

EaPGREEN
Partnership for Environment and Growth



Forum 3

Chapter: Water Use Efficiency

4th April 2016, “NAIRI” Conference Hall of “Ani Plaza Hotel”, Yerevan, Armenia

The forum was attended by the Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of RA, Mr. **Khachik Hakobyan**, International Aid/Cooperation Officer EU Delegation to Armenia Mr. **John Barker**, Head of UNIDO Operations in Armenia, Ms. **Anahit Simonyan**, RECP National Coordinator, Ms. **Nune Harutyunyan**, different interested parties Ministries and SME representatives involved in RECP assessment, UNIDO RECP national experts from the project first and second phases, NGOs and International organization representatives and RECC team members, more than 35 participants were present.



During the forum the fundamental principles of the “Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Primer for SMEs” developed for the SMEs were introduced. The goal of the Forums chain taking place in Armenia with the participation of the stakeholder Ministries, State, Private and Social organizations is the domestication and the development of RECP mentality, principles and the terminology.

UNIDO RECP National coordinator/Director Ms. **Nune Harutyunyan** presented the importance of the Water use efficiency for the country within SME sector in particular, having in mind the recent policies adopted. UNIDO RECP Communication and Advocacy Expert Mr. **Tigran Sekoyan** presented the need and the importance of the Primer for the SMEs. He introduced the details on the Primer with significance of embedding provided format and approach, RECP way of thinking, principles and terminology in Armenia.

Following presentations were presented: In “ELBAT” CJSC by Environmental projects coordinator, Partnerships for Rural Prosperity Program, RECP Expert Ms. **Alice Savadyan**; in “UNIFISH” LLC by Director of the Hydro ecology and Ichthyology Institute, RECP Expert Ms. **Evelina Ghukasyan**; In Kashi” OJSC by UNIDO RECP Project National Facilitator Ms. **Dshkhuhi Sahakyan**; in “Sam Har” LLC by

Sustainable Water Environment NGO, Board Member, RECP Expert Ms. **Arevik Hovsepyan**; in “Agricultural Association Yervandashat” Consumer Cooperative by Deputy General Director of “Settlement Center” CJSC, RECP Expert Mr. **Mkrtich Jalalyan**.



All participants were given opportunity to express their positions, their experiences and share their information on RECP application, challenges faced by SMEs. Discussions were held to outline questions and answers, as well as recommendations provided by stakeholders during the forum among the representatives of different sectors about cleaner production, state level policies, technologies, financial and economic tools, water use efficiency, etc. President of the Association “For Sustainable Human Development” Ms. **Karine Danielyan** (former Minister of Environment of Armenia)^b and Mr. **Mushegh Karapetyan**, Water Supply and Sanitation Systems Department of the State Water Management Committee, Mr. **Bardukh Gabrielyan**, Director of the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of National Academy of Sciences of

Armenia, Mr. **Eduard Mesropyan**, Jinj LLC Director raise many question and actively participate in the debates.

During the third forum, key topics and proposals for the talks are presented below (without commentary):

- SMEs on current challenges were discussed: business benefits expected from RECP application, business risks RECP mitigate and improve, secondary use of water, countercurrent or cascaded use of water and energy, using the cleaning solvents and wastewater flows for irrigation and other purposes.
- State level policies, technologies, financial and economic tools, certificates.
- The low level of cooperation among authorities during the implementation of projects in Armenia.
- Achievements in solving problems jointly in round table meetings. In Armenia there are many motivational systems, we need to concentrate those systems in one network and make them available to the business sector to achieve better results.
- Necessity to include also new sectors to present their suggestions and aspects for the progress of RECP project.
- Hope for the continuation of the RECP project as it is a key project for Armenia, and plays great role in environmental and business terms. UNIDO highly values the success of RECP in Armenia due to the high professionalism of the people involved in this processes. A strong team has been created in the frames of the project.
- Issues of Water pipe installation to the spot of the trees for the reduction of water loses.
- Effective resource management is a new managerial sphere in our country. Resource effectiveness management is popular worldwide but in Armenia, it has low level of practical use yet. We will have our local specialists involved in this project of RECP and will not be in need of international experts from abroad.
- Issues were discussed regarding green educational centers, insuring synergy, creation of a legal background for the Primer, set up legal norms, standards, technical regulations, creation of a platform for discussions of innovative solutions for SMEs; creation of financial tools for crediting of RECP, legal consultation and advice, etc.
- Suggestions and recommendations including social advertisements, rising awareness on water use efficiency through newsletters, booklets, educational programs, etc.
- Concerns about the threatening global ecological problems because of the organizations indifference to taking measures for eliminating environmental impacts because of their ineffectively managed operations. Suggestions for creation of sanctions, which can be applied to restrict the actions of those companies.
- Imperfect implementation framework; there are laws, but they are not enforced, there is a risk of an environmental disaster in the behavior of organizations.
- Large-scale activities, public events, hearings and other events should be implemented. Terminology, guidelines, and other materials should be developed and published.
- Developing and piloting of scale-able model for RECP in small businesses to show how business can achieve RECP benefits is essential.