

Stakeholders and Strategic Partners Consultation Workshop on Implementation Strategy of the Training Centre and Dam Safety Awareness Creation.

The Consultation Workshop with Government High-level policy Makers, professionals and other stakeholders is currently being held at the Sheraton Addis. The main objective of this workshop is to review the status of establishment of the Regional Dam Safety Training Center, as well as the implementation strategy. Additionally, the workshop aims to identify the roles and responsibilities of NBI Centers, and the countries involved in starting these centers.

During the workshop ENTRO Acting Executive Director Eng. Teshome Atnafie, welcomed participants to a workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, focused on establishing the Nile Center of Dam Safety Training Center and its implementation strategy. He emphasized the importance of diverse groups attending the workshop to shape the vision, structure, and strategic direction of the center. Eng. Teshome highlighted ENTRO's decade-long work experience in dam safety activities and thanked partners for their support in implementing capacity-building initiatives.

The goal of the Dam Safety Center is to provide a hub for knowledge sharing, research, and skill development in dam safety management to ensure the safety of dams. ENTRO Acting Executive Director also thanked partners for supporting NBI/ ENTRO to implement the Dam Safety Capacity building related activities.

After the speech by the Acting Executive Director of ENTRO, the stage is taken by the Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative, Dr. Florence Grace Adongo.

Accordingly, The Executive Director (ED) of the Nile Basin Initiative, Dr. Florence Grace Adongo, is grateful to Ethiopia for their support in maintaining Nile Cooperation. She highlighted the need for a unified regulatory framework for water resource management to ensure sustainability and fair access to water. Dr. Adongo emphasizes the importance of coordinated actions, strong policies, and regional cooperation to address these challenges and safeguard water security for current and future generations. The ED states that the establishment of a Regional Dam Safety Training Centre will provide policymakers, regulators, and dam operators with the necessary knowledge and skills to proactively manage risks, enhance dam safety, and protect lives and livelihoods. NBI ED, Dr. Florence Grace, cordially invites His Excellency Dr. Ing. Habtamu Itefa to official the opening of the workshop.

H.E. Dr. Ing. Habtamu Itefa, the Minister of Water and Energy of Ethiopia, welcomed participants to Addis Ababa on behalf of the Government of Ethiopia. He congratulated them on the decision taken to establish the Nile Centre of Dam Safety during the Council of

Ministers meeting. This initiative is crucial for addressing the common challenge of inadequate dam safety management in the region. H.E Dr. Ing. Habtamu emphasized the importance of training experts in dam safety management and equipping stakeholders with best practices to mitigate potential risks. His Excellency highlighted the need for collaboration within the framework of the NBI initiative to strengthen dam safety management across member countries and regions. The government of Ethiopia is committed to supporting this plan in partnership with stakeholders and valued partners. H.E. The Minister thanked the World Bank for their support in establishing the center for dam safety and officially opened the workshop, wishing for fruitful deliberations

The participants of the Consultation workshop are from Government High-level officials, International Partners (from Canada, Canadian Dam Association), USA (US Army Corps of Engineers) , Austria (Austrian Large Dam Association/Graz University, and, Norway (International Hydropower Association), Regional Partners from Zambia (Zambezi River Authority) and Nigeria, NBI Centers (ENTRO, NELSAP and Nile-SEC). Following the opening remarks expertise and Consultants present different topics related to Dam Safety capacity Building and discussion continued.