

Our dream is a world free of poverty



THE WORLD BANK



UZBEKISTAN COUNTRY OFFICE NEWSLETTER

April, 2007

IT'S WORTH SEEING!



On April 19-20 the World Bank country office in Uzbekistan, jointly with UNICEF field office, arranged a media tour to the projects being implemented in the areas heavily affected by Aral Sea ecological disaster, Khorezm region and South Karakalpakstan. The team including the World Bank and UNICEF communications staff, representatives of republican and local print and electronic media, and the Project staff visited Drainage, Irrigation and Wetlands Improvement Project financed by the World Bank. Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and the group of consultants working in it made a great contribution to make the event happen.



The Agenda included a briefing in the PIU and several site visits. The media team visited and witnessed the works being implemented on the South

Karakalpakstan Main Drain, watched the walking excavator and the dredger at work, and had talks with the farmers at the demonstration plots. A group of very competent consultants answered all the questions the journalists were interested in. The visitors were really impressed with the scale of works and everybody was convinced that it was really worth seeing!



About the project



Intensive development of new areas in late 1980s expanded the irrigated lands in the Amu Darya



basin of Uzbekistan. This period was also marked by land salinisation, water logging and land degradation, and substantial increases in the discharge of highly mineralized drainage water into the

Amu Darya through a system of collector drains. These, combined with reduced flows in the Amu Darya downstream, led to increased mineralization and pollution of the river, as well as negative impacts on the health of the population and agricultural production in the downstream areas of the Amu Darya.



The World Bank is financing the Drainage, Irrigation and Wetlands Improvement Project, which aims at increasing productivity of irrigated agriculture, employment and incomes in Karakalpakstan, one

of the poorest regions in Central Asia; improving water quality of the Amu Darya by safe disposal of the drainage effluent, and enhance quality of wetlands in the Amu Darya delta; and developing institutions for improving water management, operation and maintenance of the irrigation and drainage systems, and for



promoting sustainable irrigated agriculture through participatory irrigation management.



The population of South Karakalpakstan, directly bene

fitting from the project, is about 400,000 people or 26 percent of the total population of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.





Contact us at:
 International Business Center, 15th floor, 107 B,
 Amir Timur Street, Tashkent100084
 tel. (998 71) 138 59 50; fax:(998 71) 138 59 51/52
www.worldbank.org; www.worldbank.org.uz

