

Declaration in Support of the Formation of the  
Central Asia and South Caucasus Water Utilities Association (CASCWUA)  
Almaty, Kazakhstan  
13 November 2007

On 12-13 November, 14 water utilities from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan participated in a conference to discuss the issues and challenges facing the water and sanitation sector in the Central Asia and South Caucasus region and explore innovative approaches to address the same.

The Water Operators Partnerships (WOPs) Program is a structured program of cooperation between and among water utilities that will help improve operational performance. WOPs has been identified by the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation as one of six key actions in helping ensure that the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for water and sanitation are met.

The participants agree that there is merit in the establishment of a water utilities association for Central Asia and South Caucasus which can serve as a platform for the implementation of the WOPs program and to learn from each other's practices and experience as well as exchange knowledge and experience with other similar water utilities networks from other regions. A network has been in existence in Southeast Asia<sup>1</sup> since 2002 and South Asia recently formed its own network in April 2007<sup>2</sup>.

The participants endorse the mission, vision and organizational structure of CASCWUA as stated in the draft terms and conditions presented at the conference, attached herewith, and commit themselves to work for the formal establishment of CASCWUA including the organization of a Secretariat and governing board in accordance with accepted rules and regulations of a host country/institution as the case may be.

Participants appreciate the offer of the Asian Development Bank to provide Secretariat support pending the formal establishment of CASCWUA for a period of no longer than three (3) months.

Pending the formal establishment of CASCWUA, participants agree that activities including performance benchmarking, twinning and other capacity building programs can begin and coordination shall be made through the Chairman and other elected officers of CASCWUA. Participants confirm the importance of developing a Business Plan for 2007-2008 stating specifically the activities that will be undertaken, the budget and schedules for the same.

All participants will strive to promote CASCWUA to other utilities in their respective countries and invite them to become members of the association.

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<sup>1</sup> Southeast Asia Water Utilities Network (SEAWUN); please visit [www.seawun.org](http://www.seawun.org) for more information

<sup>2</sup> South Asia Water Utilities Network (SAWUN); please visit [www.sawun.org](http://www.sawun.org) for more information

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