



The University of World Economy and Diplomacy
**Institute for Advanced
International Studies**



TIAME
NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

IWMI
International Water
Management Institute



WATER DIPLOMACY
PROJECT ERASMUS+
101082976 - HWCA
ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE



MUNIS
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Project

**THINK
ROAD
FORUM**

*frontier
talks*

Bridging Waters, Building Futures: Advancing Water Diplomacy in Central Asia

Policy & Science Dialogue

20 November 2025 | UWED Conference Hall

Background

The recent achievements of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) and Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIAME-NRU) - from the successful training course on water diplomacy to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding - underscore the region's growing momentum in capacity development and institutional partnership for water diplomacy. With these milestones as a backdrop, the upcoming event represents the logical continuation and expansion of these collaborative efforts, bringing together regional and international stakeholders to launch impactful initiatives.

Effective and equitable water management remains a strategic priority for Central Asia, where transboundary water issues intersect with climate, development, and security concerns. Central Asian institutions are being called upon to advance innovative educational programs, interdisciplinary research, and structured policy engagement to support integrated water resources management.

As part of UWED's Think Road Forum, this landmark event aims to consolidate recent progress and chart new directions for partnership and capacity building in water diplomacy. By combining the launch of the new Master of Water Diplomacy program with the signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the gathering signals a determined commitment to building a vibrant community of practice and scholarship. As Central Asia faces mounting water management challenges linked to climate change and regional dynamics, effective water diplomacy remains essential for achieving sustainable development, peace, and prosperity.

Objectives

- Formally inaugurate the region's first **Master of Water Diplomacy program**, a product of robust cooperation between UWED, TIIAME-NRU, and IWMI, aiming to train the next generation of regional water diplomacy leaders.
- Cement a trilateral partnership through the signing of a new **Memorandum of Understanding among UWED, IWMI, and TIIAME-NRU**, focusing on education, collaborative research, and innovative policy solutions in water and climate diplomacy.
- Encourage **international and regional knowledge exchange**, and foster an enduring platform for joint research, training, and capacity building through dedicated discussion panels.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced institutional capacity and collaboration for water diplomacy education and research across Central Asia.
- Strengthened ties between academic, governmental, and international organizations engaged in water governance and diplomacy.
- Practical pathways for collaborative projects, joint publications, and academic exchanges for faculty and students.

Key Participants

- Senior officials and policymakers from Central Asian governments
- Academic leaders, instructors, and graduate students from UWED, TIIAME-NRU, and other regional universities
- Representatives of IWMI, SDC, GIZ, and other international organizations
- Experts from global development, donor, and water management organizations

Agenda Highlights

- Launch ceremony for the Master of Water Diplomacy program
- Welcome addresses by institutional leaders and partners
- Signing ceremony of the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding
- Panel discussions: "Innovating Water Diplomacy and Education in Central Asia" & Global Perspectives on Water Education and International Water Diplomacy

AGENDA – 20 November 2025

Time	Activity
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Opening Remarks & Memorandum Signing Ceremony
	• Prof. Sodyq Safoev, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Rector, University of World Economy and Diplomacy • Dr. Bahadir Mirzaev, Rector of the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIAME-NRU) • Ms Lisa Marina Gampp, Regional Water and Climate Change Advisor for Central Asia, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation • Dr. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, IWMI Regional Representative for Central Asia
10:00 – 10:20	Keynote Speech
	• Dr Iskandar Abdullaev, Senior Researcher, IWMI - <i>"Harnessing Water Diplomacy: Solutions for Central Asia's Water Crisis "</i>
10:20 – 10:40	Presentation: Launch of the Master of Water Diplomacy Program
	• Mr Shakhboz Akhmedov, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development, Institute for Advanced International Studies • Prof. Abdulhakim Salohiddinov, Vice Rector, TIAME-NRU
10:40 – 10:45	Photo opportunity
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee & Networking Break
11:15 – 12:15	Panel Discussion 1 - Innovating Water Diplomacy and Education in Central Asia • <i>Challenges and opportunities for regional water diplomacy</i> • <i>University collaboration and academic capacity development</i> • <i>Perspectives from government, practitioners, and young researchers</i> Chaired by Ms Marhabo Yodalieva, Capacity Building Lead for the BPCA 2.0 initiative, and Food Frontiers & Security Science Program Coordinator • Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan • Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic • Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan • Representative of Turkmenistan

	• Prof. Abdulhakim Salohiddinov, Vice Rector, TIAME-NRU
12:15 – 13:15	Panel Discussion 2 - Global Perspectives on Water Education and International Water Diplomacy • <i>Lessons from global water cooperation and conflict management</i> • <i>Innovative teaching and research approaches in international water diplomacy</i> • <i>Exchange of experiences from international experts, development partners, and donor organizations</i> Chaired by Mr Shakhboz Akhmedov, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development, IAIS • Ms Lisa Marina Gampp, Regional Water and Climate Change Advisor for Central Asia, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation • Prof. Jenniver Sehring, Associate Professor of Water Governance and Diplomacy, IHE Delft • Dr. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, IWMI Regional Representative for Central Asia • Dr Caroline Milow, Programme Director at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
13:15 – 13:30	Closing and Wrap Up
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Buffet & Networking