

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
Joint Session: 6:30-8:00am					
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: A PATH FORWARD FOR SHARING THE NILE WATER	Elfatih A. B. Eltahir	MIT, USA
7:30 am	8:00 am	0:30	Keynote: EXPLORING THE OPTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE NILE WATERS	Abdulkarim Seid	Nile Basin Initiative
			BREAKOUT ROOM 1: Technical Presentation, (THE NILE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES) Moderator: Abdulkarim Seid		
8:00 am	8:20 am	0:20	GERD and High Aswan Dam: Technical, Socio-Economic and Geo-Political Parallels between the Two Mega-dams on the Nile River	Shimelis Dessu	SFWMD, USA

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

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

9:20 am	9:40 am	0:20	Long-Term Evaporative Losses Estimation and Water Budget Assessment of Lake Nasser, Nile River	Erfan Goharian	University of South Carolina, USA
9:40 am	10:00 am	0:20	The Nile Waters and the Congo Rainforest: the need for Regional Water Governance	Solomon G. Gebrehiwot	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
10:00 am	10:10 am	0:10	Break		
10:10 am	10:30 am	0:20	Distributional Conflict over Blue Nile River Basin and its Implication for Institutional Change (The Case of Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt)	Mebratu Alemu	Arba Minch University, Ethiopia
10:30 am	10:50 am	0:20	Advances in Water Resources Assessment and Optimal Management of Multipurpose Cascade Reservoirs in the Nile River Basin	Getachew Tegegne	Florida International University, USA
10:50 am	11:10 am	0:20	Water Management Priorities for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development	Muluneh Imru	South Florida Water Management District, USA
11:10 am	11:30 am	0:20	Water Resources account of Egypt vs Ethiopia's Nile Sub-basins: The Utility of the Concept of Water Budget	Tekleab Gala	Chicago State University, USA
11:30 am	11:50 am	0:20	Land Surface Dynamics and Hydrologic Connectivity	Wossenu Abtew	Water and Environmental Consulting LLC, USA
11:50 am	12:10 pm	0:20	Socio-cultural and Historical allegory of Abay River and GERD	Daniel Seifemichael Feleke	EOTC, Ethiopia
12:10 pm	12:30 pm	0:20	Regime Evolution in Nile River Basin and Peaceful settlement of Nile River Disputes: An Interdisciplinary Assessment of the Role of Law	Chukwuebuka Chidozie Edum	University of Geneva, Switzerland
12:30 pm	12:50 pm	0:20	Exploring Technologies for Sustainable Transboundary Water Resource Sharing in the Era of Climate Change: A Case for the River Nile Basin Riparian States	Bertha Othoche	Pwani University, Kenya
12:50 pm	1:10 pm	0:20	Sustainability of The Nile Waters: Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Options	Mersie Ejigu	The World Conservation Union, USA

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

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

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

10:00 am	10:20 am	0:20	Water Quality Deterioration and its Linkage With Water Hyacinth Expansion in Lake Tana	Minychl Gitaw Dersseh	BDiT, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia
10:20 am	10:40 am	0:20	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	Badege Bishaw	Oregon State University, USA
10:40 am	11:00 am	0:20	Averting Degradation in the Abbay Basin: Current Trends, Potential Interventions, and Investment Needs	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	Conflict Resolution and Cooperation over Blue Nile Water Resources Projects	Mohammed Abbas	Permanent Technical Joint Commission for Nile Waters, SUDAN
11:20 am	11:40 am	0:20	Invited: Implication of GERD to Sudan and Prospects of Long-Term Resolution for Conflicts Around the Eastern Nile	Yosif A. Ibrahim	Water Resources Expert