



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

A service brought to you by NBI Secretariat

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#NileCooperation

A group of four youth from Estonia are at the NBI Secretariat to learn more about the organisation and its role in promoting cooperation among the Nile Basin Member States.

<https://web.facebook.com/NileBasinInitiative/>

Egypt and Ethiopia: Fears of drought and dreams of development

The sign above a modest, one-story shop features a photo of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam next to an image of gold and dollars: revenue expected from the dam, the great **dream in Ethiopia's imagination**. For Egyptians, that same dream stirs fears of drought. Tsegaab Getachew, a 29-years-old Ethiopian tour organiser, hopes that the energy generated by the GERD will help expand the tourism industry in which he works. Amir Mikhail, a farmer in his sixties from Upper Egypt, fears his land will become fallow after the completion of the dam. Ethiopia continues construction on the dam, which aims to generate 6,000MW of electricity. It would enable the country to achieve sustainable poverty, which GERD Project Manager **Semegnew Bekele says is Ethiopia's primary enemy.**

<http://bit.ly/2bkFR7t>

Hope for resolving the water conflict in the Middle East

The availability of fresh water has direct impact on food and energy production, development of industry, and human survival. Fresh water resources are often unevenly divided and irregularly distributed throughout the regions of the world. As populations in the world continue to increase, particularly in water scarce regions, the potential increases for conflict to develop over competition for water. As such, concern over the dwindling water supplies in the Middle East has been labelled as the next source of conflict in the Middle East. [...] **The most significant feature** which the participants discovered in the case of NBI and also in the case of the other African River Basins was their emphasis on cooperation and the importance of a strong political will. The participants also noted that the

riparian members of the Nile River were developing countries that were trying to find a common solution to water scarcity and economic development through cooperation over the common water resource they all share.

<http://bit.ly/2bC6v9y>

Africa's Nile Basin countries should invest in rain, not big infrastructure projects

Last month the African Ministers'

Council on Water (AMCOW) and over 1,000 experts gathers in Dar es Salaam during the Africa Water Week to discuss new pathways for development and increased investment in water infrastructure. The challenges are huge; the El Nino of last year showed the exposure of African economies to the vagaries of weather. Climate change is expected to add additional risk and uncertainty in large parts of the continent. The stakes are high too; population growth, poverty alleviation and rapid urbanisation are asking for deep transformation and a better management of scarce resources to contribute to inclusive sustainable growth.

<http://bit.ly/2b5bpZg>

President Al-Sisi affirms support for dialogue with Nile Basin countries

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi called Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Mohamed Abdel Aaty on Saturday to review the status of the seasonal flood. In the phone call, Al-Sisi stressed on the importance of fostering relations with Nile Basin countries and supporting their needs on the local and official levels. Further, he affirmed the



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need to increase awareness on water conservation.

<http://bit.ly/2bXJbp9>

Prices soar in Rwanda as Burundi's ban on food exports bites

Burundi's ban on food exports to Rwanda has sent prices in Kigali to a record high this year. The two **countries' worsening diplomatic relations** led to the closure at the end of July of the border by the Burundian government, which also imposed export restrictions on its neighbour, citing domestic food security concerns. As a result, food supplies are now going into Rwanda from Burundi through the **black market. "The few food imports from Burundi are coming through illegal ways and are extremely expensive,"** said Silas Sabiiti, a grocery trader at Kimironko food market in Kigali.

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

Ethiopian dam study contracts to be signed in September: Egyptian foreign ministry

The contracts with two consulting firms to carry out technical studies into the **impact of Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam** will be signed on 5 and 6 **September, Egypt's foreign ministry** said on Tuesday. In a meeting with reporters, Ahmed Abu Zeid said that the irrigation ministers of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia will attend the contract signing in Sudan. The three countries agreed in 2015 that two French firms, Artelia and BRL, would carry out technical studies into the impact of the

hydroelectric dam, set to be **Africa's** largest when completed next year.
<http://bit.ly/2bz3DaG>

Fish catches dwindle in Lake Victoria

The Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Charles Tizeba, has expressed concern over the dwindling fish catches in Lake Victoria currently standing at around 370,000 units a **year. Dr Tizeba's concern, however, is** based on the fact that the production does not match with speedy growth of fish consumers across the country evidenced by the general populations growing at 2.6 percent per annum, according to statistics. Speaking during a three-day national stakeholder workshop on food losses and wasted resources from Lake Victoria yesterday, the minister said that the demand is increasing due to population growth and increased awareness of nutritive superiority of fish over many other substitute food products.

<http://bit.ly/2bv7OHC>



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