

## **Some issues of cooperation in transboundary river basins with the People's Republic of China**

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Kazakhstan and China have 4 transboundary basins between them, two of which are the basins of two large rivers Ili and Irtysh and the remaining two are basins of the Emel River and of Barlyk Tau ridge.

To address the issues of rational use and protection of water resources in transboundary basins, on September 12, 2001 the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the People's Republic of China concluded an Agreement on Cooperation in Use and Protection of Transboundary Rivers. Prior to signing of this Agreement, competent parties had held five rounds of consultations regarding transboundary rivers. During these consultations, the Parties agreed on 24 transboundary rivers belonging to basins of the Irtysh (6 rivers), Ili (7 rivers), Emel (3 rivers) and Barlyk Tau ridge (the rest).

Under this Agreement, the Joint Commission for Use and Protection of Transboundary Rivers and the Working Group of competent parties for implementation of the Joint Commission's decisions were established. Since that time, the Commission and its Working Group has held 8 meetings each. So far, owing to their joint efforts, between the relevant ministries and local authorities 5 five agreements and two regulations on monitoring the state of transboundary rivers have been signed. The Joint Commission reports to China-Kazakhstan Cooperation Committee.

In addition to these interstate organizations, there were also working groups of designers who developed and coordinated projects of joint hydroschemes for water allocation in the Khorgos and Sumbe rivers. The hydroscheme on the Sumbe River was put in commission in 2008, while on the larger boundary river Khorgos work has already started and official inauguration is scheduled for April 15, 2011.

As issues of water quality and water allocation between the two countries are not stipulated in the Agreement on Cooperation in Use and Protection of Transboundary Rivers (2001), the parties have initiated the review of these issues and development of separate agreements on them. This resulted in signing the Agreement on Water Quality in Transboundary Rivers by the governments of both countries in late February 2011 in Beijing. At present, preparatory work is ongoing on the technical aspects of water allocation, which, by mutual agreement should be completed in 2014.