



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

CENTRAL ASIAN NETWORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

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**Central Asia
2006**

INTERNATIONAL LAW PERCEIVES THE RIGHT FOR INFORMATION NOT AS A SPECIFIC RIGHT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, BUT AS A RIGHT OF EVERY HUMAN BEING.

People make decisions

Introduction

Currently throughout Central Asia there are lots of “green” non-governmental organizations pursuing the goal of involving the general public into environmental decision-making processes. At the same time, the region lacks authoritative media agencies serving as intermediaries in the cross-sector dialogue and uniting participants in the sphere of cross-sector cooperation.

The few ecological newspapers published in the regions and financed by local administrations, as well as bulletins produced by environmental NGOs, for various reasons cover narrow agency-specific topics and interests.

Hence, it is critically important to develop the interested environment, the atmosphere conducive to public participation in organizations and associations, as well as individual actions or support of positive ecological transformations.

It is necessary to design the system aimed at providing objective ecological information, promoting public awareness and ensuring easy access for the general public.

In our opinion, it is important to promote the environmental mentality among government officials and common citizens. When a driver realizes that poor quality gasoline increases the toxic content of the exhaust gases polluting the environment, he pays greater attention to the technical conditions of his vehicle. When a company director understands the need to rely on cleaner technologies, ensure safety of the end products and recycling of industrial wastes, he demonstrates a prime example of the “green” mentality.

People make decisions. People, “from a young pioneer to a pensioner”, from rank-and-file workers to business leaders read the same newspapers, watch the same TV shows. This is a unique opportunity to develop similar approaches and points of view on environmental issues and the ways to address these issues and to engage common people into the process of addressing complex environmental issues. All of these factors led to cooperation among NGOs working in the sphere of ecological journalism. Several partners decided to establish Central Asian Network of Environmental Journalists.

Mass Media in Central Asia

The state of the freedom of speech is a difficult topic in Central Asia. The region's media agencies are characterized by the fact that professional TV stations and printed publications primarily represent two opposing points of view. Some broadcast the official position, while others represent points of view expressed by certain opposition groups.

Media agencies have been distributed among a number of owners – financial and industrial groups, certain clans and oligarchic unions. Consequently, in the current situation approximately 90 percent of all media agencies depend on government structures or their owners. Media outlets cover environmental issues only to the extent suitable for the governmental agencies or owners of the media channels.

Considering the fact that a large number (over 5 thousand) media outlets operate throughout Central Asia, plurality of opinions in the region is still in the early stages of development. In most cases, media agencies function under direct or indirect supervision of their owners. 90 percent of all printed publications and TV stations express either pro-governmental official points of view or dramatically polar positions. In other words, there is no room for the plurality of opinions. The same issues profoundly impact environmental journalists across Central Asia.

For example, practical experiences of the ecological news agency “Greenwomen” indicate that in providing environmental data, government agencies primarily focus on protecting agency-specific interests, as opposed to presenting objective and balanced environmental information.

Central Asian Network of Environmental Journalists (CANEJ) Project

UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) supported the idea of establishing Central Asian Network of Environmental Journalists (CANEJ).

A series of preliminary consultations were conducted with Tarja Virtanen, UNESCO IPDC Regional Advisor for Communications and Information and Mr. Sergey Karpov, Almaty Cluster Office National Officer for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In the framework of these consultations, we adjusted the Project goals and objectives, defined the action plan and key areas of operations.

The CANEJ Establishment Project is designed to implement measures aimed at promoting freedom of speech and access to information (one of the key principles postulated in the Aarhus Convention). Moreover, the project will aim to achieve the goal of promoting awareness among journalists of the environmental issues in Central Asia to build capacity for adequate media coverage of these issues.

CANEJ will also facilitate development of the cooperation mechanisms linking media outlets and government agencies, increasing quality and improving timeliness of coverage, ensuring exchange of information and experiences with similar international organizations.

A distance learning course for ecological journalists in Central Asia

The Project also charges CANEJ with development of a distance learning course to facilitate education of ecological journalists. Currently professional journalists, professors, students majoring in Journalism and others have access to the course.

The educational course contains information about international agreements and conventions signed or ratified by Central Asian states and covering a broad range of issues, such as climate, biodiversity, biosafety, expansion of deserts, chemical pollution, water resources management and others.

A special section of the distance learning course is devoted to the discussion of the provisions included into the Aarhus Convention "On access to ecological information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental protection matters", and The Pollutants Emissions and Transfers Registry Protocol.

The distance learning course helps users to gain information about the UN sustainable development education decade, chemical pollution situation in Central Asia, water resources issues and other key environmental issues.

Integration of these and similar courses into the educational system presents a major challenge resulting from overburdened curricula and inadequate equipment available at most educational institutions in Central Asia.

This is the first experience of its kind in Central Asia, which makes it especially valuable. In the future, we envision frequent updates of the available information, development of new distance learning courses and integration of the necessary scientific disciplines aimed at professional development of ecological journalists.

The distance learning course designed for ecological journalists working in Central Asia is available at the following address: www.unesco.org/webworld/ipdc

Information about the International Program for the Development of Communications (IPDC) is available at: <http://www.unesco.kz>

We have also developed the stand-alone electronic version of the distance learning course, which can be obtained by contacting CANEJ representatives at the Network's offices in your home country (contact addresses are available in the "CANEJ Members" section).

A Working Meeting of the Network Ecological Journalists

In the framework of the project, we organized a working meeting of CANEJ members representing Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. Representatives of Kazakhstan's Environmental Protection Ministry, Bilim Central Asia educational center, NGO representatives and experts took part in the meeting.

Mr. Sergey Karpov and Mr. Bolatbek Amanbekov, Representatives of the Almaty

Cluster Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan conducted a training session covering practical skills needed to develop distance education courses for ecological journalists working in Central Asia.

The meeting was also devoted to the discussion of the ways for further Network development, the Network By-Laws, the Partnership Agreement, and the CANEJ Strategy of Actions developed in cooperation with Mr. Sergey Vlasenko, an expert legal counsel specialized in the sphere of the freedom of speech and rights of journalists.

Members of the Central Asian Network of Environmental Journalists

It is also important to note the limited potential of journalists covering environmental issues. At the sub-Regional level across Central Asia there are no training or resource centers for ecological journalists. There is a lack of professional unions. The mechanisms protecting freedom of speech and constitutional rights of journalists are underdeveloped. There is no open access to information and a lack of cooperation between mass media and government agencies.

At the national level in certain Central Asian countries there are operational unions of journalists, however there are no active professional networks (protecting rights of journalists, ensuring exchange of experience and resources, participation in international conferences, expansion of the system of access to information). Despite the fact that Kazakhstan and Tajikistan are the signatories of the Aarhus Convention “On environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters”, authorities in the two countries disregard the principles of the Convention. Representatives of the general public are forced to appeal to international organizations and seek protection of a fundamental right – the right to gain access to information.

In Central Asia the key issues in the sphere of environmental information coverage include:

- journalists are not aware of the international experience in the sphere.
- there are no systems ensuring professional development of environmental journalists.

Establishment of an independent network of environmental journalists in Central Asia (CANEJ) will provide the necessary platform to:

- improve the situation in the sphere of environmental information collection and dissemination;
- build the potential of journalists by means of specialized media training sessions, focusing special attention on environmental issues impacting the five Central Asian states;
- improve the mechanisms of cooperation between media outlets and government agencies, promote timeliness and quality of actions taken by journalists;
- facilitate the expansion of access to environmental information and environmental protection opportunities in Central Asia by means of providing support in obtaining equipment and experience;
- promote the exchange of international experience related to the activities of similar networks; recruit new members.

Ecological news agency “GreenWomen”.

Our mission is to promote public participation in ensuring resolution of environmental issues by means of developing environmental mentality among people in Central Asia.

The target (focus) groups include: regional and national TV stations and printed publications, NGOs working in the environmental sphere, environmental protection agencies.

Kazakhstan, “Ecological news agency “Greenwomen”,

E-mail: greenwomen@nursat.kz

Phone: +7 3272 474537

Center «Gender: innovations and development». Target (focus) groups: women journalists, national TV stations, NGOs specialized in the sphere of TV broadcasting and video productions development (TV series and PSAs, educational TV programming for regional and Nation-wide TV channels).

Uzbekistan, “Center: Gender, innovations and development”,

E-mail: galina_v@uzsci.net

Phone: 998 71 133 45 93

NGO “For the Earth”. Target (focus) groups: media agencies, TV, youth NGOs, specialized in the sphere of environmental information. Experience of joint projects with printed media and TV stations in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan, “For the Earth”, Tajikistan,
E-mail: forearth@tjinter.com
Phone: 992 372 24 12 77

NGO “Global and local informational partnership” Target (focus) groups: media agencies, TV stations, youth and environmental NGOs, specialized in the sphere of biodiversity and biosafety. Experience of cooperation with government and non-governmental agencies in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan, “Global and local informational partnership”,
E-mail: ngo_glip@yahoo.com
Phone: 996 (502) 342420



BY-LAWS

of the Network Union «Central Asian Network of Environmental Journalists»

1. General

1.1 The Central Asian Network of Environmental Journalists (CANEJ) is not a legal entity. In their operations, CANEJ members follow provisions of the Agreement and carry out projects in accordance with the provisions of the respective national legislative acts.

1.2 The current CANEJ By-Laws are adopted to ensure coordination of actions among CANEJ members, as well as to achieve goals and objectives provided for in the Agreement and in the current By-Laws.

1.3 The full title of the network union – «The Network Union «Central Asian Network Environmental Journalists».

1.4 The abbreviated title of the network union – «CANEJ»

2. CANEJ goals and sphere of activities

2.1 The CANEJ has been established to serve the needs of people throughout Central Asia related to acquiring information regarding environmental conditions and utilization of natural resources in the Central Asian states.

2.2 The CANEJ primary sphere of activities involves interaction and exchange of information regarding environmental conditions in Central Asia.

2.3 To achieve goals mentioned in section 2.1 above, CANEJ carries out the following types of activities:

- facilitates greater access to information about environmental conditions and protection of the environment throughout Central Asia.
- provides support and assistance in obtaining technical means ensuring access and exchange of information.
- offers assistance in conducting educational and other seminars, training sessions and other meetings for different groups of citizens and representatives of the media covering environmental issues impacting the Central Asian states.
- exchanges information, knowledge and experience in the sphere of media

coverage related to environmental issues in Central Asia (at the local, regional and international levels).

- recruits new CANEJ members.
- support and facilitates fundraising activities required to ensure continuous operations of CANEJ members.

2.4 In all of their actions CANEJ members adhere to the provisions of the Agreement and the By-Laws. CANEJ members may carry out other activities advancing the declared CANEJ goals.

3. CANEJ structure and governance

3.1 The Network Council serves as the CANEJ governance body. The Network Council is comprised of all CANEJ members – leaders of the CANEJ member organizations or their representatives.

3.2 The Network Council addresses the following issues:

- the overall strategy of CANEJ operations;
- amendments to the Agreement and CANEJ By-Laws;
- acceptance of the new members;
- CANEJ establishment and liquidation.

The Network Council has the right to review any issues related to CANEJ operations.

3.3 Decisions of the Network Council have legal force if more than half of its members are present at a Network Council meeting. Upon an invitation extended by the Network Council other individuals may take part in the Council's proceedings. All decisions of the Network Council should be adopted by a simple majority vote based on the number of the Council's members present at the meeting.

3.4 The Network Council meetings should be held at least once every three months. The locations of the upcoming meetings should be established at the preceding meetings of the Council.

3.5 The Network Council Director should inform all members of the Council about the upcoming Council meeting no later than one week prior to the established meeting date.

3.6 The Network Council Director is responsible for developing the agenda for each Network Council meeting. The site of the meeting should be prepared by the Network Council member representing the selected location. In cooperation with the Network Council Director, the Council member hosting the meeting develops materials needed for the Network Council meeting.

3.7 The Network Council should elect the Network Council Director responsible for managing CANEJ activities between the Network Council meetings, in accordance with the Network Council resolutions.

4. CANEJ Membership

4.1 Any organization (entity) signing the Agreement on cooperation in the

information resource (the network union) development, hereinafter referred to as the Agreement, and recognizing provisions of the current CANEJ By-Laws may become a member of the network union.

4.2 To become a CANEJ member, these organizations (entities) should submit an application and provide a letter of reference from one of the current CANEJ members, as well as a copy of their current constitutive documents. The application should be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting of the Network Council.

4.3 CANEJ members should attend the Network Council meetings. If a Network Council member is unable to attend, a designated official representative should take his place at the meeting.

In instances, when all Network Council members can not assemble to adopt a decision, the Network Council Director has the right to conduct a vote *in absentio* using electronic mail, fax communication and other means.

4.4 The Network Council decisions are binding for all CANEJ members. .

4.5 A Network Council member may suspend or terminate his activities in the framework of CANEJ, in which case an appropriate appeal should be submitted to the Network Council.

4.6 The Network Council may initiate termination of membership in CANEJ, if a CANEJ member:

- does not participate in the Network Council meetings or voting *in absentio* more than 2 times;
- refuses to carry out the Network Council's decisions within the established timeframe;
- carries out activities aimed at circumventing the CANEJ interests.

4.7 CANEJ members have the following rights:

- take part in CANEJ governance following procedures described in the current By-Laws;
- obtain *pro bono* CANEJ consulting and organizational support services;
- in a prescribed manner, rely on CANEJ financial, technical and other capabilities;
- obtain information about the activities of CANEJ and its members;
- address all inquiries related to the CANEJ operations to the Network Council;
- terminate CANEJ membership in a manner, prescribed by the current By-Laws;
- CANEJ members can not transfer their rights to any third parties.

4.8 Responsibilities of CANEJ Members

- adhere to the provisions of the current By-Laws;
- take part in CANEJ operations;.
- provide information required to address issues related to CANEJ operations;.
- fulfill CANEJ decisions..

Should a CANEJ member cause damage to CANEJ or one of the other members, then the member has to provide for the proper compensation of the said damage.

5. Additions to and Modifications of the CANEJ By-Laws

5.1 The CANEJ By-Laws may be modified upon a Network Council resolution.

6. Termination of CANEJ Activities

6.1 CANEJ activities may be terminated by means of liquidation.

6.2 The Network Council may adopt a resolution to liquidate CANEJ, if not less than two-thirds of the overall number of the Network Council members voted for such a resolution.



Agreement

on cooperation in development

of the informational resource – the network union

«Central Asian Network of Environmental Journalists»

Ecological news agency «Green women» (Kazakhstan), the non-governmental organization «For the Earth» (Tajikistan), the non-governmental organization «Gender: innovations and development» (Uzbekistan), the non-governmental organization «Global and local informational partnership» (Kyrgyzstan):

- participants of the current Agreement, hereinafter referred to as Parties, united in their desire to facilitate and expand the system of access and distribution of information related to the environmental conditions and utilization of natural resources in the Central Asian states, decided to establish a network union – “Central Asian Network of Environmental Journalists”, hereinafter referred to as CANEJ.

Accounting for the interrelations of environmental conditions in the Central Asian states and to support development of the common information space, the Parties agreed to the following:

Article 1.

The Parties view all types of informational exchanges as the principal form of cooperation.

Article 2.

The Parties will promote all forms of cooperation among each other and will engage other organizations (entities) to provide for the broader and increasingly free exchange of information related to the state of the environment.

Article 3.

The Parties will facilitate more intensive coverage of information related to the environmental conditions and measures aimed at protection of the environment via their web-sites and other media outlets.

Article 4.

The Parties will support development of the necessary conditions enabling journalists covering environmental issues to fulfill their professional duties, including delivery of support services in conducting training sessions and seminars.

Article 5.

The Parties will not prevent access to information, other sources of information, as well as distribution of the legally obtained information among journalists representing each of the Parties.

Article 6.

The Parties will facilitate distribution of the legislative documents adopted in their home countries, as well as international documents aimed at regulating the environmental conditions.

Article 7.

The Parties will be responsible for defining the language(s) suitable for distribution of the information, accounting for the local legal requirements.

Article 8.

To ensure execution of the current Agreement, at least once every three months the Parties will conduct meetings aimed at assessing the outcomes of cooperation and at

addressing other issues.

Article 9.

The Parties agreed to adopt the document designed to regulate operations of the network union – the CANEJ By-Laws.

Article 10.

Each Party to the Agreement is responsible for raising the necessary financial resources to execute its obligations in relation to the current Agreement. In the framework of the current Agreement, all activities should be conducted in accordance with the national legislative acts governing operations of the Parties.

Article 11.

The Parties agree to resolve all disputes related to execution or interpretation of the current Agreement by means of consultations and negotiations.

Article 12.

Upon the consent of all the Parties involved, the Agreement is open for other organizations interested in joining the Agreement and willing to fulfill responsibilities resulting from the current Agreement.

Article 13.

Each Party may terminate its participation in the Agreement by sending a written statement to all other Parties, upon satisfactory settlement of all the obligations assumed in the course of execution of the current Agreement.

Article 14.

Based upon the mutual consent, the Parties may introduce additions and modifications to the current Agreement, which will be presented in the form of Appendices to the current Agreement.

Article 15.

The current Agreement takes effect on the date of its signing and extends for one year. At the end of each year, the Agreement should be automatically extended for one year, unless the Parties make a different decision.

The current Agreement is signed in Almaty on «__» «_____» 200_ in one copy in Russian language. The copy will be placed for safe keeping at the Ecological news agency «Greenwomen», Kazakhstan.

Non-governmental organization

«Ecological news agency»

«Greenwomen», Kazakhstan

Non-governmental organization

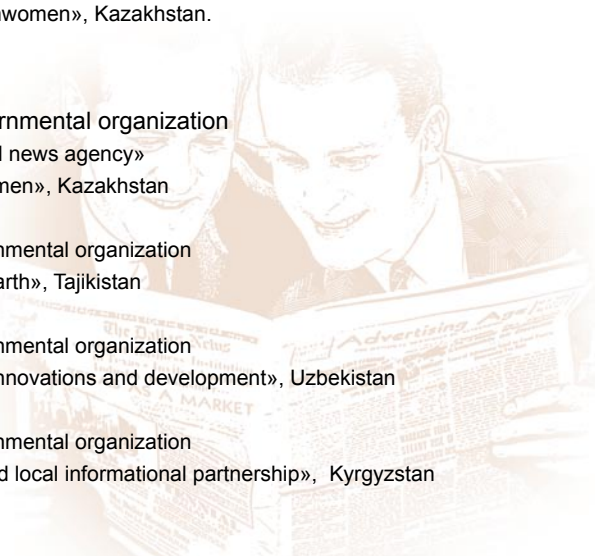
«For the Earth», Tajikistan

Non-governmental organization

«Gender: innovations and development», Uzbekistan

Non-governmental organization

«Global and local informational partnership», Kyrgyzstan



«Central Asian Network of Environmental Journalists» («CANEJ») Strategy of Actions (2006 -2009)

Securing the right of people to access ecological information (information in the environmental protection sphere) and utilization of natural resources; the right to live in a favorable environment.

CANEJ activities will cover the following areas.

1. Information – the priority CANEJ activity. This area includes collection of ecological information, verification of the available information, distribution, database development, as well as support in the sphere of cooperation among media outlets and governmental agencies, ecological and other organizations.

2. Education – professional development for journalists. Training for ecological journalists specializing in environmental issues. Recruitment of young journalists willing to join public environmental organizations. Environmental awareness for the general public.

3. Expert consulting services – includes participation in environmental research projects, improved public oversight of the environmental conditions and the decision-making processes in the sphere, as well as cooperation among ecologists and media representatives.

4. Legal – development of the publicly available legal documentation database covering environmental issues. Legislative improvements in the spheres of environmental protection and access to ecological information. Protection of the right to live in favorable environmental conditions. .

5. International – must be advanced via collaboration with similar international networks and organizations.

1. INFORMATION

This area includes collection of ecological information, verification of the available information, distribution, database development, as well as support in the sphere of cooperation among media outlets and governmental agencies, ecological and other organizations. It is only possible to protect the right to live in favorable environmental conditions, if media agencies have access to information.

In all activities within the Information area, it is important to account for the particularities of various media outlets. Specifically, electronic media (TV and

radio stations) have the capacity to present environmental information in a more timely and vivid manner. At the same time, printed and web-based media outlets are geared more towards presenting analysis details and research outcomes.

Specific benefits for journalists covering environmental issues will motivate journalists to take part in addressing challenges in the sphere of environmental protection.

Electronic media

Web-site development.

Simplified Internet access facilitating distribution of information related to environmental matters.

Increase the volume of information available via web sites.

CANEJ members' sites should contain links to other resources containing relevant information covering environmental issues.

Timely web site updates.

TV and radio presentations. Development of a special environmental TV and radio broadcast.

Substantial segments of the population, especially, in rural areas, still have very limited access to Internet-based resources. Hence, it is important to supply editorial boards of newspapers with information covering a range of environmental issues (facilitate fundraising efforts aimed at ensuring access to IT capabilities).

Printed media

Publication of a newspaper covering environmental issues. Potentially, the newspaper can be distributed among the general public free of charge. .

The newspaper can be mailed to libraries, educational institutions, etc.

2. EDUCATION

Establishment of the School of Environmental Journalism.

There is an acute lack of journalists specializing in environmental matters. It is important to develop among young journalists a genuine interest toward environmental issues and the right of people to live in favorable environmental conditions. Only journalists having an extensive background in a range of relevant subjects can effectively cover environmental protection issues.

Conduct a series of environmental journalism training sessions for students studying Journalism, as well as professional journalists representing TV, radio and printed media outlets.

Publish brochures covering a spectrum of environmental issues for high school students and the general public.

Establish an environmental library.

3. EXPERT CONSULTING SERVICES

CANEJ activities will be geared towards coverage of the environmental research outcomes ensuring that the general public has objective information and knowledge to understand environmental issues and the ways to address them in various parts of Central Asia.

We shall focus on the current situation in various Central Asian states and publication of materials related to the various studies of environmental conditions.

Special attention will be devoted to **promoting involvement of international organizations and their participation in addressing environmental challenges of the region.**

Since CANEJ facilitates participation of organizations and media agencies from across Central Asia, the arrangement will stimulate exchange of information and research outcomes among countries of the region in the sphere of environmental protection. Hence, we shall ensure access to information and outline ways to carry out joint actions aimed at addressing environmental issues and attracting attention of the international community to environmental hot-spots across Central Asia, including the search for optimal ways to address the existing issues.

Civil society participation in the process of addressing environmental issues is also among CANEJ priorities.

Mass media will allow civil society organizations to join the process of addressing environmental issues. Public awareness and public participation in addressing environmental issues will be promoted via civil society organizations. The organizations will be able to nominate authoritative experts to take part in the various research projects.

CANEJ participation in environmental research projects and conferences

In Central Asia the key research topics include environmental impacts of oil and gas projects implementation, nuclear energy utilization, access to potable water, soil degradation and expansion of deserts etc.

It is also important to make sure that media outlets cover materials and outcomes of the scientific conferences addressing environmental challenges of the region. Various initiatives and activities of government agencies have to pass the thorough expert assessments. Ecological information has to be adapted to engage various segments of the society.

4. LEGAL

Ensure availability and transparency of environmental information provided by government agencies in accordance with the current legislative requirements. Public oversight over actions of government agencies in the environmental sphere

adhering to the norms stated in the current environmental legislation.

Development of the legal information database. Improvement of the legislative acts governing access to environmental information and the right of people to live in favorable environmental conditions. Cooperation with Parliamentary deputies aimed at lobbying for adoption of legislative acts in the sphere of environmental protection. Facilitation of the environmental legislation development.

5. INTERNATIONAL

International cooperation includes participation of CANEJ members in international unions of environmental journalists.

Implementation of joint projects, campaigns and actions, as well as participation in international conferences, initiation and organization of international conferences, informational campaigns and actions facilitating inclusion of CANEJ into international processes, establishment of contacts and activities, exchange of information and experiences among existing international unions of environmental journalists.

CANEJ RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

CANEJ will cooperate with other organizations.

CANEJ will cover all Central Asian events related to environmental issues and the right of people to live in favorable environmental conditions.

CANEJ will facilitate actions aimed at addressing environmental issues.

CANEJ will attract attention of the general public and government agencies to the issues related to the right of people to live in favorable environmental conditions.

CANEJ will strengthen linkages among government agencies, public environmental organizations and the media.

CANEJ will develop and distribute reviews of violations of the right to live in favorable environmental conditions.

CANEJ will participate in conferences, "round tables", seminars and other events covering issues in the environmental protection sphere.

CANEJ INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Improved application of the available informational web-based resources developed by CANEJ members will facilitate interactive exchange of ecological information among CANEJ members and other entities interested in acquiring ecological information. This will also support recruitment of new CANEJ members.

Activities of CANEJ members should be geared not only towards informing communities across Central Asia about the region's existing environmental issues, but also towards development of the public opinion preventing new environmental challenges from spreading within Central Asia. It is important to make sure that CANEJ engages organizations and entities specialized in the sphere of addressing environmental issues and conducting a variety of research projects.

CANEJ intends to establish and promote cooperation with media outlets operating across Central Asia, specifically in the Aral Sea and Semipalatinsk regions etc.

CANEJ will support media outlets covering environmental issues in all Central Asian states.

Expected results of CANEJ activities

People in Central Asia will gain access to objective information regarding environmental conditions in the region, as well as in their respective countries.

We shall promote public oversight over activities of organizations potentially leading to deterioration of the ecological situation.

People across Central Asia will be able to influence central as well as local government agencies striving for resolution of the environmental issues. The general public will facilitate re-focusing of the governments' attention toward resolution of environmental issues.

Promotion of public awareness regarding environmental conditions in Central Asia will lead to improved living conditions in the regions with adverse environmental conditions and will prevent emergence of the new environmental issues.

Our activities will stimulate improvement of interaction among government agencies working on country-specific environmental issues, as well as public ecological organizations and the general public. In turn, this will ensure that the general public understands actions undertaken by government agencies to address environmental issues.

We shall attract attention of the international community toward the ecological situation and the search for optimal solutions aimed at improving the ecological situation across Central Asia. It is important to identify additional means, including financial resources, to address environmental issues in those instances when governments lack sufficient resources.

Alignment of the legislative acts with constitutional norms adopted in Central Asia, as well as international agreements. Ensuring transparency and openness in addressing environmental issues across Central Asia. Declassification of information related to environmental issues.

Promotion of the more active involvement of journalists in actions related to ensuring coverage of environmental issues. Instilling understanding among

journalists of the need to develop environmental journalism traditions. Training opportunities for journalists in the sphere of national and international norms governing access to information, including ecological information. Facilitation of cooperation among journalists and public environmental organizations. Establishment and development of the organization uniting ecological journalists.



SURVEY

Ecological Information Needs

1. Are you interested in information regarding environmental conditions?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

2. What are your sources of information about environmental conditions?

- TV
- Radio
- Printed publications
- Internet resources
- Other

3. Does the society need information about environmental conditions?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided
- Information has lost its relevance

4. What kind of environmental information are you interested in?

- Environmental protection legislation
- Activities of ecological organizations
- Environmental conditions in the country
- Environmental conditions in my locale
- Other types of information (please, specify)

5. Do you feel that distribution of information about environmental conditions will facilitate the change of public attitudes toward environmental protection issues?

- Yes
- No

6. Which sources would you like to use to obtain information about environmental conditions?

- TV
- Radio
- Printed publications
- Internet resources

7. Do journalists always provide interesting coverage of the environmental protection issues?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes

8. In your opinion, is there a need to establish media outlets specialized in environmental issues?

- Yes
- No

9. Is there a need to provide special training for journalists covering environmental issues?

- Yes
- No

10. Can media outlets increase effectiveness of the public oversight over environmental conditions?

- Yes
- No
- Possibly

Please, provide some information about yourself.

Age:

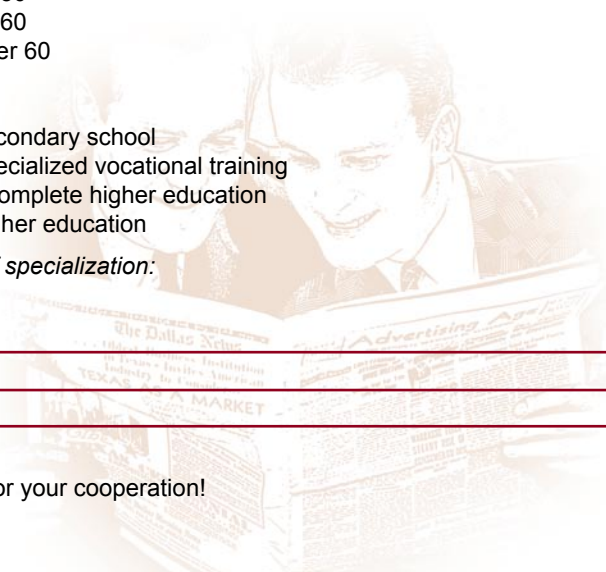
- Younger than 20
- 21-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- Over 60

Education:

- Secondary school
- Specialized vocational training
- Incomplete higher education
- Higher education

Your area of specialization:

Thank you for your cooperation!



UNESCO's International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) is a media development programme, which provides support to media development projects in developing countries and the countries in transition. IPDC is carrying out its mandate through full or partial funding of a number of projects that are assessed and approved annually by the Office of the IPDC Intergovernmental Council. The priority is given to the projects promoting press freedom and media pluralism, development of community media, enhancing professional capacity, and building partnerships for media development.

For additional information:
www.unesco.org/webworld/ipdc

For additional information about the Central Asian project, please contact Mr. Sergey Karpov at s.karpov@unesco.org

DISCLAIMER

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