15:00-17:30 (GMT+6)

Language: English, Russian

Platform: Zoom, link is [here](#)

The UNESCO network of higher educational and research institutions in Asia region pool their resources, both human and financial, to address pressing challenges and contribute to the development of societies. In many instances, the UNESCO Water family - centres, chairs and committees serve as think tanks and bridge builders between academia, civil society, local communities, research, and policymaking around the world.

At the occasion of the Silk Road of Knowledge online conference held on 25-27 November 2020, a pre-conference online event on “UNESCO Water Family: Cooperation in Education and Science in Central Asia” will be organized on 24th November 2020 by the German-Kazakh University in partnership with UNESCO office in Almaty. The UNESCO water-related centres, chairs and committees who work in the area of sustainable management of water resources in Central Asia (CA), will discuss on their experiences and challenges in conducting their activities, notably during the COVID-19 pandemic and will share lessons learnt on adaptation of their activities under the new reality. The meeting also aims to facilitate discussion among the UNESCO Water family in CA on regional priorities for the next IHP-IX phase. It is expected that the meeting will discuss the following:

- The challenges and opportunities in cooperation under the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Lessons learnt on adaptation of the activities in 2020 and the new vision for 2021;
- Synergies and collaboration within broader UNESCO Water Family in CA, and beyond;
- Bridging education and science in water management in Central Asia.

The meeting aims to identify the needs and to agree on a common approach for promoting better networking and partnership among the UNESCO Water Family - water related research and educational institutions - in the countries of CA and also at sub-regional level. It is expected that the outcomes of the event will feed to the recommendations of the Silk Road of Knowledge conference.

Tentative Agenda

Time: 15:00 – 17:30 (GMT+6)

14:30 – 15:00 Connection to the platform

15:00 – 15:20 Opening Session:

- Kazakh-German University
- UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan (tbc)
- Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (tbc)

15:20 – 16:20 SESSION 1 – Water science in Central Asia: overview by UNESCO IHP national committees and institutions

- UNESCO water programmes: Science and education to address global water challenges and achieve SDGs - Sarantuyaa Zandaryaa, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Water Sciences Division, UNESCO Paris
- *Presentations/interventions by the IHP national committees and relevant institutions:*
 - Kazakhstan (TBC)
 - Kyrgyzstan (TBC)
 - Uzbekistan (TBC)
 - Tajikistan (TBC)
- Q and A

16.20 – 17.00 SESSION 2 – Bridging Science and Education in water resources in Central Asia

- UNESCO Water Family in the Asia region (title tbc) - Hans Thulstrup, Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO office in Jakarta
- *Presentations/interventions by the centre and chairs*
 - Institute of geography and water security, department of glaciology, Almaty, Kazakhstan
 - Water Resources Management Chair, DKU, Kazakhstan
 - Water Diplomacy, water resources management and environmental protection Chair, TIIAME, Uzbekistan

17.00 – 17.20 Discussion on synergies, collaboration and networking - Kristine Tovmasyan, Programme Specialist for Natural Sciences, UNESCO office in Almaty

17.20 – 17.30 The way forward, Conclusions and Closing: UNESCO Almaty and DKU