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SOUTH CAUCASUS WATER PROGRAM

PRESS-RELEASE: ONE MORE STEP FORWARD

Introduction of the practical tool for better water resources management and strengthening of regional cooperation

Tbilisi, Georgia, September, 2007. Hydrology specialists from the three South Caucasus Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia gathered in Tbilisi this week to get into the techniques and methodology of contemporary water resources management.

Necessity of regional cooperation for better water resources use became vital in the Caucasus during the last years. Supporting the idea *Water without borders*, USAID South Caucasus Water Program implemented by PA Consulting Group aims to improve understanding between the counterparts and to provide international technical assistance for the process of water resources management harmonization.



*Participants of MIKE Basin workshop.
September 3, 2007*

Training and working session on the use of MIKE BASIN for Modeling of Transboundary River Basins in the Caucasus Region is taking place during September 3-6 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Participants representing relevant government institutions are GIS (Geographic Information System) and hydrology specialists.

The use of a river basin modelling tool is seen as an important step to increase the data exchange between the three Caucasus countries and as a key tool for improving the planning and management of the water resources and the transboundary river basins in the region.

Hydrology modelling expert, Jens Kristian Lørup who leads the training, says that *“Using a model like MIKE Basin will be extremely useful for the governments, since it ensures a much more comprehensive and internationally exploitable data collection”*.

MIKE Basin is a modern software package tailored specifically to analyze water resources management issues on river basin scale. The model maintains an integrated picture of the basins water resources and their interrelations. Hence, the model can guide the resource allocation and waste management within the various sub river basins and national territories by integrating in the local management the requirements for proper management of the river basin as a whole.

The USAID supported South Caucasus Water Program in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia implemented by PA Government Services Inc. is designed to increase regional cooperation in the management of shared water resources that is effective and sustainable. Three-year regional program primarily focuses in two trans-boundary bi-national watersheds, the Alazani sub-basin between Georgia and Azerbaijan and the Khrami-Debed sub-basin between Georgia and Armenia.



Water level recorder – one of the tools for water monitoring.

For additional information, please visit our website at www.scaucasus.ge or contact our program office:

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