

## Preface

### *Dear colleagues and readers,*

We are pleased to present the eighth edition of the Water Yearbook: Central Asia and Around the Globe. This edition highlights pivotal developments, strategic initiatives, and key achievements across the broad spectrum of water resources, sustainable development, and environmental cooperation. As with previous editions, our objective is to provide a practical and comprehensive guide to the most significant water-related advancements in the region.

In 2024, Central Asian nations reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaborative governance and coordination mechanisms within the water sector. The [2024 Calendar of Events](#) presents the numerous high-level meetings and international forums dedicated to advancing water diplomacy, climate change adaptation, and the sustainable management of water resources.

As with previous editions, this volume provides a comprehensive overview of the hydrological and water management situation in the Aral Sea basin (see [Water Management Situation in the Aral Sea Basin](#)). It also examines the ongoing activities of regional organizations (see [IFAS and Other Regional Organizations in Central Asia](#)) and the work of bi- and trilateral commissions that facilitate cross-border dialogue and coordination on water use and protection (see [Cooperation between the Countries of Central Asia on Water and Other Matters](#)). Key water-related developments both in the Central Asian countries ([Section 5](#)) and at the global scale ([Section 11](#)) are also featured.

Particular focus is placed on international cooperation. This edition highlights the UN's work on water in the region ([Section 6](#)), alongside initiatives led by international water-related organizations and development partners ([Sections 7 and 8](#)).

The Yearbook also tracks advancements in water education across Central Asia, showcasing programs, courses, and training initiatives designed to build professional capacity and prepare a new generation of specialists in sustainable water management (see [Water Education](#)).

The Science and Innovation section features recent developments and applied solutions aimed at improving water efficiency and environmental sustainability. This section highlights the research outcomes and contributions of leading institutes from across the EECCA region.

In [Thematic Reviews](#), we present materials addressing climate change, progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global and regional efforts to combat desertification, and the integration of gender perspectives into the water sectors of Central Asian countries.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to this edition – authors, analysts, experts, and partner organizations. We hope these materials prove valuable to practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and everyone dedicated to sustainable development and effective water governance, both within the region and beyond.

Editorial team