

## **Silk Road of Knowledge**

### **Scientific-Practical Online Conference**

The development of science-based solutions to meet climate change impact and to secure sustainable development is one of the crucial challenges for the Central Asia countries and for future decision making at the regional and national level. With climate change, the water cycle is expected to undergo significant changes. The profound scientific framework and incentives shall be developed to attract young and senior professionals to conduct relevant research to generate new knowledge and disseminate to the regional partners the acquired knowledge products.

With the financial support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the Kazakh-German University is conducting a regional scientific conference “Silk road of knowledge” from 24-27th of November 2020, which **aims at**:

- a) identification of scientific gaps regarding the impact of climate change contributing to the enhancement of constructive regional dialogue in Central Asia (CA).
- b) knowledge generation covering the impact of climate change on water management, food security, infrastructure development, land management, and water and climate security and energy efficiency practices in Central Asia; and,
- c) strengthening emphasis on educational and youth outreach and experience-sharing.

The Conference will set the basis for knowledge transfer of what has been developed in the Berlin process 2009-2019 as well as filling research gaps in future in the frame of Green CA, a regional initiative on climate and security in Central Asia and Afghanistan launched by the Federal Foreign Office in the beginning of 2020. A core theme will be how regional collaboration, informed by science, can help solve climate-related challenges in CA. Recommendations collected during the thematic sessions will be presented during the closing session of the conference.

Prior to the Conference, a collection of abstracts for each thematic session will be prepared. The development of the abstracts will set the basis for the development of a scientific book in the future on governance of natural resources under the impact of climate change in CA.

**Objectives:** The online conference aims at bringing together leading voices from both policymakers and scientists to generate new knowledge and enhance a constructive dialogue on climate change issues. More specifically:

- experience exchange and knowledge generation concerning water management, food security, infrastructure development, energy efficiency practices in the context of climate change through identification of the status-quo and existing gaps.
- enhancement of collaboration through the prism of science to address policy challenges in the sphere of Climate and Water; and,
- awareness-raising about current environmental conditions in Central Asia to strengthen regional cooperation among young and senior scientists through identification of joint research opportunities, publication, and networking.

**Session topics:** The online conference will cover a wide range of topics / thematic sessions in the context of climate change and COVID-19 in Central Asia:

Climate Impact Assessment  
Water under Climate Change  
Land Management and Food Security under Climate Change  
Potentials of Digitalization for Increasing Sustainability in Irrigation Water Management  
Water and Climate Security in Central Asia  
Infrastructure and Logistics under Climate Change  
Decarbonization of Energy Systems and Climate Neutrality

**Targeted audience:** representatives of government and educational institutions, senior and young scientists, youth organizations, international and regional partners, and civil society organizations active in the field of climate change

**Partners:** PIK, GFZ, GIZ, FU Berlin, CASIB, CAREC Institute, University of Halle-Wittenberg, YouTube Channel “Land and Water CA,,

**Format of the conference:** Each thematic session will include presentations by speakers and poster sessions.

- The session will be led by two chairs. There will also be a rapporteur of the session who will take note of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of each presentation and together with the session chairs prepare the summary report, which will be presented and discussed during the Closing session. The summary report will highlight the recommendation of each session on how regional collaboration informed by science can help solving climate-related challenges in CA.
- The Posters sessions are highly interactive with people moving from poster to poster, chatting with the presenters, exchanging ideas and suggestions. The session is a two-hour event, where attendees will go to the web page of the conference (link will be shared by 15th of November 2020). The session starts at 16:00 Almaty time on 24th of November with a livestream on YouTube. Each poster will be accompanied by a short video-introduction to the posters by the posters' presenters.

The conference will be also accompanied by two separate side events, a Youth Practical and Academic sessions

**I. Oral thematic sessions:**

- Opening session (1 hour): Speeches by the representative of the governmental institution
- Thematic session (1,5 hours per session): Presentation of 3-4 speakers per session
- Closing session: Discussion around main recommendations from the thematic sessions

**II. Youth sessions**

- Academic session
- Practical session

**III. Poster session**

- Technology session
- Science session

**IV. Side Event**

- UNESCO Water Centers/Chairs Round Table

**Language of the conference:** English, Russian

**[Зарегистрироваться на конференцию](#)**

**Крайний срок подачи заявок 1 Ноября**

В случае возникновения вопросов или необходимости в оказании технической поддержки, просим вас написать нам на **email: [conference.nri@dku.kz](mailto:conference.nri@dku.kz)**