

Steering Committee Meeting

P R O T O C O L

Conference Hall of Ministry of Nature Protection of the RA

November 16, 2011

Goal:	Present to the discussion and approval of the Project’s Steering Committee: 1. Report on the Project’s progress in 2010-2011 2. Further action within the Project and its work plan for 2011-2012
Participants:	All the 11 members of the Project’s Steering Committee were present: 6 – in person and 5 – via deputies. Total number of the meeting’s participants is 19 (<i>participant list attached</i>)

The following materials were submitted in advance to the Steering Committee members:

1. The meeting’s agenda (*attached*)
2. Analytical report on the Project’s activities within 2010-2011 (*42 pages, attached*)
3. The Project’s draft work plan for 2011-2012 (*attached*)

The meeting was lead by Mr.Aram Harutyunyan, Minister of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee.

Mr.Aram Harutyunyan, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee, invited the participants to comment on the meeting’s agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.

According to the first point of the agenda: Ms.D.Harutyunyan, the Project’s Manager, greeted the participants and invited Mr.V.Jalalyan, the Project’s Task Leader, to speak. Mr.V.Jalalyan presented the main results of the Project’s activities and progress report for the works performed in 2010-2011.

SC members made inquiries and shared comments.

Mr.H.Tsughunyan referred to the issue of MSN “Thermal Protection of Buildings” adopted in 2004 and proposed to consider an option of adopting EU Directive “On Energy Performance of Buildings and Constructions” in package.

Mr.V.Jalalyan noted in response that this would be too abrupt as different approached are laid in foundation of EN and post-Soviet construction norms. Besides, evidence base for EU Directive “On Energy Performance of Buildings and Constructions” consists of 60 standards. He also noted that the submitted report discussed two stages, first of which implied localization of MSN, and second – adoption of the mentioned EU Directive.

Ms.A.Simonyan inquired on energy efficiency improvement measures’ monitoring criteria applied by the Project’s experts for the pilot buildings.

Mr.V.Jalalyan replied that the buildings were re-designed according to the existing norms of the RA and monitoring and quality control is performed from the compliance viewpoint.

Ms.A.Simonyan inquired on results of awareness raising of “Mush-2” area residents.

Mr.V.Jalalyan informed that the survey was conducted in October, at the start of heating season, and that an information leaflet on energy efficiency improvement was distributed among the residents.

Mr.A.Harutyunyan considered important the role decrease in residents' expenses, the collective attitude of residents in improving energy efficiency, and the perception of the own role of each resident concerned.

Mr.H.Yesayan noted that in both pilot buildings thermal insulation was performed with the same material, polyurethane, and inquired other materials were considered as options.

Mr.V.Jalalyan informed that eight options were considered in the frames of the Project and that polyurethane was selected as the primary one due to a number of preferred features.

Mr.A.Harutyunyan considered important both quality control of construction materials and ensuring of their competitiveness. He referred to examples of other countries with similar developments.

Ms.A.Simonyan inquired on testing laboratories and certification bodies and thermal insulation materials production.

Mr.V.Jalalyan informed that only 3 of the sector's 11 testing laboratories were capable to perform testing of certain thermal-physical features, while the only calibrated device in the RA was operated by a private company.

Mr.A.Harutyunyan invited the SC members to come up with comments.

Mr.H.Tsughunyan appreciated the Project's activities and addressed the issue of harmonizing the draft norms to be elaborated in the frames of the Project with the draft law on technical regulations to be adopted.

Mr.A.Harutyunyan considered important coordinated work with Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the RA and Ministry of Urban Development of the RA.

Mr.H.Yesayan also appreciated the Project's activities and addressed to the issues of sufficiency of energy monitoring and referred to an option of providing centralized heat supply in "Mush-2" residential area.

Mr.A.Harutyunyan addressed to the options of providing heating and to technological solutions, including "one buildings-one boiler" option. He addressed technical details and referred to the link between norms' provisions and issues of the systems to be installed. He addressed also the issue of boiler-house audit, condominiums, defining role and responsibility of each resident.

Mr.H.Yesayan referred to the example of the project implemented by R2E2 at 8 Sayat-Nova Street in Avan residential area.

Mr.A.Gabrielyan reminded of the pilot project implemented by "Improving Energy Efficiency of Municipal Heating and Hot Water Supply" project in the same residential area. He noted that a co-generation system operated in Avan district and emphasized benefits of applying advanced technologies given the rising natural gas tariffs.

Mr.A.Harutyunyan stressed the importance of applying advanced technologies and noted on relatively rare use of solar systems in Armenia.

Mr.D.Boberg appreciated that the Report is understandable for a non-specialist. As for the requirements' standardization, he mentioned that according to the survey, performed

among the residents, most of them are not satisfied with quality of construction materials mainly due to dampness of the walls. The work plan follows the issue, stresses political role of testing and certification as well as importance of national norms on quality control. Mr.D.Boberg asked how the dissatisfaction could be explained and quality control assured.

Ms.D.Harutyunyan responded that all the stages as well as work with respective structures are included in the Project's planning. A not yet resolved issue is lack of insulation materials' insulation.

Ms.A.Simonyan considered the Project as unique and having acquired experience in effective implementation of small steps policy.

Mr.S.Srapyan highly appreciated the Project's activities and cooperation with the Ministry of Urban Development of the RA. He informed that the RA Prime-Minister's decision #642-A was signed that approves the Action Plan for Implementation of National Program on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy of the RA.

Mr.V.Jalalyan also appreciated the on-going cooperation.

According to the second point of the agenda: Mr.V.Jalalyan presented activities envisaged by the Project's work plan for 2011-2012. He mentioned that the work plan's points are based, particularly, on the results of Inter-Agency Working Group of the Project.

Mr.H.Tsughunyan considered important organization of feedback flow from society, including embracing multiple-year monitoring results in the respective information leaflets.

Mr.A.Yeganyan also considered important implementation of awareness raising activities and agreed with Mr.H.Tsughunyan's proposal.

Mr.A.Harutyunyan proposed to amend the title of technical regulations whose elaboration was envisaged by the first point of the Project's Work Plan. He also proposed to submit reports on each important result received or activity performed by the Project as well as official reports on field visits by the Project's experts. He proposed to ensure information supply to the RA media as well as to the Builders' Union of Armenia with particular attention to enactment of their revised norms.

The Project's Steering Committee decided:

1. According to the first point of the agenda:

- Accept the Analytical report on the Project's activities within 2010-2011 for information.

2. According to the second point of the agenda:

- With the amendments incorporated, approve the Project's work plan for 2011-2012.

Mr.A.Harutyunyan expressed his appreciation to the members of the Steering Committee, the Project's team and participants.

Co-Chair of the Steering Committee

A.Harutyunyan

Secretary

V.Jalalyan

original signed