

GREETINGS
by Acting Chairman of the Executive Committee of IFAS
Mr. Sulton Rahimov
at the Official Launching Ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum
Manila, September 27th, 2006

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellency, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, President of the Japan Water Forum,
Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, President of the Asian Development Bank
Excellencies, Distinguished participants
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is great pleasure to me to participate in so important and significant event - Official Launching Ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, called to promote sustainable management of water resources for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in this region.

Water is the crucial condition of the existing of human life on the Earth. Interrelation between human, water and environment very close and fragile, and it will bring real advantages only in case of wise and sustainable management of processes occurring around.

Therefore the world community pays the grate attention to water. As an example Declaration of the Millennium accepted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2000, World Summit on Sustainable development in Johannesburg 2002, World Water Foras in Kyoto 2003 and Mexico 2006, many other international conferences, seminars and events within the framework of which discuss questions of using of water resources, including today meeting.

Water resources of the Central Asia have the vital value for the nature and sustainable development of the region. The countries of the region bring the significant contribution to the solution of regional and global water problems. In order to overcome the ecological crisis and to improve social and economic situation in the Aral Sea Basin, acknowledged by the world community as one of the greatest catastrophes of the 20th century in 1993 the Heads of the Central Asian states created the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea. By the efforts of IFAS almost 14 years were support dialogue, mutual understanding, partnership, solves practical problems of water-economic, hydropower, ecological, social and economic character, extend the interaction with the international organizations. The initiatives of the President of IFAS, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmonov on announcement of the International year of fresh water (2003) and the International Decade for Action “Water for life”, 2005-2015, supported by the United Nations, give good opportunity for achievement of the Millennium Development

Goals. Especially I would mark the efforts of Tajikistan. Though Tajikistan is a developing country it makes great efforts to joint world community to solve global water problems. Two international events held in Dushanbe in 2003 and 2005, organized by the Government of Tajikistan on high level, are the example of these efforts. Japan Water Forum delegation headed by Mr. Oda Hideaki has active participated in the last one and we are much thankful for this.

I am sure that establishment of a new regional partnership network in the Asia-Pacific region will allow to concentrate efforts of the national and regional organizations for realization of the International decade “Water for life” tasks and achievements of the Millennium Development Goals.

Executive Committee of IFAS, having its branches in all Central Asian countries, cooperates with governmental, international and public organizations, donors and private sector, carries out coordination of activity of the national and regional organizations on implementation of the projects and programs in the Aral Sea basin. GWP CACENA is reliable partner of the IFAS on achievement of sustainable development and introduction of the integrated water resources management in Central Asia.

We are grateful to Secretary APWF for the due estimation of activity of the Executive Committee of IFAS and GWP CACENA, their roles in the solution of the water problems in Central Asia. We do best to strengthen interrelations of the stakeholders in the subregion to realize the tasks in the context of five Key Results Area and three Priority Themes.

Tomorrow the first Governing Council Meeting of the Asia Pacific Water Forum will take place, and we wish to all members mutual understanding in decision-making and successes in the further activity.

Availing myself this opportunity, on behalf of the Executive Committee of IFAS and GWP CACENA, being sub regional coordinators for work closely with APWF, I congratulate all with the Official Launching of the Asian-Pacific Water Forum. I sincerely hope it will give a new pulse to development of co-operation in the region, and will promote achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, realization of the International Decade “Water for life” objectives, to attract of attention of the international organizations and donor-countries to the solution of the Aral Sea basin problems, strengthening of partnership at the regional and international levels.

We call everyone, to solve regional water problems not through a prism of political, racial and national aspirations, but on the basis of humane, universal principles. It should be the motto of all and everyone.

Thank you very much for your attention!