

**Technical Program**  
**2020 International conference on Nile and GERD, Florida International University, USA**  
**(Virtual)**

**Conference begins at**  
**6AM:** New York or Miami Time  
**12PM:** Egypt  
**1PM:** Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Turkey

New York Time		Thursday: August 20, 2020			
Start	End	Duration	Topic	Speaker	Affiliation
<b>Joint Session: 6:30-8:00am</b>					
6:30 am	6:45 am	0:15	Conference Opening Remarks	Assefa M. Melesse	Florida International University, USA
6:45 AM	7:00 am	0:15	University Remarks	Pablo G. Ortiz	Florida International University, USA
7:00 am	7:30 am	0:30	Keynote: <b>A PATH FORWARD FOR SHARING THE NILE WATER</b>	Elfatih A. B. Eltahir	MIT, USA
7:30 am	8:00 am	0:30	Keynote: <b>EXPLORING THE OPTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE NILE WATERS</b>	Abdulkarim Seid	Nile Basin Initiative
			<b>BREAKOUT ROOM 1: Technical Presentation, (THE NILE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES)</b> Moderator: Abdulkarim Seid		
8:00 am	8:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">GERD and High Aswan Dam: Technical, Socio-Economic and Geo-Political Parallels between the Two Mega-dams on the Nile River</a>	Shimelis Dessu	SFWMD, USA

8:20 am	8:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">Evaluation of Transboundary Water Sharing Rules and Principles: The Case of The Nile River Basin</a>	Mekdelawit Messay	AAiT, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
8:40 am	9:00 am	0:20	<a href="#">A Look Into The Historical Depths Of The Nile Waters: What To Learn From History</a>	Valentina Aquafferreda	Università degli studi di Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy
9:00 am	9:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">Beyond GERD: Hydropolitical, Hydrological, Technological and Investment (HHTI) Imperatives for Sustained Economic Cooperation</a>	Semu Moges	University of Connecticut, USA
9:20 am	9:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">Hydrologic Evaluation of High-Resolution Satellite Precipitation Products: Case Study on Dabus Watershed, Ethiopia</a>	Alemshet Belayneh	Woldia University, Ethiopia
9:40 am	10:00 am	0:20	<a href="#">Lessons Learned, Lessons Shared: Global Perspectives from Treaties on Transboundary Waters</a>	Nebiyu Tiruneh	USNRC, USA
10:00 am	10:20 am	0:20	<b>Break</b>		
10:20 am	10:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">River Flow Monitoring and Data Quality for Equitable Nile Water Sharing</a>	Wossenu Abtew	Water and Environmental Consulting LLC, USA
10:40 am	11:00 am	0:20	<a href="#">Policies and situations over the Nile/Abay in Ethiopia and Egypt for the last 200 years</a>	Daniel Seifemichael Feleke	EOTC, Ethiopia
11:00 am	11:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">Why Egypt should have sponsored the GERD?</a>	Ephraim Mebrate	IRCWASH, Ethiopia
			<b>BREAKOUT ROOM 1: Technical Presentation, (Emerging Threats of Lake Regions in the Nile Basin) Moderator: Nebiyu Tiruneh</b>		
11:20 am	11:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">Restoring Lake Tana Through Reduction of Outflow and Compensation of the Power Gap with an Alternative Energy Source</a>	Yirgalem Assegid	South Florida Water Management District, USA
11:40 am	12:00 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Modelling Seasonal River Export of Nutrients to Lake Tana, Upper Blue Nile</a>	Goraw Goshu	Wageningen University, Netherlands
12:00 pm	12:20 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Water Hyacinth Management Experiences and Lessons for Lake Tana</a>	Yirgalem Assegid	South Florida Water Management District, USA

			<b>BREAKOUT ROOM 1: Technical Presentation, (EXTREME HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE)</b> Moderator: Wossenu Abtew		
12:20 pm	12:40 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Bias-Corrected and Spatially Disaggregated Seasonal Forecasts: A Long-Term Reference Forecast Product for the Tekeze-Atbara and Blue Nile Basins</a>	Christof Lorenz	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
12:40 pm	1:00 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Multi-Dimensional Nature of Drought in Abbay/Upper Blue Nile Basin and the Importance of Regional Coordination Efforts for Mitigation</a>	Yared Bayissa	University of Nebraska, USA
1:00 pm	1:20 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Impact of Climate Change on the Ecohydrology of the Nile River Basin</a>	Shimelis Setegn	SFWMD/FIU, USA
<b>New York Time</b>			<b>Thursday: August 20, 2020</b>		
Start	End	Duration		Speaker	Affiliation
<b>BREAKOUT ROOM 2</b>					
			<b>BREAKOUT ROOM 2: Technical Presentation, (NILE WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT)</b> Moderators: Assefa Melesse, Rasha El Gohary and Erfan Goharian		
8:00 am	8:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">Applications of Water Footprint Methodology as a Decision Support Tools for Water Allocation/Management Tasks in Egypt</a>	Rasha El Gohary	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt
8:20 am	8:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">Benefit-Sharing Framework in the Nile River Basin</a>	Getnet Y. Muluye	Manitoba Hydro, Canada
8:40 am	9:00 am	0:20	<a href="#">Water Conservation and Management through Decentralized Rainwater Harvesting under Changing Climate, Ethiopia</a>	Mengistu Jemberie	Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Ethiopia
9:00 am	9:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">Adaptive Reservoir Operation under the Challenges of Transboundary Dams: Example from the Nile River Basin using Satellite Remote Sensing</a>	Hisham Eldardiry	University of Washington, USA

9:20 am	9:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">Long-Term Evaporative Losses Estimation and Water Budget Assessment of Lake Nasser, Nile River</a>	Erfan Goharian	University of South Carolina, USA
9:40 am	10:00 am	0:20	<a href="#">The Nile Waters and the Congo Rainforest: the need for Regional Water Governance</a>	Solomon G. Gebrehiwot	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
10:00 am	10:10 am	0:10	<b>Break</b>		
10:10 am	10:30 am	0:20	<a href="#">Distributional Conflict over Blue Nile River Basin and its Implication for Institutional Change (The Case of Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt)</a>	Mebratu Alemu	Arba Minch University, Ethiopia
10:30 am	10:50 am	0:20	<a href="#">Advances in Water Resources Assessment and Optimal Management of Multipurpose Cascade Reservoirs in the Nile River Basin</a>	Getachew Tegegne	Florida International University, USA
10:50 am	11:10 am	0:20	<a href="#">Water Management Priorities for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development</a>	Muluneh Imru	South Florida Water Management District, USA
11:10 am	11:30 am	0:20	<a href="#">Water Resources account of Egypt vs Ethiopia's Nile Sub-basins: The Utility of the Concept of Water Budget</a>	Tekleab Gala	Chicago State University, USA
11:30 am	11:50 am	0:20	<a href="#">Land Surface Dynamics and Hydrologic Connectivity</a>	Wossenu Abtew	Water and Environmental Consulting LLC, USA
11:50 am	12:10 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Socio-cultural and Historical allegory of Abay River and GERD</a>	Daniel Seifemichael Feleke	EOTC, Ethiopia
12:10 pm	12:30 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Regime Evolution in Nile River Basin and Peaceful settlement of Nile River Disputes: An Interdisciplinary Assessment of the Role of Law</a>	Chukwuebuka Chidozie Edum	University of Geneva, Switzerland
12:30 pm	12:50 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Exploring Technologies for Sustainable Transboundary Water Resource Sharing in the Era of Climate Change: A Case for the River Nile Basin Riparian States</a>	Bertha Othoche	Pwani University, Kenya

New York Time		Friday: August 21, 2020			
Start	End	Duration	Topic	Speaker	Affiliation
6:30 am	7:00 am	0:30	Joint session: 6:30-8:00am		
7:00 am	7:30 am	0:30	Keynote: <b>NAVIGATING A NEW ERA COOPERATION OR CONFLICT OVER MULTI-YEAR DROUGHTS ON THE NILE</b>	Kevin Wheeler	University of Oxford
7:30 am	8:00 am	0:30	Keynote: <b>GLOBAL WATER CONDITION AND TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS - THE NILE BASIN</b>	Wossenu Abtew	Water and Environmental Consulting LLC, USA
			<b>BREAKOUT ROOM 1 BREAKOUT ROOM 1: Technical Presentation (INTERNATIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS COOPERATION) Moderator: Maria Donoso</b>		
8:00 am	8:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">INVITED: Water Security, Evolution and Challenges in Transboundary Basins</a>	Maria C. Donoso (invited speaker)	Florida International University, USA
8:20 am	8:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">INVITED: Resolving the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Conflict through the African Union Nexus Approach</a>	Emmanuel Kasimbazi (invited speaker)	Makerere University, Uganda
8:40 am	9:00 am	0:20	<a href="#">Enumerating the Principle of Equitable and Reasonable Water Utilization of International Rivers: Application to the Nile River Basin</a>	Yared Gari	Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia
9:00 am	9:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">Geographical Dimensions of Hydro-Politics: The Case of Nile and Mekong Rivers</a>	Daniel Waktola	Austin Community College, USA
9:20 am	9:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">Alternative Approach to Objectively Define the 'Equitable' and 'No Significant Harm' Concepts of the UN Water Convention: The Case of the Nile Basin</a>	Semu Moges	UCONN, USA

9:40 am	10:00 am	0:20	<a href="#">The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and the Revival of Dispute Over the Colonial Treaties</a>	Mahemud Eshtu Tekuya	McGeorge School of Law, USA
10:00 am	10:10 am	0:10	<b>Break</b>		
10:10 am	10:30 am	0:20	<a href="#">Scientific Misconduct and Partisan Research on the Stability of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: A Critical Review of a Contribution to Environmental Remote Sensing in Egypt (Springer, 2020)</a>	Wuletaw Abera	International center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Ethiopia
10:30 am	10:50 am	0:20	<a href="#">Canada-US Columbia River Treaty: A Review</a>	Getnet Y. Muluye	Manitoba Hydro, Canada
			<b>BREAKOUT ROOM 1</b> <b>BREAKOUT ROOM 1: Technical Presentation (BLUE NILE/ABBAY AND GRAND ETHIOPIAN RENAISSANCE DAM)</b> <b>Moderators: Alemayehu Gebriel</b>		
10:50 am	11:10 am	0:20	<a href="#">INVITED: The Politics of the GERD: Decision Making in the Negotiations between Securitization and De-securitization</a>	Zerihun Abebe (Invited)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia
11:10 am	11:30 am	0:20	<a href="#">INVITED: Stage based Filling of GERD: An adaptive and Cooperative Approach</a>	Belete Berhanu (Invited)	Addis Ababa Institute of Technology, Ethiopia
11:30 am	11:50 am	0:20	<a href="#">What do we Know About the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the Abay Basin: A Review Using Text Mining and Natural Language Processing Techniques</a>	Wuletaw Abera	International center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Ethiopia
11:50 am	12:10 pm	0:20	<a href="#">A Blueprint for Adapting High Aswan Dam Operation to Challenges of Filling and Operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam</a>	Hisham Eldardiry and Faisal Hossain	University of Washington, USA
12:10 pm	12:30 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Beyond the GERD First Stage Filling</a>	Alemayehu Gebriel	WSP, USA
12:30 pm	12:50 pm	0:20	<a href="#">The Operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam under Future Climate Scenarios</a>	Rehenuma Lazin	University of Connecticut, USA

12:50 pm	1:10 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Optimal Power Production of GERD with and Without Upstream Irrigation</a>	Abebe Sine	Flood Control District, TX - Houston, USA
1:10 pm	1:30 pm	0:20	<a href="#">Water sharing policies for drought conditions to inform Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam operations</a>	Guang Yang	University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA
			<b>BREAKOUT ROOM 2</b> <b>BREAKOUT ROOM 2: Technical Presentation (LAND AND WATER DEGRADATION AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT)</b> <b>Moderator: Semu Moges</b>		
8:00 am	8:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">Invited: Land Resilience in Ethiopia - The Importance of a Common Understanding Between Farmers, Science and Policy</a>	Jan Nyssen (Invited)	Ghent University, Belgium
8:20 am	8:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">Need of Intensified Watershed Management Interventions in the Upper Catchment of GERD to Avert Sedimentation</a>	Lakew Desta	Biybone Consultants PLC, Ethiopia
8:40 am	9:00 am	0:20	<a href="#">Hydro-Sedimentation Burden Shifting in the Blue Nile Basin</a>	Tena Alamirew	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
9:00 am	9:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">A Nine-Year Study on the Benefits and Risks of Soil and Water Conservation Practices in the Humid Highlands of Ethiopia: The Debre Mawi Watershed.</a>	Demesew Almw	Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia
9:20 am	9:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">Impacts of Soil and Water Conservation Practices on Sediment Trapping, Landscape Connectivity and Sustainable Reservoir Use, Northwest Highlands of Ethiopia</a>	Mulatie Mekonnen	Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia
9:40 am	10:00 am	0:20	<a href="#">The Impact of Land Use and Climate Change on the Blue Nile Basin Assessment using SWAT</a>	Sead Ahmed	Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

10:00 am	10:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">Water Quality Deterioration and its Linkage With Water Hyacinth Expansion in Lake Tana</a>	Minychl Gitaw Dersseh	BDiT, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia
10:20 am	10:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">Conceptual and Practical Approaches to Integrated Watershed Management and Agroforestry to Address Food Security and Environmental Degradation in Lake Tana and the Blue Nile River Basin, Ethiopia</a>	Badege Bishaw	Oregon State University, USA
10:40 am	11:00 am	0:20	<a href="#">Averting Degradation in the Abbay Basin: Current Trends, Potential Interventions, and Investment Needs</a>	Essayas K. Ayana, Liya Weldegebriel, and Semu Moges	Formation Environmental, University of California, Berkeley and University of Connecticut, USA
11:00 am	11:20 am	0:20	<a href="#">Conflict Resolution and Cooperation over Blue Nile Water Resources Projects</a>	Mohammed Abbas	Permanent Technical Joint Commission for Nile Waters, SUDAN
11:20 am	11:40 am	0:20	<a href="#">Invited: Implication of GERD to Sudan and Prospects of Long-Term Resolution for Conflicts Around the Eastern Nile</a>	Yosif A. Ibrahim	Water Resources Expert