

INFORMATION NOTE

Second Meeting of Responsible Representatives of UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) National Committees of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Countries (18 - 19 October, 2011, St. Petersburg)

The general strategy of the CIS countries in the field of hydrology and water resources during the last 15-20 years is largely determined by the features of their development under a condition of radical changes in the socio-economic sphere which had similar for the most countries negative consequences, such as reduction of hydrological network, its technical backwardness, reduced quality of observations, an abrupt cutting down of budgets of scientific and engineering organizations and financing of international cooperation, practical cessation of experimental research and free flow of data, information and publications. All these made many of the CIS countries unable to take active part in international cooperation first of all at the WMO and UNESCO level.

These to a large extent similar to us problems cause a need to interchange practices in stemming difficulties facing scientists and specialists in hydrology, develop proposals and measures on mobilization of our resources and efforts to strengthen activity in the framework of international cooperation first of all in the projects which are of the greatest scientific and practical interest to all our countries.

The 1st Meeting of Responsible Representatives of UNESCO IHP National Committees of CIS countries was organized in 2008 in the State Hydrological Institute. It was aimed at coordinating the IHP National Committees activities, enhancing the efficiency of the CIS countries international cooperation in the field of hydrology and water resources and development of a work plan and a cooperation programme taking into account priorities of the countries participating in the UNESCO IHP-VII (2008-2013).

As a result of discussion on papers and presentations contributed by the NC IHP Responsible Representatives, recommendations were adopted on top-priority goals of cooperation of the CIS Countries National Committees within the framework of the UNESCO IHP VII «Water systems under stress and societal responses» (2008-2013). These are, first of all, climate change and economic impact on hydrological cycle and consequent impact on water resources (also of arid and semi-arid regions), problems of water management, hydro-hazards, hydrological extremes and water-related disasters, transboundary water, improvement of hydrological network etc.

Recommendation was also made to call such meetings on a regular basis in order to the further coordinate activities for effective participation in implementation of the IHP-VII (2008-2013) and plan the following IHP phase.

In view of the above it seems highly important and timely to hold the Second Meeting of Responsible Representatives of UNESCO IHP National Committees of the CIS Countries, discuss goals and priorities in the field of hydrology, co-ordinate participation in the IHP-VII and formulate plans of IHP-VIII taking into account interests and distinctive features of the CIS countries and to elaborate joint international strategy for cooperation within the framework of the UNESCO IHP and other international organizations.

The meeting organized under financial support of the UNESCO Office in Moscow and Roshydromet will contribute to enhanced and fruitful international cooperation of the CIS countries in handling their hydrological and water resources problems under current climate and socio-economic conditions.

Venue:

State Hydrological Institute,
St.Petersburg, 23, 2nd Line V.O.