



Intergovernmental water relations in Ile-Balkhash Basin

Review of water relations and main problems in transboundary management of water resources in Ile-Balkhash basin

In compliance with the signed agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Chinese People Republic on partnership in the sphere of use and protection of Transboundary rivers the Kazakh-Chinese joint commission on use and protection of Transboundary Rivers was created. In compliance with regulation of Commission the objectives include realization of indicated agreement, and the coordination of the work, connected with use and protection of Transboundary Rivers; endorsement and determination of the seat of posts of monitoring and measuring of content and quality of water. One more objective of the commission is researching of the integrated methods of monitoring of measuring, analyze and evaluation, conducting of the joint researches on prevention and mitigation of the influences of flood, freezing and other natural disaster. Commission competencies include researching of tendencies of the future changes of water and quality of water of transboundary river; conducting of joint researches and experience sharing in the sphere of use and protection of Transboundary rivers.

Three years of not simple negotiations and hard work were necessary for agreement signing, during that 5 rounds of negotiations of the Kazakh-Chinese joint commission on transboundary rivers took place and two meetings of the working groups of experts, which cause definite harmonization of the position of parts on problems. Lower the full review of the meetings of Kazakh-Chinese joint commission on use and protection of Transboundary Rivers will be provided.

On the boundary river Khorgos the agreement on distribution and use of the water of Khorgos was signed, which runs as follows: The quantity of withdrawal by any part from upstream should not be high than $\frac{1}{2}$ from total flow for the time of it's upstream. The quantity of withdrawal by any part from downstream should not be high than $\frac{1}{2}$ from total flow for the time of it's downstream. The drainage of the Khorgos River is used for irrigation by both parts. The abovementioned agreement was updated in 1983 and 2002 y. in Kuldzha (CPR). As a result of the agreement can be permanently existing the Kazakh-Chinese joint commission on distribution of the water of Khorgos river.

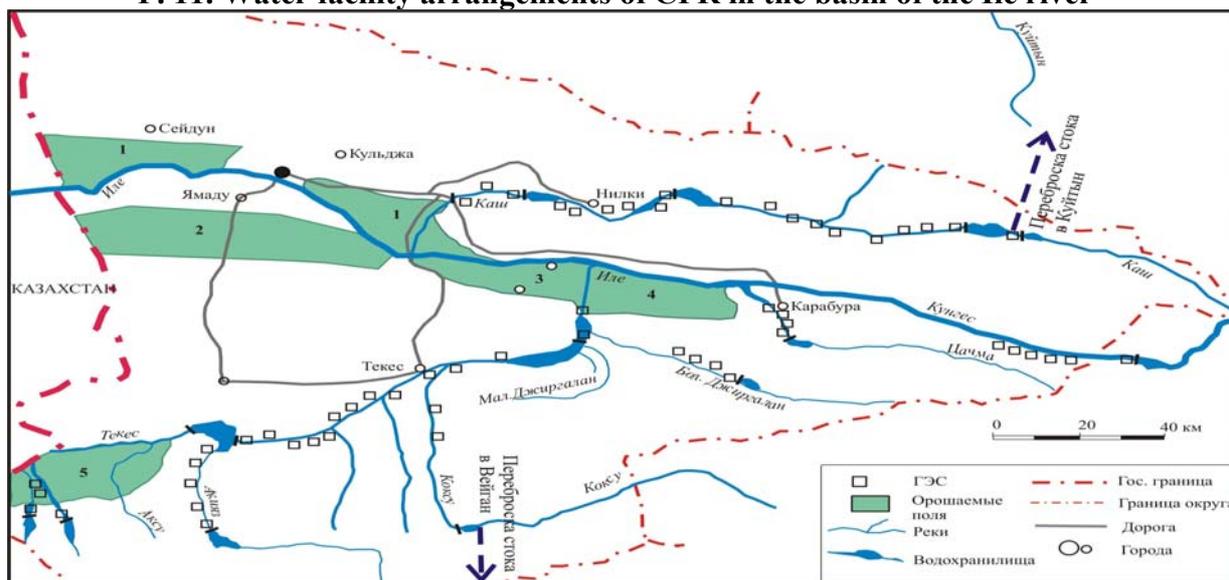
In the meeting of the heads of control commission of Chinese part on June 29, 1992 the question about joint weir building on the river Khorgos was discussed. After long negotiations and after big work of specialists of the both parts (1992-1994 and 2005-2006) the technical-economic motivation (TEM) was developed. For convenient consideration and endorsement the TEM was developed in two parts.

The first part "The united hydro system "Dostyk" on Khorgos river" includes only hydro system, location and construction is endorsed by the specialist of CPR. The second part

is the internal object of the Republic of Kazakhstan, solve the problems of local character: connection of existing main route channels Baskunchansky and Ayak –Kungan to the hydro system “Dostyk” on the river Khorgos and building of Hydro electric station at the end of main route channel (Object of the Republic of Kazakhstan). TEM was developed by “Kazgyprovodkhoz Institute” and was under expertise in RGP “Gosexpertiza”.

At once the existing agreement on use of the drainage of transboundary river Ile does not provide any serious obligation of Chinese part on taking into consideration of Kazakhstan’s interests. Government of CPR declared about the acceleration of scaled implementation of western China, which is the most degrade region of the country, what cause increasing of water use of transboundary rivers of Kazakhstan.

P. 11. Water facility arrangements of CPR in the basin of the Ile river



So in the territory of Syn-Tzyan building of the channel is planning, the water storage is constructing for removal of one of the biggest inflows-Kyran River. The government of China is analyzing the project of the building of channel with withdrawal from the Irtysh river for needs providing of Sauan city, and for substantial increasing of sowing squares for seed and cotton. That can cause serious misbalance in the system of water use in the midstream of the Irtysh river, where the big industrial centers take place- Ust-Kamenogorsk, Semipalatinsk, Pavlodar, solving of water supply problems of Astana city will be difficult, especially in Karaganda. Such problems could cause removal of water from the Ile river, which provides 73% of the whole water drainage of the Balkhash lake.

On the Chinese part of the Ile River the building of channel is planning for replenishment of the salt lake Ebi-Nur and transfer of Ile water to the river Tarim. Withdrawal can be approximately 1.5-4.0 km³, from 15-40% average annual flow in this dam location.

To the year 2015, as a result of increasing withdrawal from the Ile river can be the deficit of withdrawal in CPR for support of the degree of Balkhash lake on the maximum note 341.0 m. To the year 2020, by expected withdrawal in CPR approximately 5 km³ the deficit of withdrawal can be 3 km³. If the withdrawals in CPR will increase substantial 5km³, and the degradation of mountain freezing will stop, it can cause much more deficit of withdrawal and sharply reducing of lake level , and the most important is that it cause substantial increasing of mineralization of the western part of the lake. That makes difficult water use for water supply for Balkhash city and enterprises.

Increasing of industry and water use can grow soon. On the materials of CWR, CPR in autonomous region the square of irrigated lands increase from 156 000 ha to 570 000ha.

Water volume for this period was increased from 1.6 till 4.0 km³, but water volume for ecological aim was reduced from 5.0 till 2.0 km³. Only the reserve of spring water was increased from 0.9-0.4 km³.

Table 12. Water resources use of the basin of the Ile river on China territory.

## п/п	Irrigation systems	Irrigated square, ha	
		For 1995	Planned
1	Right -bank of the Ile river	95 300	208 000
2	Left-bank of Ile river	0	155 200
3	Left-bank of the Tekes river	26 000	67 900
4	Left-bank of the Kunes river	16 000	45 500
5	Left-bank of the upper Tekes river	18 700	91 800
	Total :	156 000	568 400

Source. Institute of Geography

In ecological plan swallowing, salting of the Balkhash can cause the consequences such as the tragedy of Aral Sea. Balkhash Lake plays the key role in climatic balance of the whole south-east and central parts of Kazakhstan. Chinese program of implementation of water resources of Transboundary rivers has serious risk for Kazakhstan, can cause big withdrawal and next big ecological disaster on the south and south-east of the Republic.

Kazakhstan needs the Guarantee of Chinese Government on passing of water volume, providing needs of Kazakhstan locals and economy, and conservation of natural environment in the downstream of Transboundary Rivers. Such guaranties should be submitted in Kazakhstan-Chinese intergovernmental agreements on water resources distribution and prevention of water pollution of Transboundary Rivers, which should be signed soon.

In conclusion should be noticed, that by analyze of water problems on transboundary river Ile, in the aspect of international use should be kept in mind, that existing water resources are on the level of exhausted. Further implementation of the rich row materials of Kazakhstan is not possible with reduced water resources. Therefore, by signing of juridical documents Kazakhstan should reserve enough water volume drainage from China, which does not allow ecological disaster in the region and provide necessary level of water for normal functioning of Balkash lake.

Otherwise the realization of radical activities should be necessary. For Balkhash lake protection should be included reducing of volume of Kapchagai water storage, building of dam with regulated water outlet in the channel Usun-Aral for saving of west Balkhash, outlet of part of drainage of eastern rivers to the basin of the Ile river. The question of the control of loss of drainage should be considered as an added activity.

The efforts to discuss the questions of transboundary rivers within SOP (Shanghai Organization of partnership) is still not finished, as it is accepted by locals, such situation due to Chinese part. CPR does not want to discuss the problems of rivers in the format “one against two” that is Russia and Kazakhstan against China, preferring, bilateral negotiations. But it is also carries no progress for Kazakhstan. For example, on the international conference on the questions of the development of SOP, held in Almaty, the famous Chinese expert Chzhao Khuashen prejudiced the existing of the problem of transboundary rivers by the fact. He called on not to politicize the problem and not to see the tendency of China to press Kazakhsatn in this.

Review of provided work of the joint Kazakhstan-Chinese commission with the accent on IBB

In January 2002 the agreement between the Government of RK and China on use and protection of transboundary rivers was signed. Where the politic governance of both countries declare friendly just dividing of water resources of transboundary rivers Ertis, Ile and others. But nor in this, neither in others the quality and quantity characteristic of water division is indicated.

In connection with this, that the problems are not indicated in the abovementioned agreement, the parts agreed to sign separate agreements after long termed negotiations. As a result, in February 22, 2011 by the official visit of the President N.A. Nazarbayev the “Agreement between the Government of RK and Government of Chinese People Republic about the protection of quality of transboundary rivers” was signed.

The chronic of negotiations on transboundary rivers, with accent to Ile-Balkhash Basin is provided below.

Insert 2. Chronic of negotiation process between RK and CPR

1998 – 2000 three rounds of consultations of the experts on transboundary rivers between the Republic (RK) of Kazakhstan and Chinese people Republic (CPR)

March, 19-23, 2001 the fourth round of consultations of experts on transboundary rivers between RK and CPR (Almaty)

August 11-17, 2001 the fifth round of consultations on transboundary rivers between RK and CPR (Pekin)

June 16- 23, 2001 the first working meeting of the working group of experts of the joint commission on transboundary rivers between RK and CPR (Pekin)

September 12, 2001 Agreement on partnership between the Government of RK and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on partnership in the sphere of use and protection of transboundary rivers,

September 12, 2001 The resolution of the Government of the RK and of the Government of CPR in the sphere of use and protection of transboundary rivers, Regulation on Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers.

August 28, 2002 Meeting of the joint control commission on water distribution of the river Khorgos and agreement on distribution and use of the water of Khorgos (Kuldzha)

October 27-31, 2003 The first meeting of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Pekin) Annex 3: The list of transboundary rivers between RK and CPR is considered .

June 30, 2004 Meeting of working groups of experts of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Urumchi).

July 12 2004 Agreement between the representatives of Raiymbek region of Almaty oblast and representatives of the district Dzhausu, of Ile-Kazakh autonomous oblast of CPR on the rivers Sumbe and Kayshybulak.

October 13-19 2004 Second meeting of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Almaty) Annex 3 The list of transboundary rivers between RK and CPR is considered and approved.

March 23-25, 2005 The first meeting of the joint working group of the specialists of CPR and RK on correction of TEM on building of the joint hydro system “Dostyk” on the river Khorgos (Inin).

May 23-28, 2005 Meeting of the working group of experts of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Ust-Kamenogorsk)

July 4, 2005 Agreement between MA RK and MWF on extraordinary notification of Chinese and Kazakhstan parts in case of natural disaster by spring flood and mud flow on transboundary rivers.

October 17-23, 2005. The third meeting of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Shanghai)

February 17, 2006 Meeting of the experts on discussion of projects, agreements between the governments of RK and CPR on transboundary rivers (Astana).

March 1-5, 2006 The second meeting of the joint working group of specialists of the RK and CPR on correction of TEM on building of the joint hydro system “Dostyk” on the river Khorgos (Almaty)

March 6, 2006 The second meeting of the working group for preparation of the drafts of agreements between the Government of RK and CPR in the sphere of use and protection of transboundary rivers (Astana) in the sphere of use and protection of transboundary rivers,

June 12, 2006 Meeting of the working group of experts of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Pekin) .

June 19-24, 2006 The third meeting of the working group of specialists of the RK and CPR on finalization of work of correction of TEM on building of the joint hydro system “Dostyk” on the river Khorgos (Inin).

August 7-9, 2006 The fourth meeting of the joint working group of specialists of the RK and CPR on sharing of finished TEM on building of the joint hydro system “Dostyk” on the river Khorgos (Inin).

October 16-21, 2006 The fourth meeting of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Almaty)

November 17, 2006 the third meeting of the committee on partnership of RK and CPR (Pekin).

December 20, 2006 Agreement between MA RK MWF of CPR about the development of scientific-researching partnership on transboundary rivers (Pekin).

July 2-6, 2007 Meeting of the working group of experts of the Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Astana).

December 1-4, 2007 The fifth meeting of the Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers. (Pekin)

July 18-21, 2008 The fifth meeting of the working group of experts of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Inin, SUAR)

October 8-14, 2008 The sixth meeting of the Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers. (Almaty)

December 24-28, 2008 The fifth meeting of the expert-designers of Kazakhstan and China on building of the joint hydro system “Dostyk” on the river Khorgos.

June 11-14, 2009 The sixth meeting of the working group of experts of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Taldykorgan). Annex 6 the main direction of technical work on water dividing on transboundary rivers between RK and CPR.

June 29-30, 2009 The first Kazakhstan-Chinese working meeting of the experts in the sphere of the environment. (Pekin)

August 2009 Meeting of working group of experts between RK and CPR (Pekin).

September 15-19, 2009 The sixth meeting of the Kazakhstan –Chinese working group on designing of the joint hydro system “Dostyk” on the river Khorgos.(Pekin)

December 2009 Meeting of the commission on partnership between RK and CPR (Pekin).

January 27-30, 2010 The first meeting of the Kazakhstan –Chinese working group on building of the joint hydro system “Dostyk” on the river Khorgos.(Urumchi)

May 26-28, 2010 Special meeting on the level of the deputies of the Ministers on discussion of the draft of the agreement between the Government of CPR and RK about protection of quality of transboundary rivers.(Pekin)

June 24-27, 2010 The second meeting of the the Kazakhstan –Chinese working group on building of the joint hydro system “Dostyk” on the river Khorgos.(Urumchi)

July 4, 2010 The seventh meeting of the working group of experts of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Pekin).

August 2-4, 2010 Working meeting on the discussion of the text of the draft of agreement between the governments of RK and CPR on partnership in the sphere of environment. (Astana)

October 18-20, 2010 Special meeting on the level of the deputy ministers on discussion of the draft of the agreement between the Government of CPR and RK about protection of quality of transboundary rivers.(Almaty)

November 9-13, 2010 The eights meeting of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Karaganda).

December 22-27, 2010 The first meeting of the working group of the experts of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Inin) on discussion of the program of providing of technical work on preparation to water dividing between RK and CPR.

January 18-20, 2011 The third meeting of the Kazakhstan –Chinese Working Committee on building of the joint hydro system “Dostyk” on the river Khorgos.(Inin)

February 22, 2011 Agreement between the governments of RK and CPR about protection of quality of transboundary rivers.(Pekin)

April 25-28, 2011 The second meeting of the working group of experts of Kazakhstan-Chinese joint commission in use and protection of transboundary rivers (Pekin), on discussion of the program of providing of technical work on preparation to water dividing between RK and CPR. (Almaty)