

## CONCEPT

### of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development (CALP)

“Advanced mid-level male and female professionals of Central Asia and Afghanistan - for regional cooperation and promotion of green innovations”

*“Towards A Pollution-Free Planet”*

September 16-22, 2019, Almaty, Kazakhstan

#### 1. BACKGROUND. LEADERSHIP AND THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN TRANSFORMATIONS.

CALP is a unique leadership programme of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) undertaken since 2010. It is designed to improve leadership capacity of young and mid-level managers of various environmental agencies and focuses on various sustainable development challenges of the region. It is organized annually and involves government, academic, private sectors and NGO representatives – an approach helps to ensure a comprehensive understanding of environmental and sustainable development issues from regional perspective.

According to the UN data (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/youth/>), today more than one billion people fall within the age bracket 18 to 35, the largest group ever to make the transition to adulthood. Their numbers are expected to grow—between 2015 and 2030 alone, about 1.9 billion young people are projected to turn 15 years old. This growth dynamics is very high especially in the region of Central Asia. Being a home for almost 70 M people, the region’s youth population equals *approx.* 40% of that overall population number.

Connected to each other like never before, in the context of digital connectivity breakthroughs, young people are capable to contribute to the resilience of their communities, proposing innovative solutions to societal challenges and driving social progress. They are also agents of change, mobilizing to advance the Sustainable Development Goals to improve the lives of people and the health of the planet. Young people have the potential and motivation to drive the sustainable development movement and young activists and leaders, are both beneficiaries and drivers of this action area. Youth are also an important consumer group and the habits they develop now will have a major impact on future consumption patterns and societal transformations in general.

#### 2. CALP AS A TOOL FOR LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE CENTRAL ASIAN REGION

Working with young people is a priority area of public policy for many countries in Central Asia. During the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in September 2017, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward initiatives to develop multilateral cooperation in the field of social support for the younger generation, protecting their rights, freedom and legitimate interests. In the Message of the President of Kazakhstan from October 5, 2018, it was proposed to create a broad platform of social elevators, which will include a full range of measures to support all categories of youth and ***declare 2019 – The Year of Youth in Kazakhstan.***

***Today in Central Asia, the role of new generation managers,*** regional leaders with global thinking, regional vision, understanding of the importance of regional cooperation and ready to embrace innovative approaches is very important. Young leaders with adequate skills and competencies are needed to respond to global challenges and jointly solve regional issues on water, climate change, gender, and other environmental and sustainable development.

In 2019, CAREC turns 18 years old, and the organization continues to develop its role as a facilitator of regional environmental cooperation in Central Asia, increasingly involving young people in the region and providing a

neutral platform for capacity building, sharing experience, best practices and facilitating regional dialogues in various sustainable development topics. Examples for this are regional initiatives and dialogue platforms such as the “Environment for Central Asia” process, as an overall framework for regional cooperation, the Central Asian International Environmental Forum (**CAIEF**) and the Central Asian Climate Change Conference (**CACCC**).

CALP, being a flagship initiative of CAREC, is designed to equip young leaders of the region with cutting-edge knowledge and innovative methodologies in responding to global, regional and national environmental challenges. It also promotes the participation of young leaders in environmental decision making by using their leadership skills and increasing their knowledge. CALP today is **one of the most successful instruments of a multi-partner, inter-sectoral, interdepartmental initiative** to build the leadership capacity of and open new professional horizons for young people of Central Asia.

**3. 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CALP** – 10<sup>th</sup> CALP will mainly focus on environmental innovations and water diplomacy with emphasis on gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills. The lectures will provide latest innovative solutions to environmental challenges on national, regional and global levels.

**The overall goal of the 10th Anniversary CALP** is to promote connectivity of Central Asian youth, provide a neutral regional youth dialogue platform for discussing water cooperation, water diplomacy, gender equality, climate change, energy efficiency, gender, the NEXUS approach and other development issues between governments, academia, civil society, and private business, as well as strengthening and highlighting their role and voice in the regional cooperation.

#### **The main objectives of the 10th Anniversary CALP are:**

- Promote the Leadership as a tool for cooperation, innovation and change for sustainable development;
- Highlight a Youth’s role in innovations in the field of environment and sustainable development in Central Asia;
- Present an important role of the water diplomacy with emphasis on gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills;
- Share success stories, achievements, best practices and examples in the field of Leadership and development of the CALP alumni;
- Demonstrate a Youth’s role and opportunities in strengthening regional cooperation in Central Asia;
- Produce the policymakers and researchers of tomorrow, who will be at the forefront of global efforts towards a more sustainable future;
- Present a Youth’s role in cooperation with business in addressing environmental and development challenges:
  - SDGs in terms of innovations and business opportunities,
  - enabling environment for doing start-ups,
  - the possibility of using artificial intelligence and blockchains in climate change projects,
  - Testing ideas on the application of IT interface, science and innovation for solving water and environmental problems, etc.

#### **Principles:**

1. *"Think globally, act locally, manage regionally!"*
2. *Transparency* - an online system for registration, all countries are represented in the selection committee; the list of selected candidates is published publicly.
3. *Environmentally friendly* - a web application instead of printing the agenda, all souvenirs are made from environmentally friendly materials.
4. *Online learning* - a series of greetings and key presentations by international experts will be done remotely via Skype or video presentations,
5. *Openness* – partners from international organizations and programs and the private sector will be given the opportunity to moderate CALP thematic sessions.

6. *Back-to-back events* - the unification of capacity-building events – back-to-back training on water diplomacy with emphasis on gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills in cooperation with the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria.

**Dates:** September 16-22, 2019, Almaty, Kazakhstan

**International partners supporting the 10th Anniversary CALP:** UN Environment, OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria; OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, United States Agency for International Development (USAID); European Union; World Bank, Government of Finland and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

**Speakers:**

1. The heads of ministries and departments of the CA countries and Afghanistan, who could share the programs and policies in the matters of SDGs, nature protection, water use, etc.
2. Representatives of large business companies implementing projects within the framework of social and corporate responsibility (SCR) on:
  - green development,
  - innovation and startups,
  - water diplomacy,
  - renewable energy and energy efficiency,
  - integrated solid waste management,
  - support for youth and gender initiatives,
  - the role of business in addressing environmental and development challenges, etc.
3. International and regional experts from international organizations, companies and universities of Central Asia, Europe, Asia Pacific and the United States on:
  - global and regional youth initiatives,
  - development of skills and competencies in the field of analytics,
  - leadership as a tool for cooperation;
  - gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills;
  - and regional cooperation in water management;
  - climate change;
  - water and gender, climate change and gender;
  - interrelationships between water, food, energy and ecosystems;
  - resource mobilization and fundraising. Programme managers and specialists of CAREC projects: Smart Waters, CAMP4ASB, NEXUS, SIWI, SDC.
4. Leading experts of Central Asia on environmental issues and sustainable development: Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan; Tashkent Institute of Engineers of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization on Regional cooperation in Water Management (TIAME), Uzbekistan; DKU - partners, students and graduates of the master's program DKU-CAREC-USAID, Kazakhstan association of nature users for SD, KazWaste, Center for Sustainable Production and Consumption of Kazakhstan - on integrated management of solid household waste, etc.
5. International partners: UN Environment, OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria, OSCE Programme Office in Astana; OSCE Centers in CA countries; USAID; European Union; World Bank and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).
6. Speakers from: UNECE, UNDP, UNESCO, UN ESCAP, UN Women; GIZ; SDC: Blue Peace Central Asia Initiative (BPCA); UNESCO International Centre for Water Cooperation; IFAS; SIC of ICWC; World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe, etc.

**Side-events:**

— Field trips, excursions...

**Further steps in the run up to 10<sup>th</sup> CALP (January-30<sup>th</sup> of June 2019):**

- Informing national partners and donors in the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan about the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CALP (*January-March 30, 2019*),
- Informing the media, NGOs, the CALP network and universities in the Central Asian countries about the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CALP (*January-March 30, 2019*),
- Presentation of the concept of the CALP and collection of comments and suggestions from partners and donors in the Central Asian countries and Afghanistan (*January-March 30, 2019*),
- Opening of online application for prospective candidates (*1<sup>st</sup> of April 2019*),
- Reviewing and selecting submitted applications (*1<sup>st</sup> of June – 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2019*),
- Informing the successful applicants and national partners (*30<sup>th</sup> of June 2019*).

#### Expected results:

- The role of Leadership as a tool for cooperation, innovation and change is clearly demonstrated.
- The international community, national partners and representatives of the private sector are interested in the CALP as a regional youth platform in the field of environment and sustainable development.
- The importance of the Youth's role in promoting innovations in Central Asia is effectively promoted.
- The importance of the water diplomacy with emphasis on gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills is effectively promoted.
- The prospects for effective decision-making in the field of climate change, energy efficiency, water resources and sustainable development are improved: CALP helps to ensure a comprehensive understanding of environmental and sustainable development issues for future decision makers on environmental issues in the region.
- Success stories, achievements, best practices as well as innovative ideas for existing and prospective regional projects and initiatives through available international expertise and the CALP alumni network are presented and solid inputs into furthering the integrative regional processes on water, climate change, renewable energy, NEXUS and other related issues are made.
- The ideas for regional youth initiatives and projects in the field of environment and sustainable development discussed and supported by international and business partners with specific focus on:
  - SDGs;
  - enabling environment for doing start-ups, the use of artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies in climate change projects;
  - Testing ideas on the application of IT interface, science and innovation for solving water and environmental problems etc.

**OSCE “Regional training course on water diplomacy  
with a special focus on gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills”**

September 23-25 2019, Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Gender-sensitive water governance and water diplomacy**

This year, CALP will be organized in conjunction with the “Regional training course on water diplomacy with a special focus on gender-sensitive negotiation and mediation skills” promoted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), from 23 to 25 September 2019 in Almaty (Kazakhstan).

The countries of Central Asia are rich in water resources, though these are unequally distributed and conflicting interests on their usage and sharing regularly lead to tensions at all levels and put livelihoods at risk. Climate change is putting additional stress on the environment, in particular on water and land resources, and poses new challenges for adequate institutional responses. At the same time, water or shared resources in general function not only as potential contributors to conflicts, but also as a possible source of co-operation. Jointly managing water can help build trust and improve relations among different water users, neighboring communities and states.

The inclusion of gender mainstreaming in water management is important because women are often disproportionately affected by unsustainable water management. Gender-sensitive policy interventions in the water sector contribute to fair sharing of water and maximize the social, economic and environmental benefits of sustainable development. In this respect, gender mainstreaming in water governance can lead to more effective and responsive policies that reduce social imbalances for the benefit of the society as a whole and therewith contribute to conflict prevention.

The OSCE Training Course is part of the project “Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention – Phase II”, and it follows the “Regional training workshop on gender mainstreaming and conflict resolution in water governance” successfully conducted in 2015 in Almaty.

**The main objective of the OSCE Training Course** is to increase capacity of leaders and water professionals in Central Asia in gender-sensitive water governance and water diplomacy.

**Key modules of the Training Course** will include:

- Introduction to Water Diplomacy and Cooperation Concepts;
- Introduction to Water Diplomacy Methods and Tools;
- International Water Law: Facilitating Gender Inclusive Transboundary Cooperation;
- The Role of Multi-level Water Governance in Peacebuilding: Examples from Conflict-Affected Countries;
- Mainstreaming Gender into Benefit-Sharing and Regional Integration Approaches;
- Options for Operationalizing Gender Policy and Strategy; and
- Learning from Other Experiences: Case Studies and Lessons Learnt.

**Speakers:** international experts and trainers from the International Centre for Water Cooperation (under the auspices of UNESCO) / Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), OSCE experts, alumni from the previous regional training courses on gender mainstreaming in water governance

**Dates:** from 23 to 25 September 2019, Almaty, Kazakhstan