



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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Enabling healthy Nile Basin wetlands for disaster risk reduction

Natural hazards such as floods and drought have become more prevalent in the Nile River Basin - as a result of climate and weather changes - resulting in massive disasters which drain communities economically, physically and environmentally. Wetlands are naturally productive ecosystems which are capable of managing the risk of disasters to communities. They can contain flood water, which helps cushion communities against floods. When there's drought, they release the water which supports livelihoods. Aside from their buffering effects, wetlands also act as water purifiers.

<http://bit.ly/2I3aM7w>

NBI should be mandated to conflict resolution

Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), an international partnership of 10 Nile Basin countries, should be mandated to resolve conflicts in order to enhance cooperation [among] member states in the region. NBI Member States are Tanzania, Egypt, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Eritrea participates as an observer. During a regional media training in Kigali last December, NBI's Senior Advisor, Dr John Rao Nyaoro, said the NBI member states should emulate other regional bodies to enable NBI solve conflicts, citing an example of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in such [a] role.

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

Egypt mulls return to the Nile Basin Initiative

The Nile Basin Initiative is currently preparing a delegation to visit Cairo to discuss Egypt's possible return to the regional grouping after seven years of inactivity, the initiative's head told Ahram Online. "Hopefully by March, the NBI can send the delegation if formed, and successful talks would depend on the Egyptian authorities," the executive

director of the initiative, [said] earlier this month.

<http://bit.ly/2kK2q4E>

Opposition parties reiterate commitment to GERD

Political, diplomatic and financial support from opposing parties will further be maintained as they reiterate commitment to the GERD. [...] The opposition block also vowed to enhance diplomatic efforts

to promote the indispensable role of the flagship project to the Nile riparian states.
<http://bit.ly/2k7DI4G>

Ethiopia made a mistake to build dam without permission from Egypt: Irrigation ministry official

A South Sudanese official has blamed Ethiopia for recent crisis that has brought suspicion between countries sharing the Nile waters. This comes just weeks after reports on media that Ethiopian rebels have opened a base inside South Sudan. The official who is an advisor at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Juba has told Nyamilepedia that the recent crisis between countries sharing the Nile water was caused by Ethiopia, accusing Ethiopia of building its largest dam on the Nile without taking permission from Egypt.

<http://bit.ly/2jMp8Jl>

Shoukry leads meeting with several foreign ministers at 28th AU Summit

[...] In his meeting with the Rwandan foreign minister, Louise Mushikiwabo, the two spoke about bilateral relations and a number of regional issues of common interest, in particular the institutional reform of the AU and cooperation between the Nile Basin countries. [...] Shoukry met with the Ethiopian foreign minister and reviewed the path of bilateral relations, and agreed on enhancing coordination in African issues raised on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council. They also agreed on coordination regarding the tripartite negotiations surrounding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and discussed topics on the agenda of the AU meetings.

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

Egypt, Ethiopia foreign ministers meet over Renaissance Dam

Disclaimer: The Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar is compiled by the Communication Office of the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat in Entebbe, Uganda. The opinions expressed in these Media Reports in no way reflect the views of the Nile Basin Initiative and are presented for informational purposes only. The accuracy of reports contained in this summary has not been confirmed by the Secretariat.



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Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry met his newly appointed Ethiopian counterpart Workneh Gebeyehu in Addis Ababa in their first meeting since Gebeyehu took office, succeeding former Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom. Shoukry and Gebeyehu discussed the course of bilateral relations between Egypt and Ethiopia, and coordination between them on various African issues; the pair also explored the possibility of joint tripartite negotiations over the renaissance Dam, by including cooperation and coordination with Sudan.

<http://bit.ly/2klDi7h>

Al-Sisi, Ethiopian prime minister assert follow-up on GERD technical talks

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi met with Ethiopian prime minister Hailemariam Desalegn on Monday in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on the sidelines of the 28th African Union Summit currently held there, according to a statement issued by the Egyptian presidency. During the meeting, both leaders stressed the necessity of fostering bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Egypt and enhancing mutual confidence, the statement added. Both leaders noted that they are closely following up on the tripartite technical talks regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Moreover, they asserted their commitment to follow the spirit of cooperation in that matter, the presidency statement read.

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