



World Water Congress XV
International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
Edinburgh, Scotland. 25th to 29th May 2015

Paving the way for rule-based water diplomacy in Central Asia

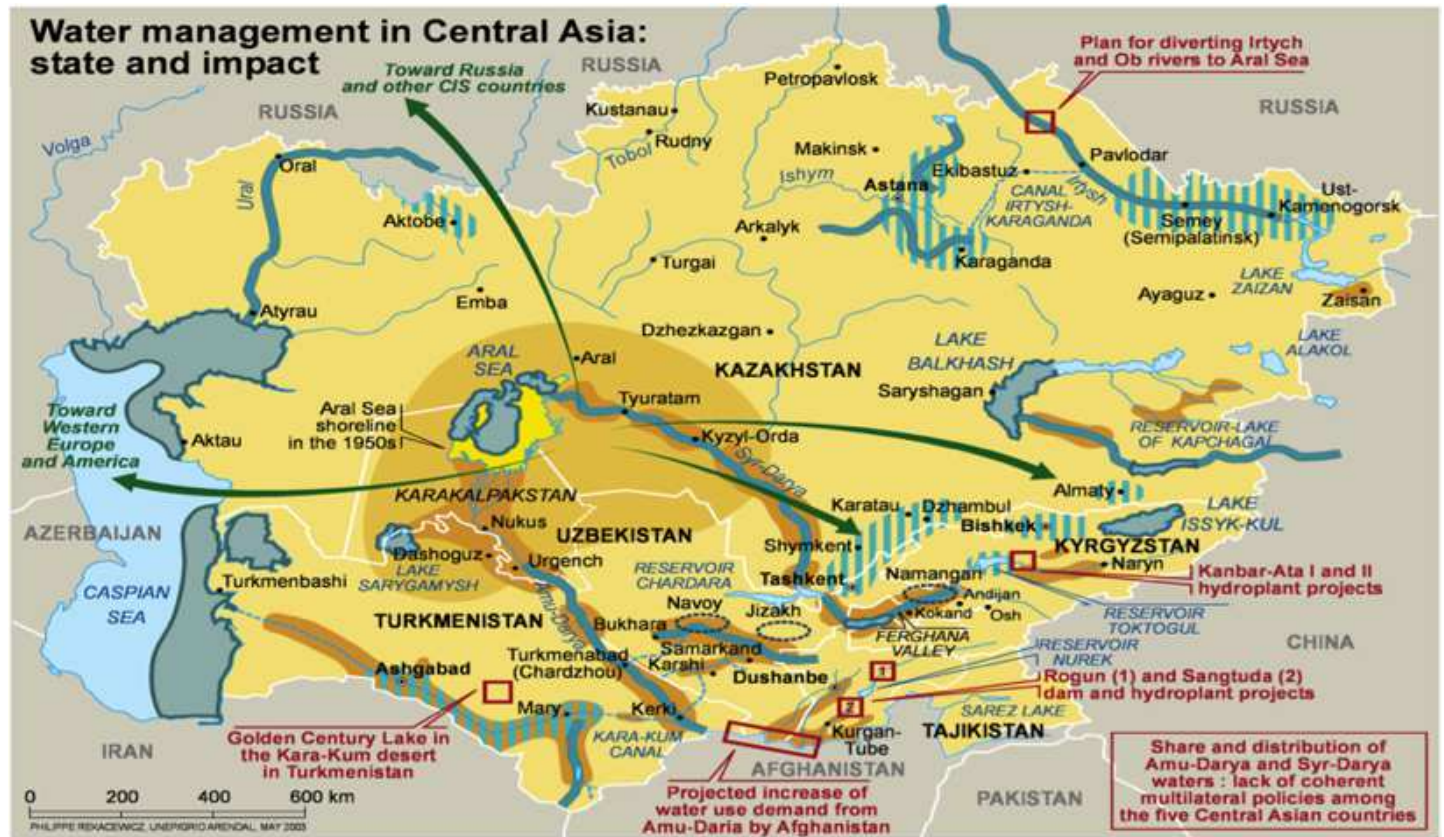
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Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia





Water management in Central Asia: state and impact



Polluted water bodies

- Rivers and canals
- Lakes
- Groundwater
- Areas under threat of flood and of pollution due to mismanagement of upstream water reservoirs and hazardous waste storage sites

Impact

- Former bed of the Aral Sea, uncovered area entirely desertified and saline
- Areas directly affected by the consequences of the shrinkage of the Aral Sea (toxic salts), leading to salinization and desertification
- Migration from environmentally degraded areas

Concerns for the future and potential areas of tension

- Areas of intensive and inefficient irrigated agriculture practices with potential to sterilize soil and threaten human health
- Projected water infrastructure or management plans with conflict or international dimension

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PHILIPPE REBEAUX/WGZ, ULRICH/RODRIJENDAL, MAY 2003

Call for Water Diplomacy



STATEMENT

**By The President of Turkmenistan
H. E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov
at the 7th World Water Forum**

Daegu, April 2015

We see opportunities for establishing a systematic multi-level dialogue to address all problems related to formation and restoration of water resources and their efficient use in the creation of a new political and diplomatic form of multilateral communication, which could be ‘water diplomacy’.



STATEMENT

**By The President of the Republic of
Tajikistan
H. E. Mr. Emomali RAHMON
at the 5th World Water Forum**

Istanbul, March 16, 2009

Water diplomacy should become the key instrument in this regard [rational management of water resources], because it is water that becomes the main prerequisite for ensuring both the well being of the population and regional security.

Selected Water Diplomacy Practices

Scotland - Hydro Nation

Governance, technology, management, regulation



Swiss Blue Peace Diplomacy

Exemplar upstream nation (Rhine), Blue Peace initiative in the Middle East, Regional projects in Central Asia, BRIDGE, Water Convention, Geneva Water Hub



Council conclusions on EU water diplomacy

Foreign Affairs Council meeting, Brussels, 22 July 2012

German Foreign policy

'working for peace' & 'managing globalization', Berlin Process



UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education

Dutch Niche Water Diplomacy

networking, expertise, capacity



US Foreign Policy on Water "Five streams"

capacity-building, financial support, science & technology; private sector.

US-Mexico Minute 319 (experiment)



Singapore a Global Hydrohub

From water insecurity to niche water diplomacy (technology)

Diplomacy: New frontiers

- The changing structure of international relations: wicked problems, new actors, institutions, etc;
- Traditional bilateral diplomacy is complimented by multilateral & multilevel interactions;
- Rising role of science & technology in international relations;
- Increased use of public diplomacy tools;
- Global concerns and collective responsibility of international community.



What is Role for International Law?

Diplomacy in the 21st century is transforming and expanding from a peaceful method of interstate relations to a general instrument of communication among globalized societies.

Bolewski, W. (2007). *Diplomacy and International Law in Globalized Relations*, Berlin: Springer

International law is more than a set of rules for States, it is a 'language of communication'.

The UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, 13-17 March 1995, New York.

Diplomacy practices essentially shape int'l law and facilitate its operation

int'l law provides 'rules of the game' and serves as 'the guiding light for diplomacy'

Symbiotic relations and the common overarching goal:

The purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security [...] in conformity with the principles of justice and int'l law [...] UN Charter

Rule-based water diplomacy to build trust in Central Asia

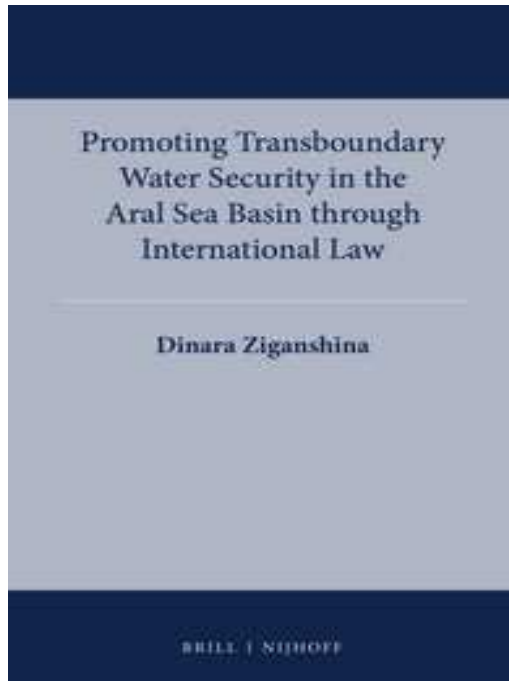
Rule-based water diplomacy is to play a role to restore trust and enable better cooperation between CARs. It should build on strengths and avoid division among stakeholders. It should:

- Foster instruments of cooperation such as information exchange, capacity building, regional (pilot) projects, integrated modeling and long-term planning;
- Provide a platform for various actors to come together, understand each others interests and priorities and search for mutually acceptable development options to have common vision of the future development and available alternatives;
- Spirit of partnership and mutual accountability: interstate, inter-sectoral, vertical as well as science (common framework) based, include NGOs, include IFI's – not only rights but also duties;
- Play a role in solving the water, food, ecosystem, energy nexus by combining and bringing together regional interests in joint enterprises on the basis of solid, integrated systems performance analysis concepts and tools.
- Use modern communication means and water systems knowledge (including the ASBmm) in order to inform and engage a wide public in planning and decision making.



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on the role of international law in addressing
water security threats at www.brill.com

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