

**SECOND MEETING OF THE RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVES OF UNESCO IHP
NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF CIS COUNTRIES
(18 - 19 October 2011, St Petersburg, Russia)
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The general strategy of the CIS countries in the field of hydrology and water resources during the last 15-20 years has been largely determined by the features of their development under radical changes in their socio-economic spheres which had similar for the most countries negative consequences, such as reduction of hydrological network, outdated techniques and equipment, reduced quality of observations, abrupt budget cuts for science and international cooperation, near cessation of experimental research and free exchange of data, information and publications. All this made many of the CIS countries unable to take active part in international cooperation first of all at the WMO and UNESCO level.

Common problems cause a need to interchange practices in stemming difficulties facing scientists and specialists in hydrology, develop proposals and measures on mobilization of our resources and efforts to strengthen activity in the framework of international cooperation first of all in the projects which are of the greatest scientific and practical interest to all CIS countries.

Main goals of the Second Meeting of Responsible Representatives of UNESCO IHP National Committees of CIS Countries (hereinafter the Meeting) were to coordinate the activities of IHP National Committees (hereinafter the National Committees, NC), enhance the efficiency of international cooperation of CIS countries in the field of hydrology and water resources, discuss accomplishment of IHP-VII objectives and develop a workplan and cooperation programme for UNESCO IHP-VIII (2014-2019) taking into account priorities of the participating countries.

The Meeting was attended by heads and responsible representatives of the National committees of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, the Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, representatives of the UNESCO IHP Secretariat and the CIS Executive Committee, scientists from the State Hydrological Institute, State Oceanographic Institute, Saint-Petersburg State University and Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU).

The Meeting took up a range of key problems and tasks in the field of hydrology and water resources both in the world and CIS countries taking into account their specific features and priorities, analyzed the efficiency of the CIS countries activities during IHP-VII. Progress and weak points of international cooperation within the framework of IHP, possibilities of raising internal and extrabudgetary funds and enhancing administrative resources, planning of

cooperation and coordination of activities, elaborating a joint strategy and programme for effective cooperation with UNESCO Member States and between National Committees of CIS countries were discussed as well.

Having discussed the presented contributions of the IHP NC Responsible Representatives, the participants of the Meeting adopted the following recommendations:

1. To assign a top-priority to the following issues of the present-day global and regional hydrology as goals for cooperation of National Committees within the framework of UNESCO IHP-VII «Water systems under stress and societal responses» (2008-2013):
 - Research on impacts of climate change and economic developments on hydrological cycle and water resources (including arid and semi-arid regions);
 - Assessment, management and use of water resources, especially in transboundary basins;
 - Research and forecasting of hydrological extremes and water-related disasters;
 - Monitoring of water bodies and enhancement of hydrological networks;
 - Assessment of ecological state of water bodies and water quality monitoring;
 - Assessment of transboundary transport of water and contaminants;
 - Education and training of professionals in the field of hydrology and water resources in the CIS countries, (including of highest qualification), organization of advanced training courses.
2. **National Committee of the Russian Federation, on behalf of the participants:** to contact the UNESCO IHP Intergovernmental Council putting forward a proposal to introduce a new project (key theme) “Development of scientific basis and methodology for hydrology and water sciences” into IHP-VIII, including following subthemes:
 - Examining river flow formation processes, enhancing methods of hydrological analysis and forecasting, mathematical modeling;
 - Enhancing knowledge base and methodology for water resources assessment and management;
 - Advancing modern theory of channel processes and sedimentation;
 - Developing knowledge base for surface and underground water quality and composition formation processes;
 - Enhancing knowledge base and methodology for environmental aspects of sustainable river system management under the deteriorating environment and water ecosystems;

- Researching climate change impacts on hydrologic cycle, hydrologic regime and water balance components.

3. **National Committees of CIS countries:** to enhance their activities on water resources quality towards:

- Harmonization of methods for chemical analysis of water quality for the comparability and consistency of the data obtained in the CIS countries;
- Cooperation and exchange of information on water quality, primarily for transboundary water bodies;
- Research and assessment of possible impacts of climate change on water quality, degree of water pollution and conceivable water ecosystems deterioration.

4. **National Committees of CIS countries:** to research on a compatible methodology for assessment of current and projected changes in climate and water resources with consequent submitting of the results to IPCC and making respective assessments for WMO Region II countries. RF National Committee is recommended to propose to the Secretariat and IHP Intergovernmental Council the initiative to engage other Member States in this work and to formulate respective projects within the framework of IHP-VII and IHP-VIII.

5. To ensure coordinated development of transboundary water bodies monitoring system.

6. To point out a possibility of using methodological and instrumental metrological facilities of SHI for calibration of hydrometric instruments, both old and new types, including acoustic profilographs.

7. **National Committees:** to participate in the WMO project on solid precipitation intercalibration.

8. Supporting the activities of the International Data Centre on Hydrology of Lakes and Reservoirs (HYDROLARE), **National Committees:** to enhance the activities of their countries on submitting data to this centre.

9. **The Director of the International Data Centre on Hydrology of Lakes and Reservoirs:** to finalize preparatory negotiations with UNESCO Secretariat and Roshydromet on granting HYDROLARE a status of UNESCO centre.

10. **National Committees:** to enhance the exchange of literature on hydrology, most recent study guides, regulations, standards and technical rules published in the CIS countries, as well as the exchange of scientists, post-graduates and graduate

students, and to encourage organization of training courses and on-the-job training for students.

11. **The National Committee of the Russian Federation:** to hold the third meeting of the representatives of the National Committees under the umbrella of the VII Hydrological Congress (October 2013) with the aim to summarize their contributions into the IHP-VII (2008-2013) and to plan the activities within IHP-VIII (2014-2019). In order to enhance cooperation in the field of water resources, it is recommended to organize in 2013 a workshop on topical issues of hydrology and ecohydrology of water bodies for CIS countries (as a session during the Congress).
12. To support efforts of RSHU on gaining a status of UNESCO Regional Category II Centre.
13. **Roshydromet and RSHU:** to examine the possibility of elaborating consolidated curricula and syllabuses for graduate students studying land hydrology in WMO Regional Training Centres.
14. **National Committees:** to carry out mutual consultations, as well as consultations with UNESCO IHP Secretariat, aiming at putting forward a representative of CIS countries into UNESCO IHP Secretariat.
15. To authorize the National Committee of the Russian Federation to submit, on behalf of the participants, the proposals on activities and cooperation of the National Committees to the Intergovernmental Council for Hydrometeorology of CIS countries.
16. To place the information of National Committees of CIS countries on the official Web-site of the National Committee of the Russian Federation.