



## NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

*To achieve sustainable socio-economic development  
through the equitable utilization of and benefit from Nile Basin water resources*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **NBI enhances engagement with Permanent Secretaries of Water Ministries**

**ENTEBBE, Uganda** – The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) has organized an experience sharing tour for Permanent Secretaries of Ministries in charge of Water Affairs in NBI Member States to take place in the Nile Equatorial Lakes sub-basin from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

As the most senior civil servants in the focal Ministry for NBI in the respective Member States, Permanent Secretaries or their equivalents are NBI's strategic stakeholders in ensuring ownership of its programs as well as strengthening the platform for basin-wide cooperation.

The aim of the study tour is to increase participants' common understanding of the shared development and management challenges facing the riparian countries. In particular, the tour will enhance the Permanent Secretaries' awareness of NBI and its programs in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region and in their respective countries and turn renew their commitment and support to NBI, joint investment in the Basin as well as the Nile cooperation.

During the three day tour which will take place in Rwanda, the Permanent Secretaries will visit NBI facilitated investment projects currently on the ground as examples of development opportunities at a regional level. These include the 80MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project jointly implemented by Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania; the Regional Transmission Interconnection Project jointly implemented by Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda as well as watershed managements projects' sites.

This is the second experience sharing tour organized by NBI for the Permanent Secretaries. The inaugural tour took place in the Eastern Nile sub-basin in the last quarter of 2013.

### **Note to the Editor**

Since its establishment in 1999, NBI has done tremendous amount of work including providing a platform and mechanism for dialogue; strengthening capacities for trans-boundary water

resources management and planning as well as identifying and preparing investment projects of regional significance currently worth over US\$1.3 billion.

After more than 20 years, construction of the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFP) power plant and its associated transmission lines is slated to start in the first quarter of 2015 with commissioning of the first power unit expected in December 2018, thanks to NBI. The additional power will benefit an estimated 1,146,000 people in the three countries and an estimated increase in electricity access rates of; 5.4% (520,000) in Burundi, 4% (467,000) in Rwanda and 0.34% (159,000) in Tanzania. For more information about the Regional Rusumo Hydroelectric project <http://nilebasin.org/images/docs/Rusumo%20Case%20Study.pdf>

Under, the Regional Transmission Interconnection Project, an estimated 1,500 km of 220 kV and 110 kV transmission lines and associated sub-stations is under construction. The Project components are at various stages of implementation with Kenya and Uganda quite advanced in the implementation of their respective sections of the 255 km line of 150-300MW capacity. Other components are the 172 km Uganda-Rwanda Interconnection with a capacity of 150-250MW; the 143 km Burundi-Rwanda Interconnection; and the 545 km Burundi-DR Congo-Rwanda Interconnection.

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The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a transitional, 10-Member intergovernmental partnership institution guided by a **Shared Vision objective:** *‘To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin Water resources’*. **NBI Member States are: Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.** Eritrea participates as an observer. Launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1999 NBI provides the only all- inclusive regional platform for multi stakeholder dialogue, for sharing information, joint planning and management of water and related resources in the Nile Basin.

NBI is governed by a Council of 10 Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the NBI Member States (Nile-COM), which is the highest decision and policy-making body. The Nile-COM is supported by a Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC), comprised of 20 senior government officials from the partner states.

Professional day to day management of NBI is from three centers – the Secretariat, (Nile-SEC) based in Entebbe, Uganda. The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) based in Kigali.

#### **NBI core functions:**

**Basin Cooperation** -To facilitate, support and nurture cooperation amongst the Nile Basin countries so as to promote timely and efficient joint actions required for securing benefit from the common Nile Basin water resources

**Water Resource Management** - To assess, manage and safeguard the water resource base that supports the peoples of the Nile Basin through applying the principles of knowledge-based integrated water resources management to water development planning and assessment

**Water Resource Development** - To identify, prepare and facilitate investment in Regional/trans-boundary water development projects and programs whilst avoiding negative impacts on the health of the Nile Basin’s resources through applying the principles of integrated water resources management