

African Union



HYDROPOWER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2011

31 March - 1 April 2011. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Economic Commission
for Africa

JOINT MEDIA ADVISORY

“Defining the role of Hydropower in Africa’s Sustainable Development”

Hydropower for Sustainable Development 2011 - Addis Ababa

The Ethiopian Ministry of Water and Energy, in partnership with the African Union Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, is convening *Hydropower for Sustainable Development 2011* (31st March – 1st April) – a cutting edge programme to define the role of hydropower in Africa’s sustainable development.

The two day, high-level conference, hosted by the UN Convention Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is organized by the International Hydropower Association (IHA) in collaboration with the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo), with the support of SinoHydro as the main sponsor.

The conference aims to provide a forum to present and discuss real-world solutions to the challenges of supplying electrical power in Africa, with a focus on regional cooperation, comprising four themes:

- African renewable energy potential and hydropower development in Ethiopia
- Regional cooperation for water and energy (including transboundary issues)
- Sustainability and good practice
- Finance and Investment

Around 200 international policy makers, regional actors, civil society representatives, industry leaders and members of the financial sector, invited by the Ethiopian Ministry of Water and Energy, have been encouraged to actively participate in sharing regional perspectives, knowledge and expertise, and practical experience in developing sustainable hydropower projects.

The agenda includes the participation of:

- Hon. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister, Ethiopia
- H.E. Jean Ping, Chairperson, African Union Commission
- Dr Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary, UN-Economic Commission for Africa
- Hon. Alemayehu Tegenu, Minister of Water and Energy, Ethiopia
- Dr. Seleshi Bekele Awulachew, Senior Water Resources & Climate Specialist, African Climate Policy Centre
- Mr Mihret Debebe, CEO, Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation

- Mr David Harrison, Senior Advisor, Global Freshwater Team, The Nature Conservancy
- Mr Jasper Oduor, Executive Secretary, East African Power Pool
- Mr Kurt Simonsen, Head of Regional Representation, European Investment Bank
- Mr Richard Taylor, Executive Director, International Hydropower Association

A set of recommendations, providing practical guidance on achieving sustainable hydropower development in the East African region and beyond, will be presented at the end of the conference - setting a mandate for further action.

The increasing pace of development in Africa is placing considerable demands on its energy resources. Energy supplies that are both renewable and sustainable will, increasingly, play a major role in meeting these needs. The huge potential of Africa's hydropower has yet to be fully realised - currently constrained by the need for greater clarity on the best approach to social and environmental aspects, and the up-front capital intensity of investing in hydropower projects. "Hydropower for Sustainable Development 2011" comes at a crucial time for the region. Decisions that will determine Africa's energy for future generations are being made now.

For more information on this event contact:

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