

**ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ ҒЫЛЫМ ЖӘНЕ ЖОҒАРЫ БІЛІМ МИНИСТРЛІГІ**

**«Л.Н. ГУМИЛЕВ АТЫНДАҒЫ ЕУРАЗИЯ ҰЛТТЫҚ УНИВЕРСИТЕТІ» КЕАҚ**

**Студенттер мен жас ғалымдардың  
«GYLYM JÁNE BILIM - 2023»  
XVIII Халықаралық ғылыми конференциясының  
БАЯНДАМАЛАР ЖИНАҒЫ**

**СБОРНИК МАТЕРИАЛОВ  
XVIII Международной научной конференции  
студентов и молодых ученых  
«GYLYM JÁNE BILIM - 2023»**

**PROCEEDINGS  
of the XVIII International Scientific Conference  
for students and young scholars  
«GYLYM JÁNE BILIM - 2023»**

**2023  
Астана**

**УДК 001+37**  
**ББК 72+74**  
**G99**

**«GYLYM JÁNE BILIM – 2023» студенттер мен жас ғалымдардың XVIII Халықаралық ғылыми конференциясы = XVIII Международная научная конференция студентов и молодых ученых «GYLYM JÁNE BILIM – 2023» = The XVIII International Scientific Conference for students and young scholars «GYLYM JÁNE BILIM – 2023». – Астана: – 6865 б. - қазақша, орысша, ағылшынша.**

**ISBN 978-601-337-871-8**

Жинаққа студенттердің, магистранттардың, докторанттардың және жас ғалымдардың жаратылыстану-техникалық және гуманитарлық ғылымдардың өзекті мәселелері бойынша баяндамалары енгізілген.

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**УДК 001+37**  
**ББК 72+74**

**ISBN 978-601-337-871-8**

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ұлттық университеті, 2023**

often, if not as a threat, then at least as a warning, as a signal of possible danger. A social conflict arouses the sympathy of some and the censure of others even when it does not directly affect the interests of groups not involved in it. In a society where conflicts are not hidden, not obscured, they are perceived as something quite natural (unless, of course, the conflict threatens the existence of the system itself, does not undermine its foundations).

But even in this case, the fact of the conflict itself acts as a kind of evidence of social disadvantage on one or another scale, at one or another level of public organization. Therefore, it also acts as a certain incentive for making changes to the policy, legislation, management decisions, etc.

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UDC 330.524:627:341.9

### **WATER DIPLOMACY IN CENTRAL ASIA**

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To begin with, I would like to note that water is one of the most important resources on our earth. Life and development would not be possible without it. If you can live without oil, metal or other minerals on your territory, but can't without water and air.

There is also a water deficit in the world and even about two billion people do not have direct access to water. The water factor plays a big role in world diplomacy. Water does not subject to state borders, thus making states interdependent in their use.

I'm writing about the problem of water use specifically in the Central Asian region. The water issue is very acute here, because the geographical position of some countries gives an opportunity to control resources and use them as a political tool.

After independence and disintegration of the USSR, the unified water use complex in the region collapsed. When the borders were divided Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan gained advantages. Because the region's two largest rivers, the SyrDarya and the Amu Darya, form in the mountains on their territory and are transboundary. They thus flow down into the so-called downstream countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. This makes the latter countries dependent on the former.

The first impulse for geopolitical diplomacy came with the 1991 Tashkent Declaration. It talked about water sharing, considering the interests of each state. And measures were taken to prevent the Aral Sea drought.

Water became the cause of resource disputes. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan considered the water that formed on their territories to be a domestic asset. Whereas Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, on the contrary, were interested in everyone having equal rights to use water.

Agreements were signed that smoothed out the conflict potential for a certain period, but each country constantly adhered only to its own interests and was unwilling to compromise.

And for 30 years since independence, the Central Asian countries haven't been able to establish a mechanism for water allocation in the region. Although, it would seem that the solution to this problem lies on the surface: those upstream supply water in summer, thereby ensuring irrigation of agricultural lands, and those downstream - electricity in winter.

But each country considers only its own interests, so creating a unified mechanism for water use is difficult.

In the next decade, global water consumption will increase manifold. It is no secret, but the faster the population grows, the more resources are required for life support. Therefore, the question of the correct allocation of water resources is at the top of the agenda, as there is no alternative for water.

Water as an economic commodity. Kyrgyzstan was the first to talk about water being a commodity like oil and gas. It even adopted in June 1997 a decree "On Interstate Water Use by Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan". Where it was said that it was necessary to establish payment for water coming from Kyrgyzstan's reservoirs. There are two directly opposing views in the region regarding water as a commodity. One says that basic water rights make it difficult to charge for the right to use water. Still, the existence of a price for water will send a clear signal that there is a shortage of water and that it needs to be saved. Questions about the proper allocation of water resources in Central Asia remain unresolved. A large part of the reason for this is that each country in the region has only the national interest of its own country.

Since independence, a large number of agreements have been signed on water issues.

For example, in 1998, an Agreement was adopted between Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on the joint use of water and energy resources in the Syrdarya river basin. But unfortunately, all these agreements work only on paper, but in practice everything is much more complicated.

The region needs full engagement with each other to resolve this issue. I think a multilateral regional approach is needed that takes into account energy, agricultural and demographic aspects of water use. Until now, there have been mainly bilateral meetings that have not had much weight and are not capable of resolving problems of a regional scale. Water management must be changed to increase accountability and transparency in order to achieve trust and agreement between countries.

I also believe that it is necessary to involve all Central Asian countries in water diplomacy processes and take into account the interests of each participant.

The exchange of information will help the countries come closer together and build trust. And trust in water diplomacy is the key to solving the problem.

It is important to follow the previously signed agreements in deeds, not in words. Then water in the region will not be a reason for disputes and political bargaining, but a reason for full cooperation in the region, which is a necessary measure.

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UDC 327

## **ASEAN AND JAPAN AS AN EXAMPLE OF STRONG REGIONAL COOPERATION IN EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA**

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**Abstract:** ASEAN as an active regional organization in the Southeast Asia remains the only diverse structure in the Asia Pacific. While Japan continues to be one of the leading countries in the world. Developing its cooperation with ASEAN, Japan is developing programs and initiatives beneficial to both sides, including economic, social, political, cultural and other spheres. This article examines in detail the historical significance of the ASEAN direction in Japanese politics, delves into the created and implemented projects of ASEAN and Japan, as well as focuses on the role of Japan in cooperation with ASEAN.

**Keywords:** ASEAN-Japan, ASEAN cooperation, Fukuda Doctrine, ASEAN-Japan economic cooperation, ASEAN-Japan, programs, Free and Open Indo-Pacific, the Bangkok Declaration, Southeast Asia and Japan.

### **Introduction**

In the modern system of the world order, one of the main roles is played by international and regional organizations. They have become not just new actors of the International Relations, but also turned out to be instruments for conducting the foreign policy of world states. Each region is represented by several integration associations operating in different spheres. If in Europe such an association is the European Union, in South America – Mercosur, then in Southeast Asia this role is performed by ASEAN. In addition to multilateral relation, we can also consider separate relations between ASEAN and countries. By exploring the existing relations between ASEAN and Japan I will identify the main factors which facilitated or worsened the current state of Southeast Asian organization. The topic is also justified by the fact that East and Southeast Asia are one of the most unique and diverse regions in the world. Countries of these regions actively partake in the world processes influencing and contributing to the economic, social, cultural and political realms in international relations.

ASEAN – The Association of Southeast Asian Nations first began functioning in 1967, when foreign ministers from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines signed the Bangkok Declaration. From this period, a new stage in the development of the Southeastern states