



Summary Report

Regional Forum for National Designated Entities Region: Central Asia and Eastern Europe



**15-16 June 2016
Almaty, Kazakhstan**

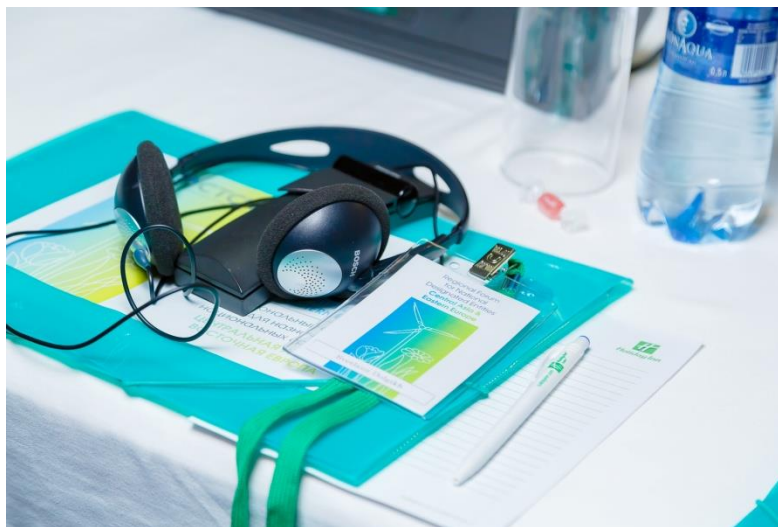


Background:

The year 2015 earmarked the adoption of the Paris Agreement, which aims to unite the efforts of all countries worldwide to fight against climate change and keep the record of the global temperature growth well below 1.5-2 Celsius. The countries of Central Asia are actively involved in the domestic climate processes and undertaking serious steps to meet the objective of the global climate policy. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the Central Asian countries show their readiness to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from 10% to 20% by 2030 and minimize vulnerability to adverse climate change impacts. The same approach is foreseen by the countries of Eastern Europe.

However, for a successful implementation of the national mitigation plans of actions, most of the developing countries and countries with economy in transition need investments, technical assistance, capacity building and access to new technologies, which would turn their traditional way of economic and industrial path onto a low-carbon and climate resilient development. Most of these aspects are accommodated in a CTCN agenda, which strives towards the accelerated transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity building and advice on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks tailored to the needs of individual countries. CTCN is the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Joining CTCN in 2015, CAREC connects a Central Asian subregion with global counterparts and maintains a dialogue on climate processes.

The first Regional Forum for National Designated Entities in Central Asia and Eastern Europe was held on 15-16 of June in Almaty and opened new windows of opportunity for an information exchange and capacity building on climate technologies, finance and technical assistance as well as expand horizons of mutual cooperation between NDEs and CTCN. The Forum gathered lead speakers and experts from Central Asia and Eastern Europe, UNFCCC, Green Climate Fund, UNEP, FAO, Multilateral Development Banks and CAREC.



All presentations and photo from the regional forum are available at the www.ctc-n.org website



Summary of the sessions

1. CTCN introduction and updates

CTCN is the operational arm of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Together with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the CTCN forms the Technology Mechanism of the UNFCCC, established by the 16th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) in Cancun in December 2010. More information on the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism can be found at unfccc.int webpage.

The CTCN is mandated by the Parties of UNFCCC to promote accelerated, diversified and scaled-up transfer of climate technologies in developing countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation, consistent with the national socio-economic and sustainable development priorities of the requesting countries.

The CTCN implements this mandate through three core functions: 1) Manage requests from developing countries and deliver responses; 2) Foster collaboration and access to information and knowledge to accelerate technology transfer; and 3) Strengthen networks, partnerships and capacity building for climate technology transfer.

2. Paris Outcome

COP 21 in 2015 earmarked a significant turnover in the whole history of climate negotiations – adoption of Paris Agreement, which aims to unite the efforts of all countries worldwide to fight against climate change and keep the record of the global temperature growth well below 1.5-2 Celsius. The countries of Central Asia are actively involved in the domestic climate processes and undertaking serious steps to meet the objective of the global climate policy. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the Central Asian countries show their readiness to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from 10% to 20% by 2030 and minimize vulnerability to adverse climate change impacts. The same approach is foreseen by the countries of Eastern Europe.

CAREC prioritizes an inter-disciplinary approach in tackling climate change and sees adaptation, sustainable energy and low-carbon development as key instruments towards implementation of the Paris Agreement to achieve the goals of the UN Framework Convention on climate change. CAREC also foresees capacity building, knowledge sharing and information exchange as well as maintains a network of local, sub-regional and international experts. Program team participates in global climate processes, facilitates a sub-regional dialogue and promotes a South-South cooperation. In this context, the CTCN



forum is also seen as a logical continuation activity connecting climate technology and capacity building to an overall Post-Paris process at the level of Central Asia, which is a live process.

CTCN secretariat welcomes the submission of the requests for technical assistance on climate technologies in the region. Unfortunately, the region of Central Asia and Eastern Europe lags behind all other regions in progressing. CTCN secretariat encourages the countries to expand its network institutions especially at the sub-regional level (nowadays, CAREC stands as the only one CTCN member institution in Central Asia) as in the context of implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a need for technical assistance and capacity building on climate technologies is increasing.

3. Role of NDEs

National Designated Entities (NDEs) are the bodies granted responsibility by each Party to manage technology collaboration activities supported through the CTCN. The nomination of NDEs is thus a necessary step for Parties to the UNFCCC to participate in the CTCN.

NDEs of developing countries play a fundamental role in ensuring that requests submitted to the CTCN reflect national circumstances and priorities. NDEs also ensure that support provided by the CTCN is well coordinated at the national level with other processes that address climate change, including ensuring engagement of relevant ministries, focal points for other UNFCCC mechanisms, the private sector, civil society, and academia as relevant.

The primary role of NDEs is to endorse and submit requests for technical assistance and to monitor the assistance of the CTCN in the country, as per decision of the Parties to the UNFCCC. Depending on their resources, NDEs can get more involved in CTCN activities to ensure success of the assistance and impacts in the countries (promote the CTCN services, prioritize requests, provide inputs in response plan, coordinate and follow-up implementation, create linkages with other mechanisms, support to get funding for follow-up actions, etc.).

There are a number of challenges, which have been emerged during the discussion both from the side of CTCN and NDEs.

CTCN Secretariat's observations:

- No NDEs are appointed in some countries and this creates a low profile attraction to CTCN opportunities for all countries. In particular, the region of Central Asia and Eastern Europe are lagging behind.
- Information exchange and outreach within the planned sub-regional and national events on climate change in the region could be planned in a way to discuss opportunities, which CTCN can bring.



- Lessons learned are that some procedures are not followed appropriately at the level of application from NDEs. This in turn creates a delay in review progress (e.g. some applicants bypass NDEs authorization or some documents are written in local languages). In many cases, application requests are not clear or not specific enough, with vague objective or timelines.

NDEs/international partners observations:

- CTCN may collect success stories on technology transfer from the ground (community-based projects, national and regional projects) and upscale them to a regional (depending on the adequateness and appropriateness of the geographic and economic situations) and global context. This should rather be a mechanism of channeling these practices up (to inform the UNFCCC Secretariat) and back to the countries (to implement them).
- CTCN may wish to reconsider the mechanism of funding and explore opportunities for NDEs to use direct grants for implementation of the projects on technology transfer and capacity building.

4. Accessing CTCN technical assistance

There are a number of good examples of using CTCN technical assistance to support technology transfer in some of the countries of Eastern Europe. For example, the second-largest city in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Banja Luka, requested help from the CTCN to modernize its district heating system with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The project conducts city-wide mapping of the energy flow in the heating system and identifies leaks using an unmanned aerial drone equipped with a thermal camera. This project will save up to 20,000 tons of CO₂ each year and €4.5 million in heating costs. Or, the project team in Albania is now developing, with the CTCN's assistance, the first local-level plan for energy efficiency and achievement, and to provide training to enhance understanding of national energy plans among regional stakeholders.

Regional projects based on CTCN application process. There are opportunities to have joint regional projects on technology transfer or capacity building. In this case, every NDE of every country shall send a no-objection letter to CTCN Secretariat. There are a lot of typical regional examples in approaching CTCN support in Africa and Latin America. Concern is however, is mostly associated with challenges at the level of preparation of the proposal. It is the responsibility of the government/NGO who is applying for the grants to cover the travel expenses to another country if a face-to-face meeting deem necessary. At the same time, the role of NDEs in using this approach is more than increased.

A Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) is not a precondition to submitting a request but can rather be a tool to identify a successful request, with high potential of deploying climate technologies. Around a third of requests submitted to the CTCN have been first identified as priorities in the TNAs. Recent TNA process have produced specific projects ideas, and these constitute a very rich basis of information to



identify the main barriers of technology deployment and the technologies the countries would like to put efforts on.

Any organization can formulate a request for assistance to the CTCN. However, to be accepted by the CTCN, all requests must be endorsed and submitted by NDEs of developing countries. The CTCN will then assess the eligibility of the request submitted based on criteria defined by its Advisory Board.

The procedures of getting the technical assistance are quite simple. Once the request for TA is approved it goes for a bidding process. All consortium partners from CTCN may bid to provide their consultative services. In case consortium partners do not have a related expertise, CTCN network members can apply. Undoubtedly, candidacy and expertise of the network member will be compared to the circumstances with the highest level of efficacy and geographic location. There are also some examples, when consortium partners and network members show their co-finance part in the proposal. In this case, chances to get the project are higher. In fact, co-sharing and co-financing is a new innovative mechanism, which CTCN would like to explore and use more.

5. Climate Technology Network

The Climate Technology Network facilitates the provision of information, training and support to build and strengthen the capacity of developing countries to identify technology options, make technology choices and operate, maintain and adapt technology. As part of this effort, the CTCN strives to identify, disseminate and assist in developing analytical tools, policies and best practices for country-driven planning to support the dissemination of environmentally sound technologies. It does this through National Designated Entity training, webinars and in-person workshops. Special focus is also paid to providing tailored capacity building services to least developed countries (LDCs).

Countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe expressed their willingness and interest to learn more about capacity building exercises, including webinars for NDEs to better understand about the technological needs assessment, application processes and best available examples from other developing countries.

6. Regional perspective

Countries of Central Asia have a solid legal basis to act on climate change and possess adequate package of climate-related action plans, governance structure and institutional set up. Investments to climate projects have also increased. In light of a new global climate commitment, the countries of CA support the national and international efforts to reduce GHG emissions and strive towards a climate-resilient path. Climate technology and finance are now seen as an integral and critical part of the Paris Agreement implementation. Hence a number of barriers, which might impede the progress, shall be



eliminated. CTCN can be seen as a platform where all respective issues of climate change, technology transfer and finance can be accommodated within the technical assistance support.

CAREC may be used to be a sub-regional centre and provide capacity building exercises (on a CTCN format – webinars, seminars) and supporting the NDEs with translating the guidebooks and application documents in Russian, which is a common language in Central Asia.

CAREC may also organize and host jointly with other finance institutions joint workshops for Central Asia and Eastern Europe to access funding on climate projects, including technology transfer or those, which have been already initiated within CTCN context. GCF expressed its willingness to conduct such type of the events in early 2017, targeting climate change focal points, DNAs and GCF-accredited international organizations to be trained on how access resources within GCF.

FAO is working with all countries worldwide with two country offices in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. At present FAO is completing the study on INDC's and the role of agriculture in fulfilling the commitments of the Paris Agreement. FAO is in the process of supporting the preparation of proposals and accreditation within GCF. Synchronizing of the efforts between CTCN and GCF especially in terms of climate technologies in agricultural sector (livestock and crops) is now on agenda of FAO.

7. Linking the Technology to Finance Mechanism

There is an urgent need and opportunity to link the need for technologies and finance. For example, CTCN can act as a catalyst in supporting the countries on technology needs (technical assistance, capacity building and networking), while Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Finance Institutions (GCF, GEF, etc.) may follow-up with investments and implementation activities.

The CTCN does not provide direct funding to countries but can support countries in accessing funding for their technology projects. The entities mandated by the UNFCCC to finance countries in their technology and climate change projects include, but are not limited to the funds mentioned above.

The CTCN aims to collaborate with developments banks, international funds and other funding mechanism to facilitate the financing of technologies in developing countries. The CTCN is already supporting a number of countries to develop bankable proposals and to identify funding for deploying of technologies from private and public sources.

GCF is seen as a big investment opportunity for the countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Although most of the countries have their DNAs within the governmental structures, they do not have enough capacity and understanding about all procedures and application processes to the fund. The Fund from its side will do its possible to satisfy the needs for trainings and practical workshops for DNAs to learn more about funds and types of thresholds.



A good opportunity within CTCN and GCF collaboration and follow-up actions exists at the country level, when one and the same person representing the government plays a role of DNA in GCF and NDE in CTCN. In case a proposal on TA within CTCN proves to be successful and needs additional support, NDE can follow up with the GCF request.

Conclusion:

Key highlights which are found across a two-day forum are summarized below:

- *Different priorities: recognition of climate change vs economic development.* All countries of Central Asian and Eastern Europe have a well-established legal basis to act on climate change (strategies, policies and programs of actions at the sector-based level). Climate technology transfer in the context of low-carbon development is also important. However, not many countries have a priority to invest to climate technologies due to various reasons (expensiveness of technologies/ infrastructure; governments still disbelieve in climate change and prognosis and have other immediate priorities on socio-economic development, etc.).
- *Institutional set-up.* Some countries face challenges in institutional set-up of NDEs. In all cases, NDEs is just a person and not institution, which creates risks in sustainability of the entity (e.g. rotation to other post or quit from existing job) and eligibility/ capacity of substituting person to represent NDE at international forums or internal meetings within the department. There are also cases, when NGOs is appointed as NDE. Although this is a governmental appointment (at the level of one Ministry or Committee) but it does not always extend delegation of authorities for a NDE to intervene with municipalities or other agencies dealing with technologies.
- *Lack of coordination between the agencies at the national level.* At present, most of the countries in Central Asia and Eastern Europe have the Ministry or Committee on environmental protection and/or Hydromets to deal with climate change mandate. However, agenda of the technology transfer usually falls under the Ministry of industry, or Ministry of innovation and technologies. Since climate technology has a broader and at the same time specific role, coordination between at least two agencies (in a best-case scenario the Ministry of finance shall be a third-party partner) should be enhanced.
- *CTCN Financial arrangements for NDEs.* There are many feedbacks of NDEs for CTCN to reconsider procedures for a finance element of technical assistance support. For now neither NDEs nor selected project is directly paid from the centre. There's a need to have a clear guideline on the roles and responsibilities of the NDEs as well. There are a number of cases when local applicants approach NDEs in its countries and expect them to write-up a project proposal. However, due to the lack of capacities and languages constraints (all guidelines of



CTCN procedures are in English) local applicants cannot be acquainted with CTCN guidelines directly.

- *Language deficiency.* At present, all applications can be written and submitted to CTCN Secretariat in 6 UN languages, including Russian. However, guidelines on application and submission, which are available on an official website of CTCN are in English only. Hence, in order to clarify about CTCN application procedures to locally-based organizations and municipalities, there is a need to have at least some budget allocated for translation services, information exchange and outreach campaigns and NDEs working days.

Feedback of the participants

The overall assessment of the forum by participants is good. 40% of the respondents found the content of the event and discussions as *excellent*, while the rest of participants considered it as *very good* and *good* respectively. Sharing experience on CTCN among the countries of two sub-regions, learning about their lessons regarding the mechanism of CTCN and request application process, a diversity of presentations and cases studies of other DNEs were in particular liked by participants. They also recognized that examples from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania were inspiring and it would be great if such an approach (using existing showcases) is applied in the next regional forums. Group exercises and linking technology to finance within CTCN and GCF mandates were the topics of the highest interest during the forum and need to be further maintained by the regional organizations.

Expectations of the participants for the future forums particularly touched the issue of language. Participants would be more than happy to see all handouts and presentations screened on both languages (English and Russian) as well as hearing more success stories on working with CTCN from the region. At the same time, participants also highlighted that such type of forums require attention not only NDEs and representatives of one department/organization only but specialists from finance/bank institutions and technology departments/ministries.



Annex 1.

Regional Forum for National Designated Entities

Region: Central Asia and Eastern Europe

Date: 15-16 June 2016

Venue: Holiday Inn Almaty, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Objectives:

- Develop and strengthen the regional network of National Designated Entities (NDEs), and their relationship with other technology stakeholders;
- Share experiences on:
 - o NDEs set-up and activities at national level
 - o Use of CTCN Technical Assistance, and other CTCN services;
- Discuss the Paris Outcome in relation to Technology Transfer and its implications for the Technology Mechanism;
- Present the CTCN and its services; describe and clarify NDE roles and responsibilities, as well the processes to submit requests for technical assistance to the CTCN;
- Present best practices regarding technical assistance from the region;
- Facilitate linkages between CTCN technical assistance and financial mechanisms, financiers and institutions that are relevant to Climate Technologies, with a view to identify matchmaking opportunities to secure funding for follow-up actions to CTCN requests or other climate technology activities.

Participants (*approx. 30*)

- NDEs from Central Asia and Eastern Europe
- CTCN Staff and Consortium partners
- Representatives from Financial Institutions
- Climate Technology Network members from within the region, and potential members
- Host Government representatives

Methodology

- Presentations, group exercises, and group discussions – possibly supplemented by e-courses, and/or webinars in the following months.
- PLEASE NOTE that all discussions and presentations of the forum will be conducted in English - translation into Russian will be available
- Developing country government representatives are entitled to travel support and a daily subsistence allowance as per UN rules



Agenda

DAY 1		
9:00- 10:00	Opening of Regional Forum for NDEs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming remarks from the Government of Kazakhstan. - Opening speech on behalf of CTCN. - Welcoming remarks from CAREC. - Ms. Marina Shvangiradze, Advisory Board member <p>Round of introductions for all participants</p>	Aidar Zhakupov, General Director of NURIS Rajiv Garg, CTCN Henry Wyes, CAREC Marina Shvangiradze, CTCN Advisory Board
10:00 – 10:30	Group and Tea/Coffee Break	
10:30 – 11:00	Session 1- CTCN Introduction and Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on CTCN’s history, mission, structure - Updates and achievements under the 3 core services of the CTCN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Technical Assistance ✓ Information & Knowledge: The CTCN Knowledge Management System ✓ Capacity Building and Networking <p>Discussion / Q&A</p>	R. Garg, CTCN
11:00 – 12:30	Session 2 - The Paris Outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implications for the Technology Mechanism - Implications for the Financial Mechanism - Implications for Central Asia - Implications for Eastern Europe <p>Discussion / Q&A</p>	R. Garg, CTCN V. Hecl, UNFCCC H. Wyes, CAREC B. Yessekina, Green Academy M. Shvangiradze, CTCN AB
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	Session 3 - The Crucial Role of NDEs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of CTCN vision on roles, responsibilities and structure - Experience sharing from all NDEs on set-up, activities and plans <p>Discussion / Q&A</p>	R. Garg, CTCN All NDEs
15:00 – 15:15	Tea/Coffee Break	
15:15 – 15:45	Session 4 - Accessing Technical Assistance through CTCN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generating and Submitting Requests for Technical Assistance - Technical Response Planning and Implementation - M&E of technical assistance results and impacts - Success factors for technical assistance 	R. Garg, CTCN
15:45 – 16:30	Session 4 – Accessing Technical Assistance through CTCN	



	(cont.) - Presentation on NDE's experience on requests development/generation Discussion / Q&A	R. Garg, CTCN NDEs from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina
16:30 – 17:15	Group Exercise - Examples of requests countries plan to submit to the CTCN that would help removing mitigation or adaptation-related technology barriers, based on identified priorities Discussion / Q&A	All NDEs R. Garg and E. Hannula, CTCN
17:15 – 17:30	Wrap-up day 1	Rajiv Garg, CTCN
17:30 – 19:30	Networking Cocktail	Holiday Inn
DAY 2		
Time	Session	Presenter/Facilitator
9:00 – 10:30	Session 6 – The Climate Technology Network - Presentation on the CTN Climate Technology Network - Presentation of Network members on case studies related to climate technologies in the region Group discussion on CTCN network extension	E. Hannula, CTCN
10:30– 10:45	Tea/Coffee Break	
10:45 – 12:15	Session 7 – The Regional Perspective - Presentation on regional priorities (Priorities of the countries of Central Asia on climate technologies, which are based on INDCs, NCs and National Climate Policies) - Presentation on a thematic topic (agriculture, district heating etc.) - Group discussion on technology needs in the region and technical support available	N. Mustaeva, CAREC B. Hickman, UNEP M. Diubanov, FAO
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch	
13:15 – 14:30	Session 8 – Linking the Technology and Financial Mechanisms - Updates and perspectives on linkages to CTCN assistance	R. Garg, CTCN C. Arguello, GCF L. Mo, ADB M. Zhumadil, EBRD A. Magazova, Green Academy
14:30 – 14:45	Tea/Coffee Break	
14:45 – 15:00	Wrap-up and way forward	
15:00 – 18:00	Bilateral meetings with Network and Capacity Building Manager Upon request. please write to Emma Hannula (emma.liisa-hannula.affiliate@unep.org to book a time slot)	R. Garg, CTCN And E. Hannula, CTCN



Annex 2.
List of participants

No	Name	Position	Institution	Country	Address	Phone	Email
1	Abovyan Mikael	President of the Board of Technology Transfer Association UJP	Technology Transfer Association Union of Juridical Persons	Armenia	Charents str. 17, Yerevan Armenia	Tel. +37498404665	abovyan@netsys.am
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9	Benjamin Hickman		United Nations Environment Programme - Vienna Office				



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RGP "Kazhydromet"							
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