

2025 International Conference on Environment and Society (EAS 2025)

Regional Nile Cooperation and Development Post Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and CFA February 6-7, 2025 FIU, Virtual

Thursday, February 6, 2025

6 am New York, Miami time

1 pm Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan

2 pm Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Turkey

Time (EST)	Session Assefa Melesse, Conference Chair & Moderator
6:30 AM - 6:45 AM	Welcome Remark Vice-Provost Heather Russell Florida International University
6:45 AM - 7:00 AM	Opening Remark Dr. Dalal Najib, Director Science and Engineering Capacity Development at the Policy and Global Affairs Division of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Keynote Speeches
	Prof. Dale Whittington - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA)
7:00 AM - 7:30 AM	Should Egypt be Afraid of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam? The Consequences of Adversarial Water Policy on the Blue Nile
	Dr. Wossenu Abteu - Water and Environment Consulting, USA
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Global water stress and the Nile Basin
	Panel Discussion
	GERD Operation and Management (Moderator: Assefa Melesse)
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Panelist: Eng. Gedion Asfaw - Ministry of Water and Energy, Ethiopia
	Panelist: Fekahmed Negash Nuru - Freelance Consultant, Ethiopia
	Panelist: Eng. Teferra Beyene - Ministry of Water and Energy, Ethiopia
	Invited Speakers Moderator: Wossenu Abteu
	Invited Speaker: Prof. Tag Elkhazin - Carleton University, Canada
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Nile waters from 2011 and beyond prospects for South Sudan
	Invited Speaker: Mekdelawit Derbie – Florida International University, USA
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM	Transboundary river management experiences from across the world
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Coffee Break
	Moderator: Mekdelawit Deribe

	Belayneh Beri - Ministry of Water Energy, Ethiopia
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Alternative Water Resources in the Nile Basin: A Comprehensive Review
	Dr. Saw Yu May - Visiting Scholar at University of Michigan
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Preliminary Investigation on the Flood Analysis of Upper Mekong Region: Case Study on Eastern Shan State, Myanmar
	Habtu Dessalegn Moges - Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	The Construction of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD): Implications for Regional Energy Integration and Geopolitical Equilibrium in North Eastern Africa
	Dr Wuhibegezer Ferede - Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Egypt and Ethiopia from Hydro-political Impasse to Geopolitical Contestation

Friday, February 7, 2025

6:45 AM - 7:00 AM	Today's Conference Program (Assefa Melesse)
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Keynote Speeches
	Prof. Andrea K. Gerlak - University of Arizona, USA
7:00 AM - 7:30 AM	Evolving Transboundary Water Governance in the Colorado River
	Prof. Aysegul Kibaroglu - MEF University, Turkey
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Water Diplomacy Institutions in the Euphrates-Tigris River Basin: Pathways, Challenges, and Future Prospects
	Brian Eyler - Stimson, USA
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	How remote sensing and third party data/analytics provision has increased transboundary water cooperation and accountability in the Mekong and then extend our theory of change in the Mekong to the GERD situation as a thought experiment
	Panel Discussion
	CFA and the Future of Cooperation in the Nile Basin (Moderator: Mekdelawit Derbie)
8:30 AM - 9:30AM	Panelist: Dr. Wubalem Fekade - Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office, Nile Basin Initiative, Ethiopia
	Panelist: Prof. Mark James Mwandosya - Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), Tanzania
	Panelist: Dr. Musa Abseno - Independent consultant on international water law, national water law and policy, UK
	Invited Speakers
	Invited Speaker: Dr. Mahemud Tekuya – Hydro-diplomacy researcher, USA
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Entry into Force of the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement: Challenges and Prospects
	Invited Speaker: Jeroen Warner , Wageningen University
9:45 AM - 10:00 AM	Navigating Drought and Transboundary Water Governance in Challenging Climatic Times: Urgency and Insights from the Ecuadorian Case
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	Coffee Break
	Moderator: Wossenu Abteu
	Invited Speaker: Adrian Schmid-Breton -International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR), Germany
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Transboundary management of the Rhine: Work and Achievements of the ICPR
	Invited Speaker: Dr. Alem Gebriel - Entech Engineers, USA
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	GERD Operation Challenges in Drier and Extended Dry years
	Invited Speaker: Prof. Emmanuel Kasimbazi - School of Law, Makerere University, Uganda
10:45AM - 11:00AM	Swimming Against the Current: Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement

Moderator: Ethiopia Zeleke	
	Invited Speaker: Dr. Wossenu Abteu - Water and Environment Consulting, USA
11:00 AM - 11:15 PM	Nile Basin Watershed Management and Hydroclimate Change
	Yusuf Ali Mohammed - Anadolu University, Turkey
11:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Whether Rights and Obligations Arise for Non-Ratifying Riparian State from the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement
	John Owino - IUCN, Kenya
11:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Benefit-sharing dialogue to promote and guide investment decisions in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) transboundary basin, shared between Kenya and Uganda
	Dr. Annette Kezaabu - Uganda Christian University, Mukono, Uganda
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Exploring the Use of Strategic Communication to Build Trust among the Nile Basin Riparian States