



UN
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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

WATER RESOURCES IN CENTRAL ASIA: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

March 18, 2023 –Bishkek [Hyatt Regency], Kyrgyzstan

Organized by: UNDP - Green Alliance KG, Open Innovations PF, Green For

Background on the event

Green Alliance KG, Open Innovations R&D, and Green For, with the support of UNDP Kyrgyzstan and the European Union Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic, organized the Conference in order to build the water dialogue and discussions at the national level with relevant stakeholders. As well known, water is an essential component of Kyrgyzstan's economic, political and social security. More than 90% of the national energy is generated by hydropower plants, while neighboring countries benefit from upstream countries. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure a high level of attention from relevant stakeholders and sharpen the focus on its long-term value for national welfare and regional cooperation.

The Water Conference in Bishkek was planned to bring together all stakeholders - the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, and line ministries, international development partners, business representatives, civil sector, youth movements, experts, and academia. Additionally, the aim of the conference was to discuss water issues in order to achieve SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable use of water and sanitation for all, as well as to raise awareness on opportunities and prospects for water through mutually beneficial cooperation and sustainable development in the region. In addition, the conference elevated the water debate to a level that is unified, comprehensive, inclusive, and based on comprehensive knowledge and practice.

During the Conference the following issues were addressed: the serious interconnection between the role of government and society in building climate resilience in the face of the growing challenges posed by the greenhouse effect affecting the socio-economic conditions of Kyrgyzstan. Strengthening climate resilience is an integral component of this consideration.

Water Action Agenda (one paragraph, if possible, please include the link to your commitment in the [Water Action Agenda database](#))

During the UN Water Conference on 22-24 March 2023, Open Innovations addresses the significant challenges of our time posed by climate change and irrational utilization of water resources and promote a creation of an innovative platform of best policies, practices and lessons learned in order to consolidate all comprehensive efforts to bring effective solutions to the challenges faced. As a mountainous country, the Kyrgyz Republic has significant water resources with a total volume of approximately 760 billion cubic meters that are condensed in

6580 glaciers. However, due to climate change and irrational utilization of water resources, the country has already experienced the detrimental consequences such as extreme and intense weather conditions leading to deglaciation, ecosystem collapsing, biodiversity loss, land degradation, deforestation, etc. All these consequences have already been affecting all livelihoods and the health of people and living species at national and regional levels.

Key Issues discussed

- Status and challenges of water resources in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Water resources of the Kyrgyz Republic - way growth and regional cooperation
- Water diplomacy
- Legal development for improving water resources, ecology, and agrarian conditions
- Water, ecology, glaciers and mountains: national treasures
- Promoting integrated water resources management, water efficiency and value
- Strengthening climate resilience into water-energy-food nexus approach
- Youth Water Initiatives and Gender role in Water policy
- Promoting science-based water solutions, tools and technologies
- National and intersectoral cooperation;
- Promoting natural solutions to water resources, water quality issues and ecosystems.
- Sustainable infrastructure and disaster risk reduction.
- Water resources and climate resilience: strengthening of interrelationship.
- Water resources in the 2030 Agenda

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- To take meaningful and effective actions toward sustainable development taking Water into account as the major constituent of life support, Open Innovations finds the best solutions and decisions by carrying out more and deeper versatile research activities on Water and Hydrogen products in the context of development;
- To facilitate and increase Research and Development on Water with involvement of international research community that will generate the effective mechanism to achieve a water-smart economy the main outcomes of which will be the low-water innovations and hydrogen technologies for industry and agriculture;
 - To increase awareness on Water for development among stakeholders and beneficiaries and bring water-conscious standards and values at regional, national and local levels by generating new sustainable knowledge, experience and skills and integrating them with traditional effective and time-proven ones;
- To develop accountable, transparent, open and comprehensible water governance with strong administration and leadership that will implement water development projects and achieve a water security environment at all levels of governance of the country and the Central Asian region as a whole;
- To build water valued capacity and potential among the young people by developing water oriented educational projects and activities at schools, colleges and universities with focus on creating water conscious and saving future perspectives.