

August 17, 2020

**Communiqué of the 2020 International Conference on the Nile and Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD): Science, Conflict Resolution and Cooperation**

The [2020 International Conference on the Nile and Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam \(GERD\)](#) is organized by the [Institute of Environment](#) at Florida International University, Miami, USA and co-sponsored by the Addis Ababa Institute of Technology, Addis Ababa University and the Bahir Dar Institute of Technology. The conference will take place from August 20-21, 2020 through a virtual Zoom setting.

The Nile basin is one of the most important transboundary river basins of the world. The Nile basin is shared among 11 African countries of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Currently, Ethiopia is constructing the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) with a potential of generating 6000 Megawatts of hydroelectric power on the Abbay/Blue Nile River close to its border with Sudan. The three countries of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia are currently negotiating on the filling and operation of the dam.

The purpose of the conference is to create a platform for international and national experts to highlight and present their experience on historical and current Nile water issues, the future Nile challenges, the current GERD and beyond GERD issues and share experiences on international transboundary water management. The main goal of the conference is to highlight the role of science in conflict resolutions and enhance collaborations in highly contested river basins like the Nile.

Speakers and participants from 6 continents and over 43 countries will participate in the conference. Four keynote and six invited speakers with diverse experience and knowledge of the basin are invited. More than 56 scientific papers covering diverse technical, hydro-political, environmental and climate change challenges will be presented. Presenters are drawn from academia, government, international and national organizations working on water resources management, policy, regulations and development. About 500 participants are also registered to attend the virtual conference.

The conference organizers expect the outcome to raise awareness on the scientific issues of the Nile challenges and highlight mechanisms for conflict resolution. In addition, we hope it shapes the regional, as well as global, view of the Nile basin. The current ongoing negotiations on the two sticky issues (GERD operation and filling) will benefit from the good data and scientific presentations of the conference to make informed decision in the course of the negotiations. The conference believes trustworthy negotiations guided by valid data and science will be the only way out not only for avoiding conflict on water use but also for a long-lasting collaborations among the basin countries. It is believed that the conference helps build a scientific consortium among the researchers, academics and practitioners in the Nile basin countries. The diaspora working on the Nile issues have shown active participation in responding to the call of papers. We believe this can help the dialogue among the basin counties through new ideas and scientific studies that can be used for conflict diffusion and develop projects of mutual benefits.

The technical program of the conference can be found [here](#). The conference papers will be published as book chapters and selected papers will be published as special peer reviewed journal articles.

The organizers express their appreciation to the scientific advisory committee, keynote and invited speakers, presenters and participants for their commitment to advance science-based solution to the Nile basin challenges and issues. We extend our gratitude to the management of FIU for their commitment to support such a timely conference initiative.

Finally, we wish all the participants a successful deliberation and discussion.

Organizing Committee

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