



THE USAID REGIONAL WATER AND VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITY

CELEBRATION OF THE AMU DARYA RIVER DAY ON REGIONAL LEVEL

Organizers: USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity in cooperation with the Ministry of Water Resource of Uzbekistan and EC IFAS

Date: September 27, 2023

Venue: “Summit” conference hall, Farovon Hotel, Khiva city, Uzbekistan

Event format: in-person participation with simultaneous interpretation into English and Russian

Overview:

One of the main objectives of the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity is to promote the practical implementation of IWRM principles in the region among a wide range of stakeholders in water resources management.

Stakeholder groups in water management are diverse, including students, scientists, academics and business professionals. Celebrating River Day, which is a global trend and usually celebrated on the last Sunday in September, is an effective mechanism for engaging different stakeholder groups and highlighting the importance of water conservation and the environment while discussing possible solutions to various water-related challenges. River Days are also an effective way to initiate behavioral change in support of more sustainable water use.

The organization of River Day events for the Amu Darya River Basin is based on proposals from the Activity’s national partners. The celebration helps raise awareness in the region about water use and management in the basin and involves young people in dialogue on water management. Earlier this year, the Activity organized a series of River Day events at the national level in each of the four basin countries – Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Activities at the national level also widely involved youth through drawing and essay contests, water-theme video competitions, and river clean-up activities.

Regional Amu Darya River Day includes sessions for awarding prizes in the youth competitions and an interactive quiz for all attendees on facts and figures related to the river basin and the populations it serves.

Participants:

USAID mission in Central Asia, members of RCC, EC IFAS and its structures, youth representatives (winners of drawing and essay contests), representatives of basin organizations and, media



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AMU DARYA RIVER DAY ON REGIONAL LEVEL

AGENDA

Moderator: Anna Inozemtseva, IWRM Lead of the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity

September 27

- 09:30-10:00** **Exhibition of children's drawings and essays on the theme "The Amu Darya River - River of Friendship", demonstration of video clips**
Morning coffee
Registration of participants and dividing participants into groups for seating
Welcoming remarks
- 10:00-10:20**
- Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan
 - Ilkhom Juraev, authorized representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS)
 - Ekaterina Strikeleva, Chief of Party of the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity
- 10:00-10:20** **Introduction of participants**
- 10:30-10:45** **A brief overview of the concept, history, goals and objectives of the Amu Darya River Day celebrations in the basin countries. River Day in figures, video on holding events at the national level**
Anna Inozemtseva, IWRM Lead, USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity
- 10:45-11:00** **Regional institutions for water management in the Amu Darya River basin**
Ilkhom Juraev, authorized representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
- 11:00-11:30** **Presentations of winners of drawing and essay contests**
- Quiz on interesting facts about the Amu Darya River, history and main hydraulic structures on the river**
Moderator: Anna Inozemtseva, IWRM Lead for the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity
- 11:30-12:30** **Jury:**
Ilkhom Juraev, authorized representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
Ekaterina Strikeleva, Chief of Party of the USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity
- 12:30-13:30** **Group photo and lunch break**



13:30-15:30 Tour of the ancient city of Khiva and return to the hotel

Cooking pilaf together under the guidance of experienced cooks

The following questions will be heard in the process of cooking pilaf:

- 15:30-17:30**
- Legends and stories about the Amu Darya River
 - Interesting facts about Amu Darya river and its tributaries
 - Interesting facts about traditions of cooking pilaf
 - Facts about the necessary amount of water for each ingredient of pilaf

17:30-19:00 Social hour dedicated to the River Day with the celebration cake