



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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24th – 28th April, 2017

[Video & photos]: Ethiopian PM and First Lady on 3-day state visit

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and First Lady Roman Tesfaye arrived in Kigali, yesterday, for a three-day state visit. During his first day, premier Desalegn visited Ntebe Integrated Model Village in Rwamagana District in Eastern Province where he commended the use of this model to settle poor families in rural settings across the country. Development of the Ntebe IDP model village began in 2008 with the first residents of the village settling in 2009. Currently it hosts 772 beneficiaries in 204 households.

<http://bit.ly/2qcZrFk>

Ethiopia Prime Minister visits Rwanda

[...] Rwanda and Ethiopia identified new areas of cooperation at the second Rwanda-Ethiopia Joint Permanent Commission (JPC), a technical level meeting involving experts from both countries, which concluded in Kigali on Tuesday. The new areas of partnerships

are in the fields of education, tourism and mutual legal assistance, according to Claude Nikobisanzwe, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

<http://bit.ly/2oRL3kW>

Rwanda, Ethiopia expand bilateral ties

Rwanda and Ethiopia agreed on new areas of cooperation at a meeting which concluded in Kigali on Tuesday, an official who attended the two-day session said. The new areas of partnerships are in the fields of education, tourism and mutual legal assistance, according to Claude Nikobisanzwe, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

<http://bit.ly/2qdiq72>

Water security could define future conflict

As part of Ethiopia's plans to assert its influence on the African continent, the country is getting ready to deliver a major new hydroelectric project on the Nile. The

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project could transform the east African country into an energy exporter and bolster Addis Ababa's regional prowess. There is only one drawback and it is a big one. The project is predicated on a major dam that will curtail the flow of the Nile's waters downstream into Egypt and Sudan. Receiving more than 60 per cent of its water supply from the Nile, Egypt is increasingly anxious about Ethiopia's plans to use the river for its hydroelectric projects.

<http://bit.ly/2oDh7Nt>

Dam effects

The Tripartite National Committee on the Renaissance Dam (TNCRD) met in Cairo on 23 April to discuss the initial report by consultancy firms BRL and Artelia commissioned to assess the possible impact of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on downstream countries Egypt and Sudan. During the meeting, the committee discussed the report and remarks made on it by Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan. The observations should be considered by the consultancy firms while preparing their final report.

<http://bit.ly/2pobmAb>

(Opinion) Egypt should join the consensus on shared use of Nile waters

[...] All the countries must address environmental degradation, whose impact on rainfall is already beginning to show. It is in Egypt's interest and countries of the Nile Basin to invest in reversal of this dangerous phenomenon, which threatens to spread the Sahara Desert down south. Only through collective action can we save the Nile from 'drying up' and ensure that there is enough water for both down-stream and



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up-stream countries. Bickering over 'ancient' rights will do us no good.

<http://bit.ly/2oD71Hg>

Egypt, Ethiopia discussions confirm strength of bilateral relations

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi asserted Egypt's interest in strengthening and developing its relations with Ethiopia in various fields during his meeting with Workneh Gebeyehu, the Ethiopian foreign affairs minister, on Wednesday. During the meeting, both officials discussed bilateral relations and ways to advance them, as well as highlighting the strength of their relations.

<http://bit.ly/2pFYzvB>

After seven-year absence, will Egypt return to Nile Basin Initiative?

After seven years during which Egypt froze its membership in the Nile Basin Initiative to object to the Entebbe Agreement — which does not recognize Egypt's historical annual water quota from the Nile River and gives upstream countries the right to build dams without any prior notice — the Egyptian team handling the Nile water issue at the Foreign Ministry and Water Resources Ministry embarked on a round of negotiations that started with an extraordinary ministerial meeting in Uganda on March 29 and aimed to find a

formula of understanding that satisfies all parties and paves the way for Egypt's return to the Nile Basin Initiative. This comes ahead of the Nile Summit scheduled for June in Uganda.

<http://bit.ly/2oH2HI1>

Nile faces greater variability

The unpredictable annual flow of the Nile River is legendary, as evidenced by the story of Joseph and the Pharaoh, whose dream foretold seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine in a land whose agriculture was, and still is, utterly dependent on that flow. Now, researchers at MIT have found that climate change may drastically increase the variability in Nile's annual output.

<http://bit.ly/2pXZx6z>

Ethiopian dam creates waves

By year's end, one of the world's largest dams will begin filling up, affecting the fate of millions of people as it does so. Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam on the upper reaches of the Blue Nile has been six years in the making, and is a project of staggering proportions. It will create a lake 150 square kilometres in size, produce electricity equal to a third of UAE's energy output and has cost 10 billion Ethiopian birr so far. It will also ensure a steady supply of water.

<http://bit.ly/2qoVfey>

Tripartite National Committee on the Renaissance Dam finalises its meeting

The Tripartite National Committee on the Renaissance Dam (TNCRD) finalised its meeting in Cairo on Wednesday, after a four-day meeting started on Sunday in the presence of experts from three countries: Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia.

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The meeting approved the schedule and mechanisms for exchanging data, information, and previous studies needed by the two French consultancy firms—BRL and Artelia—tasked with assessing the possible impact of the dam on downstream countries.

<http://bit.ly/2p6s1d3>