



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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Uganda urged to ratify the Nile Basin treaty

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Secretariat has urged Uganda to ratify the organisation's Cooperative Framework Agreement, as the country prepares to take over leadership of the organisation. Visiting The Observer on Tuesday, NBI Executive Director John Rao Nyaoro said it was odd that the country that hosts the organisation's headquarters had failed to complete the process of committing to the CFA.

<http://observer.ug/news-headlines/43412-uganda-urged-to-ratify-the-nile-basin-treaty>

Delays in River Nile Cooperative Framework ratification 'a concern'

Nile River riparian states have continued to dither over ratification of a key cooperation framework agreement stalling development projects in the Nile Basin. This was observed as Rwanda celebrated the Nile Day in Wednesday in Kigali. The agreement is geared at coming up with a new arrangement on the use of the Nile waters.

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/article/2016-03-25/198339/>

Ethiopia's Gibe III dam starts partially generating power

Ethiopia's second biggest hydroelectric power plant, the 1870MW Gibe III Hydro project, which was commissioned this year, has started test trials and is generating 500MW of electricity into the national grid, an official has said. This brings Ethiopia one step closer to solving chronic power shortages, which the government has blamed on drought conditions, that have left businesses and homes struggling to meet their daily needs. The biggest hydroelectric generator by far will be the 6000MW plant on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile where construction began in April 2011 and is halfway complete, according to the Ethiopian government.

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/ethiopias-gibe-iii-dam-starts-partially-generating-power-2016-03-30?>

Dam figures to revolutionise Ethiopia

The greatest public works project in Africa will reach a critical stage this year. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, on the Blue Nile, is more than halfway complete. This year, the first diversions of flow of the Blue Nile will begin. Eventually, the Blue Nile will be stopped sufficiently to fill up the reservoir behind the dam. This diversion of water, though small this year, has already become a flashpoint in the politics of Africa. If the diversion issue is handled correctly, however, the dam will propel Ethiopia from the ranks of underdeveloped countries through the kind of rural electrification America experienced in the 1920s.

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/egypt-709723-nile-dam.html>?

World Water Day

The Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Natural Resources and other institutions at both policy and regulatory level is applying technologies, establishing infrastructures employing resources to deal with water resource management challenges to ensure that the water cycle is a source of fortune, wealth and good health. A number of projects have therefore been initiated to support access, optimal and sustainable use of water resources.

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/advertorial/737/>

Water security in the Nile Basin

Cooperation is key in sharing the resources of the world's longest river. The Nile is the longest river in the world, flowing for more than 6,660 kilometers from its origins in the hills of Burundi and Rwanda, to the



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Mediterranean Sea. The river consists of two distinct basins: the White Nile and the Blue Nile. It has a basin area of more than 3 million square kilometers, extending over 11 countries that share the river with very distinct variations, interests, contributions and uses.

http://www.fairobserver.com/region/middle_east_north_africa/water-security-in-the-nile-basin-90977/

The compulsion of water cooperation

Since last September, when the United Nations declared water as a sustainable development goal, a number of countries have intensified efforts to promote water cooperation with their neighboring countries. The Middle East is missing in this action. For decades, Iraq, Syria and Turkey negotiated treaties for cooperating on the Euphrates and Tigris rivers without reaching any conclusion. [...] Exactly a year ago, the presidents of Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan met in Khartoum to agree on joint planning of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

<http://www.jordantimes.com/opinion/danilo-turk/compulsion-water-cooperation>

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