

GLOBAL DISRUPTIVE TECH CHALLENGE 2021

RESTORING LANDSCAPES IN THE ARAL SEA REGION



SIDE EVENT

VISIT, PUBLISH AND TEACH ABOUT ARAL During Challenge Week: 5-9 April 2021

This side event is organized as part of the Challenge Week in the framework of the Global Disruptive Tech Challenge 2021: Restoring Landscapes in the Aral Sea Region.

This side-event is aimed to present opportunities for international and local students, researchers, experts and other interested people to visit, publish an article and share their expertise on the Aral Sea region.

Organizers and partners: Kazakh-German University, World Bank, Global Landscapes Forum, Central Asia Youth for Water, ADAMDAR/CA, the EU project "European Union – Central Asia: Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation" (WECCOOP).

When?

8 April 2021, 18:00–20:00 (UTC+6)

Where? Online

Language: Russian / English

REGISTRATION AND LIVE STREAM LINK

EVENT'S PROGRAM

Moderator: Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, Vice-rector for international cooperation, UNESCO Chair Holder in Water Management in Central Asia, DKU

Time	Session	Speaker
18:00–18:05	Welcoming remarks	Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, DKU Valts Vilnitis, WECCOOP Manon Cassara, World Bank
18:05–18:10	Ice-breaking	Balzhhan Zhumagazina, DKU
18:10–18:15	ESERA (Ecosystems, Society and Economics of the Region of Aral) Project	Almas Kitapbaev, DKU
18:15–18:35	Aral Sea Summer school. Discussion of a short <u>movie</u> . Please watch the movie in advance.	Adamdar CA
18:35–18:42	Presentation of the Central Asian Journal of Water Research (CAJWR) and an overview of the Aral Sea related articles published in CAJWR	Altynai Yespembetova, CAJWR journal coordinator
18:42–18:50	EU-CA Academic School on Environmental Economics for University Teachers of Central Asia	Balzhhan Zhumagazina, DKU
18:50–19:00	Questions and answers	-
19:00–19:30	Open Talk / Live Podcast "The Aral Sea - What was and what is it?" Exploring crucial topics concerning the Aral Sea Basin. What questions should we be asking?	Saxon Bosworth, Nicolas Bergounioux talk with local experts Yusup Kamalov & Khurmet Zhalimbetov
19:00–19:30	Closing remarks & join photo	Balzhhan Zhumagazina, DKU



BACKGROUND

The Aral Sea, once the world's fourth-largest inland water body, used to be a unique natural site – a salty sea with an area of over 60 thousand square kilometers and a volume of about 1,000 cubic kilometers, which had a high biological productivity. According to the last data, since 1961, sea level has been decreasing rapidly from 20 to 80–90 cm per year. Over the past 50 years, the total runoff of rivers in the Aral Sea has reduced to an average of 12.7 cubic km, or almost 4.5 times. The water surface area of the sea has decreased 8 times, and the volume of water mass has decreased more than 13 times. The water level, which was at an absolute level of 53.4 m before 1960, has dropped by 29 m.

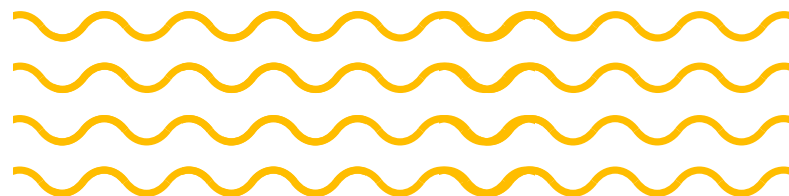
Central Asian governments have made great efforts to restore the Aral Sea, as have international and regional organizations, which have also joined in the search for measures to prevent its disappearance. For example, the Kokaral Dam was built to restore the Small Northern Aral Sea, cutting off this part from the rest (the Large Aral Sea).

As an instrument of knowledge transfer, the Kazakh-German University (DKU) holds regular expeditions for young scientists, students, innovators, and other participants deeply worried about the Aral Sea, who continue to seek innovative solutions that are useful both for the conservation of natural resources and for the local community.

Moreover, DKU is publishing scientific articles on the Aral sea and Water resources in Central Asia in a specialized journal Central Asian Journal of Water Research (CAWRJ). Also, DKU is conducting educational training and courses that are designed to re-think the teaching approach and to bring the “green” component into all educational modules.

During side-event you will have a chance to meet opportunities to:

- visit the Aral Sea as part of the scientific expedition;
- conduct a field research and publish scientific article in the regional journal;
- exchange knowledge and experience through participation in the training for teachers.



For more information about the side event and the Challenge, please contact Balzhan Zhumagazina – zhumagazina@dku.kz.

The challenge is organized with the support of the Central Asia Water and Energy Program (CAWEP) a multi-donor Trust-Fund financed by the European Union, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The challenge is administered by the World Bank and will inform the Resilient Landscape Program in Central Asia RESILAND CA +, currently under preparation. It is implemented by the Kazakh-German University (DKU), the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) and Plug and Play (P&P).