

NileNews

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Nile Basin journalists trained on Nile Cooperation issues



Journalists and communication officials from Water Affairs ministries who participated in the training

In order to equip media in the region with factual information and knowledge about issues surrounding the Nile Basin and Nile cooperation, the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) recently hosted a Regional Nile Media Training in Kigali, Rwanda. Taking place from 12th and 16th December 2016, the purpose of the training was to strengthen journalists' capacity and knowledge in understanding Nile Cooperation issues and enhance their skills so they popularize the issues among the Member States primarily.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

As we come to the end of the year 2016, I would like to thank all of you for your commitment and support to the Nile cooperation. We at the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) can look back with a level of satisfaction at what we have achieved and a sense of excitement about what the future holds.

We have accomplished many things all with the aim of contributing to improved livelihoods for the communities within the NBI Member States.

Cases in point include an assessment of water supply and demand in the Nile Basin, with results showing that currently, the Nile Basin supports the existing water demands without appreciable shortfalls. This, however, is likely to change as the demand for water is growing to meet water supply, food and energy requirements of a rapidly growing population and economies thus putting emphasis on the importance of basin-wide Nile cooperation.

Given the increasing demand for knowledge sharing among Nile Basin citizens, the Secretariat introduced an on-line capacity development program (<https://elearn.nilebasin.org/>) that is offered free of charge to all our stakeholders. This highly relevant and engaging online training provides a unique opportunity to whoever is interested in learning about NBI while we listen to you to understand what you need.



We also did not spare efforts in mobilizing resources for implementation of our activities. This includes the Euro 13.5 million EU-Germany multi donor funding project. The five-year project (2016/17) will cover six priority areas of the basin programs and tackle issues such as balancing growing water demands with available water resources of the Nile Basin in an efficient and sustainable manner.

Most recently, we held a quite successful Regional Nile Media Training with the purpose to strengthen journalists' capacity and knowledge in understanding Nile Cooperation issues and enhance their skills so they popularize the issues among the Member States primarily.

Looking ahead, the year 2017 will bring its own mix of successes and challenges, but our direction is clear and we know what we must do, to better serve our Member States and the Nile Basin communities.

We will, among other things, direct our energies towards sustainable basin-wide Nile cooperation. To this end, the new 10-year NBI Strategy to be launched in mid-2017 will address the issue of deepening and broadening awareness on

basin risks and challenges; how to engage stakeholders in addressing basin water resources management challenges while at the same time further strengthening the cooperation mechanisms that have so far been established.

The Strategy will also hinge on NBI's gains in the last 17 years of its existence and take cognizance of the evolving environment and context in the Basin.

Let me express my sincere gratitude to the NBI member States for the continued cash and in-kind contributions to NBI and the development partners for the financial and technical support. I have such great confidence that you will continue walking with us on the long journey ahead, as we promote basin-wide Nile cooperation for improved livelihoods of the peoples of the Nile Basin.

Last but not least, I take this opportunity to inform you about two key upcoming regional events next year, which is the Regional Nile Day on 22nd February, in Dar es Salaam – Tanzania and the 5th Nile Basin Development Forum in October, in Kigali -Rwanda. You will certainly receive details about each of the events.

On behalf of the entire staff of NBI, I wish you and your family safe and happy holidays and a successful 2017!

Eng. Innocent Ntabana

The training brought together 24 journalists from each of the 10 NBI Member States and nine communication officers from the water ministries of these countries and it featured expert presentations, panel discussions, group work and a reporting field trip to the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydro-electric project.

Presentations included 'Basic Principles of International Water Law' by Dr. Salman M. A. Salman, 'A Critical Review on the Role of Media in Reporting about Nile Cooperation' by Daniel Kalinaki as well as 'Hydrology of the Nile' by Dr. Abdulkarim Seid, among others. The latter detailed the interconnection of issues within the river basin, highlighting water's uses in agriculture, industry, domestic use, hydropower and fishing.

Speaking after the training, Fred Omulo, a Kenyan journalist said: "The Nile Basin Initiative media training sessions in Kigali, Rwanda were the most comprehensive trainings of their kind that I've attended. Every possible angle of curiosity was covered, giving journalists a wide array of issues to tackle over a long period of time. The inclusion of experts participating in the trainings also illuminated many complex issues and provided the journalists with a treasure trove of well informed and credible sources. In summary, Nile Basin Initiative media training, 2016 edition was the kind of training that prepares a journalist for award winning stories and accolades."

Another journalist, Evelyn Lirri, a Ugandan with *The East African* had this to say of the training: "The training was more than worth it. Given that it was on a very technical subject, the speakers delivered the presentations in a way that was engaging and easy to understand. Already from the training and presentations from the different speakers, I was able to get story ideas which I hope to translate into stories. Also, I was able to make contacts for sources – people that I can always contact for expert view on issues of the Nile Basin such as Dr. Salman and Prof. Seilfeldin."

After three days of speeches, lectures and panels in a hotel conference room, the idea of a reporting field trip to the Regional Rusumo Falls Project hydro-electric project was welcomed by participants. The objective was to expose to participants examples of real benefits of Nile cooperation and provide them a great opportunity to find human interest angles for their stories as well as develop stories with testimonials from the community.

Construction of the project will start in January 2017 and is expected to generate 80MW of electricity to be shared equally among Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. It will improve livelihoods of the 7,000 households in the beneficiary districts of Kirehe, Ngoma (Rwanda), Giteranyi and Busoni (Burundi) and Ngara (Tanzania).

One potential beneficiary, Fauzia Kyaichumu, operates a local food restaurant in Kirehe. "Right now, we are cooking using firewood, but in future, we will use electricity. We iron clothes using charcoal boxes but we will soon be able to use electric irons," she says.

As part of NBI's media engagement strategy, the Secretariat organised a side event in form of an editors' breakfast meeting with editors from Rwandan media outlets. The purpose was to encourage partnership and a better understanding between the two groups.



For more information about the project:

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

For photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nile-basin-initiative/albums/>

By Elizabeth Agiro,
Media Relations Expert
Nile-SEC - Entebbe

Regional Nile Media Training Pictorial



The journalists each received a completion certificate at the end of the training



Participants in a group discussion



A journalist asks a question during a meeting with the communities



Expert panel members 2nd from left Dr. Salman Salman, Dr. John Rao Nyaoro, HSC and Prof. Seifeldin H. Abdalla discuss the importance of sustainable basin wide Nile cooperation . Far left is moderator Dr. Wubalem Fekade and co-moderator Daniel Kalinaki (far right)



Ministers in charge of Water Affairs and other dignitaries take a group photo.

Nile Basin Water Affairs Ministers agree on implementation of investment projects

Water Affairs Ministers in the Nile Basin countries recently agreed to mainstream investment projects prepared by the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) within their national development plans for implementation so as to contribute to energy, water and food security in the sub-region.

This was during the 19th annual Nile Equatorial Lakes Council of Ministers (NELCOM) meeting held in Nairobi Kenya on 19th October, 2016.

The Ministers were happy to note that construction of the 80 MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric project is scheduled to start by January 2017.

They called for scaling of up of preparation and implementation of investment projects in the Nile Equatorial Lakes sub region so as to increase socio-economic benefits for the communities as well as further enhance Nile cooperation.

Member States pledged to continue supporting NELSAP-CU through both cash and in-kind contributions and those with outstanding arrears pledged to clear them within the shortest time possible.

Change in leadership

The 19th annual NELCOM meeting witnessed a change in the top leadership, with the position of chairman moving from Burundi to Sudan. Hon. Amb. Mutaz Musa Abdalla Salim, Minister of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity, Sudan is the current. He succeeded Hon. Emmanuel Niyonkuru, Burundi's Minister of Water, Environment, Land Management and Urban Planning.

The change in leadership is in keeping with the NBI tradition of rotating the position of chairman of the NELCOM among the Member States on an annual basis.

The meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs from Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. DR Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Tanzania sent representatives while Egypt did not participate.

The next annual meeting, the 20th in a series, will take place in October 2017.

>> Light at the end of the tunnel

Construction of Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project to start in January 2017



The Ground Breaking Ceremony for the construction of the 80MW Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP) is scheduled to take in January 2017.

This follows the recent signing of two Contract Packages (CP) by NBI's Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU), which is delegated and authorized on behalf of Rusumo Power Company Limited (RPCL). The latter is jointly owned by the three beneficiary NBI Member States that is Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania.

CP1 amounting to USD 75 million was signed with CGCOC Group Ltd – Jiangxi Water & Hydropower Construction Company Ltd Joint Venture of P.R. China to execute Civil Works. The latter includes the design, supply & installation of Hydro-Mechanical Equipment.

CP2 amounting to USD 47 million was signed with the Consortium Rusumo Falls Andritz Hydro GmbH (Germany) and Andritz Hydro PVT Ltd (India), to carry out Mechanical and Electrical Works for power generation. This includes the design, supply, installation and commissioning of the Electro-Mechanical Equipment.

The Project whose construction will last three years has two main components: Power Generation Plant of

80MW, whose construction is financed by the World Bank at a cost of USD 340 million and the transmission lines that will connect the power plant to the national grids in the three countries, financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) at a cost of USD 121 million.

Among the numerous benefits, the project will provide an additional 27MW each to Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania and strengthen the regional power interconnection between the countries. It will improve livelihoods of the 7,000 households in the beneficiary districts under the local area development program and another 188 households directly affected by the project through livelihood restoration program. This is in addition to providing job opportunities for up to 500 skilled, non- skilled and casual workers from the three beneficiary countries.

The Ground Breaking ceremony will take place at the Rusumo site and will be witnessed by Ministers for Energy, Water and Finance respectively and the RPCL Board Members from respective shareholder countries and the media, among other.



Find out more: <http://www.nilebasin.org/index.php/our-story/38-rusumo-falls-power-project-to-benefit-many>

NBI Governance calls for extensive consultations for new 10 year Strategy

The Secretariat held a consultative meeting with members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) from 2 to 5 November, 2016, with respect to the preparation of the NBI 10 year Strategy. The key objective was to seek inputs from the governance into the Strategy.

Nile-TAC members recommended a bottom up approach in the strategy development process and wider stakeholder consultations.

World Bank mission at Nile-SEC

A team from the World Bank recently conducted an implementation support mission to the Secretariat. The Team led by Eileen Burke discussed the progress in implementation of the Nile Cooperation for Results (NCORE) Project, including the attainment of results. The project was noted to be on course in achievements of its targets.

The Secretariat was also informed that the Bank is considering providing additional funding to the NCORE Project to enable it achieve its objectives.

NBI and EU Delegation officials discuss new project

The meeting held on 6th October at the Delegation of the European Union to Uganda discussed the status of the upcoming Euro 10 million trans-boundary water resources project to be funded by European Development Fund as well as the next steps in the project preparation.

It was noted that there is urgent need to embark on the detailed activity description for the five year project to avoid further delays once the approvals and signing of agreements are completed.

The project covers six priority areas of the basin programs and tackles issues such as balancing growing water demands with available water resources of the Nile Basin in an efficient and sustainable manner.

The Executive Director of the NBI Secretariat, Eng. Innocent Ntabana, informed about NBI's key priorities including preparation of the 10-year Strategy, strategic water resources analysis, and the establishment of the trans-boundary Nile Basin Hydromet monitoring system.

NBI and LVBC discuss collaboration plan

The Management teams of the NBI and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) held a meeting from 17 to 18 November, 2016 at Nile-SEC to discuss a collaboration plan to support implementation of the existing collaborative mechanism.

Courtesy visits - Pictorial



Eng. Ntabana talks to Mr. Udo Weber, First Secretary, Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Uganda. The two discussed German government support to NBI and Nile cooperation, the wetlands project, EU-BMZ multi donor program, Water diplomacy, as well as KfW engagement with NELSAP



The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Kenya's High Commissioner to Uganda H.E. Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Geoffrey L. Okanga (right), and Eng. Ntabana discuss issues related to NBI and Nile cooperation. This was during a courtesy visit by Eng. Ntabana to the Kenya High Commission in Kampala.



Eng. Ntabana hands over a copy of the Nile Basin Water Resources Atlas to the World Bank Country Manager for Uganda, Ms. Christina E. Malmberg Calvo.

Tanzania to host Regional Nile Day event 2017

Tanzania will next year host the annual Regional Nile Day event on 22nd February, 2017.

Nile Day is a commemoration of the establishment of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) on 22nd February 1999, by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries.

The theme for the event is **Our Shared Nile - Source of Energy, Food and Water for All**. The links between water-food-energy nexus, livelihoods and economic development are quite visible in the Nile Basin countries. NBI will take this opportunity to enhance awareness and understanding among participants and Nile Basin citizens about the inter-relatedness as well as the importance of sustainable basin-wide Nile cooperation in ensuring energy, food and water security in the region.

Given the tremendous opportunities presented by Nile cooperation, Nile Basin States should work towards sustainable Nile Cooperation, which calls for, among other things, increased political commitment from Member States; all-inclusivity as well as financial resources to finance the implementation of regional projects and harness the benefits that all Nile Basin citizens deserve.

Celebrated at both regional and national level since 2007, Nile Day provides an opportunity for Nile Basin citizens to come together to exchange on topical issues concerning how to best take care of and use the shared Nile Basin water and related resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

The day also serves as an opportunity to enhance awareness about the benefits of basin-wide Nile cooperation, the challenges as well as consequences of non-cooperation, while searching ways and means to further the cooperation. This is in addition to exposing participants to the rich and varied cultures, which exist within the Nile Basin.

Activities will include public speeches, a brass band procession in the city center is expected to be a major attraction, theme focused Key Note speech, exhibition, tree planting, and cultural show.

The event is expected to attract various NBI stakeholders including Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in each Member State, government officials, Members of Parliament, Researchers and Academia. Others are civil society, media, women, youth, children and the general public.

The 2017 event will be a special one for it is in Dar es Salaam that the NBI was formed 18 years ago.

Venues of previous Regional Nile Day events

Kigali, Rwanda in 2007; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2008; Bujumbura, Burundi in 2009; Kabale, Uganda in 2010; Goma, DR Congo in 2011; Jinja, Uganda in 2012; Bahir Dar, Ethiopia in 2013; Kampala, Uganda in 2014, Khartoum, The Sudan in 2015, Vihiga County, Kisumu - Kenya in 2016.

By Emerita Mugorewichyeza
Stakeholder Participation Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe



Rwanda to host 5th Nile Basin Development Forum

The 5th Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) is scheduled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 23 – 25th October, 2017.

The NBDF is a high level multi-stakeholder science-policy dialogue forum organized on a regular basis by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). It brings together multi-stakeholders from within and out of the Nile Basin to bring forth and exchange ideas, research findings, novel practices and policies on the sustainable management and development of the shared Nile Basin water resources.

The theme for 5th edition of the Forum is “*Investing in Nile Cooperation for a Water Secure Future.*” This is in recognition of the fact that the River Nile Basin is facing growing pressures in the midst of climate change impacts. The Forum shall bring together diverse set of stakeholders for whom the Nile matters most and can make constructive contributions towards ensuring its sustainable management and development.

This Forum focusses on eight sub-themes namely; energy access, financing, food security, knowledge

assets, water ecosystems, water governance, water security as well as water-food-energy nexus.

The River Nile holds tremendous opportunities for growth but is at the same time facing ever-growing challenges and pressures. This, among other things, calls, for continuous learning and sharing to ensure sustainable use of the finite water resources for current and future generations.

At least 400 people including high level government officials from the NBI Member States, decision makers, policy makers, researchers, academia, private sector, civil society, media as well as organizations are expected to participate in the three-day event.



For more information including a call for abstracts, please visit the dedicated 5th NBDF website: <http://nbdn.nilebasin.org/>

By Emerita Mugorewichyeza
Stakeholder Participation Specialist
Nile-SEC, Entebbe

WHAT'S ON? January - March, 2017

Dates	Activity	Venue
January 30 - 31, 2017	1 st NBI 3 Centre Meeting to initiate preparation of the 2 nd State of Basin Report	Entebbe, Uganda
February 18 - 21, 2017	Training for NBI Governance on Hydro-diplomacy	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
February 22, 2017	Regional Nile Day celebrations	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
February 23, 2017	Nile Technical Advisory Committee meeting	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
February 24 - 28, 2017	National Stakeholders' engagement in to consult on the NBI 10 year strategy	Tanzania
March 2017	National engagements to consult on the NBI 10 year Strategy	Member States
March 16, 2017	Second Regional Wetlands Working Group meeting	Entebbe, Uganda



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NBI MEMBER STATES



Burundi



DR Congo



Egypt



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



South Sudan



The Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda

NBI SHARED VISION OBJECTIVE

To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources



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