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Water Diplomacy and Cooperation Master Programme
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Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Zhamilia and I am applying to the Joint Water Diplomacy and Cooperation Master Programme.

The issues of water resources are very relevant in Central Asia and after reading about the WCD Programme I came to the conclusion that it ideally suits my education and professional background.

Having bachelor degree in international relations and master degree in Intergrated water management (IWRM MA) I realized how deep, diversified and complex can interstate cooperation be. Studying at IWRM and working at the regional projects expanded my vision from the national level into regional.

Thoughts about the correlation and interdependence of the national policy with regional, as well as the correlation with the global trends occurred to me. I have been asking myself - why there are a lot of barriers and conflicts over water allocation between upstream and downstream countries in our region and it would become clear that there is still a lot to study and explore about the peculiarities of the national, regional and global politics and cooperation between countries.

After searching the module and programme disciplines at the UPEACE website, it may be concluded that the WCD Program can equip me with needed knowledge in water cooperation and sustainability. The interdisciplinary approach as well as the multicultural atmosphere are the great advantages of the programme. Moreover, all these universities are leading ones which makes the studying process even more valuable for me.

As already mentioned above, water management in the region of Central Asia is relevant and requires highly qualified professionals, that is why, it is crucial not only to get new knowledge but also to analyze and manage to grasp most of what a student has been trained.

In this regard, I hope that studying process will be intense and full of interesting subjects. Learning international cooperation with focus on water governance and disputes resolution of particular interest to me. From this point of view, the module "Water Conflict management and Tools for Water Diplomacy» is one of the meaningful courses, where students can be taught about peace and conflict, what are the factors leading to this and how to prevent them. It would be also significant to know more about the best practices, experiences and historical understanding of this issue in other regions to deeply explore the specific water relations and disputes between countries.

In addition to this, there is need to expand my comprehension of the role of international law, particularly international agreements, its implementation and integration into national policies. Working at the ministry of natural resources, I have to deal with international agreements and sometimes some doubts can arise when considering and trying to clarify this or that legal formulation. The research about the principles and procedures of international environmental law was done by me during the preparation my master thesis and I am interested in the further majoring in it.

There is no doubt, that this is a unique chance to dive in an absolutely new environment, gain new knowledge and, in addition to knowledge, establish new contacts among highly respected professionals and leaders from all over the world.

After completing the program, my plan includes returning to Kyrgyzstan and continuing my career with the Ministry of natural resources of the Kyrgyz Republic. It seems to me that this is the place where I could best apply my upgraded knowledge and skills into better facilitation of dialogue platform, disputes resolution and achievement of sustainable development at the national and regional level.

During my IWRM master program, I got acquainted with students from all Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. These students were young professionals who already had had experience in water sector, mainly at state bodies so there always were a lot of interesting discussions between us. Such kind of multicultural interaction helped me to see water related problems from the perspectives of other CA countries. Moreover, we also had an opportunity to visit our neighboring countries during the seminars and regional conferences which was very good to us, because we increased practical experience by having filed trips to hydropower stations, rivers, green houses – all things which we studied in theory.

As a result, having gained general education in social and political sciences I am at the point in my career when specialized skills and nuanced understanding are essential to be even more effective leader. The multidisciplinary approach in studying process of WCD Program can help to broaden my mind and let me see and analyze the water issues from different perspectives. It is a wonderful chance to learn as much as possible from more experienced people around me and exchange new ideas, share knowledge which can be fundamental for my future work.

Thank you for consideration,

Yours sincerely,

Zhamilia Dairova

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