



The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme

SPS e-flier – E.Maduike / S.Michaelis

May 2010

UZBEKISTAN

Cooperative Activities under the SPS Programme



Copyright © Wikipedia

Uzbekistan has been involved in NATO science activities since 1993. In total, scientists and experts from Uzbekistan have had leading roles in 164 activities, and more joined various cooperative activities as participants and key speakers.

Today, NATO science activities enable close collaboration on the two key priorities of **defence against terrorism** and **countering other threats to security** and are managed under the Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme. SPS activities contribute to NATO's strategic

objective of partnership, helping to connect scientists and experts from NATO

countries with their counterparts from Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries through workshops, training courses, team collaborations and multi-year projects.

All activities supported by the SPS Programme are approved by NATO nations by consensus.

Examples of Activities

On 1 to 4 September 2010 an Uzbek scientist from the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation & Agricultural, Mechanization Engineers will lead an Advanced Research Workshop entitled **“Effect of Climate Change on Water Supplies - Issues of National and Global Security”** to be held in Cesme and Izmir, Turkey. At the event 49 participants from NATO, Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries aim to discuss the impact of current groundwater management practices as well as attempt to define potential strategies to reduce the impact of human activity. Being that groundwater, climate change and security lie at the crossroads of scientists, engineers, economists and politicians, this SPS workshop intends to bring together

key specialists from a broad range of affected countries to map out scientific solutions for climate change and the regional and global conservation of groundwater. [ref 983717]

In November 2008, the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) and the Republic of Uzbekistan signed an official agreement to implement the project **“Mélange Destruction in Uzbekistan”**, aimed at the removal of the threat posed by a highly toxic, Soviet-era rocket fuel oxidizer in the country. The official inauguration of the project took place in November 2009 and the process will be completed within a year. [ref 983464]

Beginning in July 2006, investigators from Uzbekistan and the United States are working to assess the “**Environmental Security in Khorezm, Uzbekistan**”, including quality of water, aquatic ecosystems and aquatic food sources. Models have been developed of anthropogenic influences on the irrigation



A researcher collects a passive organic sampler from a lake in Khorezm in November 2006. (photo courtesy of project co-directors)

lakes and the Amu Darya River where it flows through the Khorezm region. Future work will determine the potential of the region for aquaculture and other water-related industries. End-users in Uzbekistan include local land owners, as well as the State University of Urgench, the Institute of Water Problems, Hydrometeorological Research Institute and Centre for Environmental Research of the German-Uzbek “Khorezm Project.” [ref 982159]

Scientists from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Slovenia are cooperating in a project to manage uranium industry wastes and prevent adverse effects on health and the environment. The project, “**Uranium Extraction and Environmental Security in Central Asian Republics**”, involves determining how radionuclides migrate, the extent of local contamination and the doses to which different population groups have been exposed, with particular focus on drinking-water supplies near uranium tailing and waste ore deposits. Municipal and national regulatory authorities in the countries involved will have access to data on radon levels in homes and public buildings and radioactivity in drinking-water supplies. Recommendations will be made on ways to limit exposure. [ref 981742]

Uzbekistan has benefited from internet connectivity provided through the SPS **Virtual Silk Highway** project since 2002. The connectivity is currently delivered via satellite, but will be switched to fibre by mid-2010. In parallel, networking infrastructure grants have contributed to the improvement of the **Uzbekistan Science Network (UZSCINET)**, through the provision of networking equipment and information technology to academic institutions. These projects enable academicians and young scientists to have easy access to the web and the possibility to exchange large documents and datasets with their local and foreign counterparts. In addition, researchers can sign up to distance-learning programmes and set up video conference facilities. This helps promote collaboration and integrate local institutes in the international scientific community. [ref 982188]