REPORT

on the output 2. Strengthened institutional and service-oriented capacity of the WS and WW in Balykchy and Karakol; and strengthened project implementation capacity component 2.2. Ensuring the participation of women in management positions at Vodokanal enterprises in technical training courses with international accreditation.

Within the framework of implementation of the Issyk-Kul Wastewater Management Project, special attention is paid to the integration of gender aspects and adherence to the principles of equality, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination. The reporting period covers key activities under Component 2.2 of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), as well as progress toward achieving Output 2, aimed at strengthening the role of women in water utilities and improving public awareness of sanitation and hygiene.

Under Output 2: strengthened institutional and service-oriented capacity of water supply and wastewater utilities in the cities of Balykchy and Karakol, and strengthened project implementation capacity, within Component 2.2 — ensuring the participation of women in managerial positions in Vodokanal utilities in technical trainings with international qualification accreditation — a study tour was organized and conducted for specialists of the ME Vodokanals of Balykchy and Karakol, a representative of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Implementing Agency, and the Project Management Officet to the People's Republic of China.

The study tour took place from 18 to 30 October 2025 and was aimed at developing the competencies required for modernization of the water supply and wastewater sector, as well as at expanding women's participation in technical and managerial processes.

The study tour was organized within the framework of the Project with the support of the Contractor — the Consortium of CCCC Tianjin Dredging Co., Ltd., CRBC, and China Northeast Municipal Engineering Design and Research Institute Co., Ltd. The Consortium ensured the development of training programs, organization of logistics, coordination with host organizations in the PRC, and provision of training materials for Modules A and B.

The total size of the delegation comprised 19 participants, including 6 women, which is in line with the Project's objectives to promote their involvement in technical and managerial processes and to ensure gender balance.

The training program was designed to achieve the following key objectives:

• enhancement of professional competencies of water utility specialists;

• study of best practices of the PRC in drinking water and wastewater treatment, as well as infrastructure operation and management;

• development of municipal management capacity in water supply and wastewater services;

• strengthening women's participation in technical and managerial processes;

• development of professional linkages with relevant organizations in the PRC.

Particular attention was paid to the gender aspect: women specialists were included in the full training cycle, interacted with instructors, participated in practical site visits and training sessions, and took part in discussions of engineering solutions.

The training component of the visit was organized at Tianjin University of Urban Construction. The training program consisted of two comprehensive modules.

Module A: Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply and Wastewater Utilities. Basic Knowledge of Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment

Within this module, the following topics were covered:

• fundamentals of hydraulics, water chemistry, and operation of pumping stations;

• water quality standards and sanitary requirements;

• modern drinking water treatment methods, including coagulation, clarification, filtration, membrane processes, and disinfection;

• operation of water treatment facilities and equipment;

• automation of water supply systems;

• water quality monitoring.

Module B: Management of Municipal Corporate Enterprises. Operation and Management in the Water Sector

The main topics included:

• urban water management systems;

• investment planning and tariff setting;

• structure of operating costs of water supply and wastewater utilities;

• digital management technologies (CIM-water, BIM/GIS, online monitoring, SCADA);

- examples of implementation of “smart” water systems.

The training enabled participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of engineering and management processes in the water supply and wastewater sector.

As part of the practical component of the training program, participants visited key water supply and wastewater facilities of the PRC, as well as manufacturing enterprises:

Beichen Xin Wastewater Treatment Plant
– study of the process flow diagram and mechanical and biological treatment processes;
– observation of operator activities and control systems.

Shuangqing Wastewater Treatment Plant
– familiarization with operational practices and load management;
– visit to the dispatch/control center and maintenance areas.

Yangliuqing Water Treatment Plant

– hands-on study of water treatment technologies;

– familiarization with the water supply system, clear water reservoirs, and water quality control instruments.

Tianjin Motian Membrane Technology Co.

– training on membrane technologies;

– visit to the membrane equipment manufacturing workshop.

Facilities in Zhezhou City

– decentralized wastewater treatment plant;

– environmental equipment manufacturing facilities;

– operational sites.

The site visits provided first-hand exposure to technologies, operations, and engineering solutions.

Gender Outcomes. During the study tour, the promotion of women's participation in technical and managerial processes was ensured:

• women completed the full training cycle under both modules;

• participated in practical sessions at the facilities;

• interacted with instructors and PRC engineers, including women experts;

• acquired skills supporting further career growth in technical units and managerial positions.

As a result of the study tour, participants:

• gained an in-depth understanding of modern engineering and operational technologies;

• enhanced practical skills in managing Vodokanal municipal facilities;

• studied the PRC's integrated approaches to digitalization of the water sector;

• became familiar with modern industrial equipment and technologies;

• received training materials for Modules A and B for further application at their enterprises;

• increased the professional confidence and competencies of women specialists.

The organized study tour represented an important step toward strengthening the institutional and technical sustainability of municipal water supply and wastewater utilities in the cities of Balykchy and Karakol of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The knowledge and practical skills gained provide a solid foundation for further sector modernization, expanded participation of women in technical and managerial fields, and enhanced institutional capacity for effective implementation of international projects.

The program and training modules are available upon request.