



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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14th – 19th May, 2017

East African leaders head to Dar to decide on EU-EAC economic partnership

The 18th Ordinary East African Community (EAC) Heads of State Summit has been set for May 20, 2017, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Top on the agenda is the consideration of EU-EAC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and Sustainable Financing Mechanism for the Community. The Summit will also consider the status of the EAC Political Federation, the appointment of a Deputy Secretary General from the Tanzania, the appointment of a Judge from South Sudan to the First Instance Division of the East African Court of Justice.

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

Malawi, Tanzania agree to develop Songwe River Basin into economic hub

Malawi government and the United Republic of Tanzania have agreed to jointly use the Songwe river in developing electricity power plants,

irrigation schemes and together combat climate change. This follows fruitful discussions the two countries held on the Songwe River Basin Development Program (SRBDP) at the Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe.

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

Ethiopian request postpones Nile Council of Presidents summit

The Nile Council of Presidents summit, which the Ugandan president has called for, was postponed to mid-June rather than 25 May in the Ugandan capital Kampala, after an Ethiopian request, local media reported. Ethiopia said that it needs time to study the Egyptian proposal about the Entebbe Agreement. The proposal is consistent with the international agreements and laws that organise relations between the countries of international rivers.

<http://bit.ly/2r7P5tG>

Citizen voices shape Nile Basin resilience investments

The waters of the Nile River are the heart of East Africa, providing a vital source of drinking water, irrigation, fish, hydropower, and transport to 200 million people living in the basin. The Nile spans 10 countries – Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda – making for complex transboundary relations, especially between upstream and downstream countries along the river. <http://bit.ly/2q1VM8x>

Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia experts meet in Addis Ababa to discuss report on GERD impact studies

Experts from Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia are holding talks in Addis Ababa with representatives from foreign consultancy firms to discuss an initial report by the firms on the effect of the Ethiopian Grand Renaissance Dam (GERD) on downstream countries, Egypt's irrigation ministry said. Ministry spokesman Walid Haqiqi told Al-Ahram Arabic news website that Sunday's meeting comes as a continuation of a four-day April meeting held in Cairo. <http://bit.ly/2q14Nfm>

Lake Naivasha water levels rising

Water levels in the troubled Lake Naivasha have started to rise gradually due to the ongoing rains in parts of the country. Two of the six rivers that had dried up due to a prolonged dry spell across the country have started to flow, raising hopes that the lake could recover its normal levels. Water Resources Users Associations Chairman Enock Kiminta said water levels in the main rivers



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flowing into the lake were rising but still low.

<http://bit.ly/2rhJle4>

Nile River: Extreme droughts and heavy rains

The Nile River's seven-year cycle of flood and drought has historically been the only way its riparian countries could predict its flow. Science has now evolved enough to help predict variability in the ancient river's stream. But, the revelations are not all good news. A new study into the river's flow has been undertaken by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Breene M. Kerr, professor of hydrology and climate, Elfatih Eltahir, professor of civil and environmental engineering, and Mohamed Siam, a postdoctoral associate, have revealed that climate change will mean greater variability in the Nile River flow in the next century compared to the last; with more extreme droughts and heavier floods.

<http://go.nature.com/2rhtEDL>

Egypt and Ethiopia river wars be dammed

The building of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile by a major Italian construction company, in a contract with the Ethiopia, remains a source of great tension between Ethiopia and Egypt. Begun in 2011, the gravity dam is due for completion in the

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middle of this year. The dam will hold a massive 79 billion cubic metres of water, and will be the largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa.

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

Cairo says 'technical issues' on Nile dam studies remain unresolved after tripartite committee meeting

Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia have not yet resolved points of contention over studies evaluating the potential impact of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) after a tripartite committee meeting to discuss the dam concluded on Tuesday, Egypt's irrigation ministry said. The ministry said that the committee of experts tasked by the three countries to oversee the studies, which concluded its 14th meeting in Addis Ababa on Tuesday, will discuss "outstanding technical points" about the impact studies in a future meeting.

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

NBI Economists Forum opens in Entebbe

Renowned economists from within and beyond the Nile Basin are in Entebbe, Uganda for a two-day forum aimed at taking stock and exchanging experiences in integrating economic perspectives for efficient water resources management in the Nile Basin. The forum, operating under the theme, "Dealing with economics of water resources management in a shared river basin" is organized by the NBI Secretariat with support from GIZ and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

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



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