

“The Nile, water diplomacy and sustainability”

International Conference

Speakers

Terje Tvedt is a professor in global history as well as in political science, and is currently working as a professor at the Department of Geography, University of Bergen. He is the Series Editor of the nine volume book series "Water and History". He has written extensively on the Nile. Among its the books there are "The River Nile in the Age of the British", a "Nile Bibliography" in three volumes, and he edited "The River Nile in the post colonial Age". He has also made a number of TV-documentaries on the role of water, among them the NETFLIX-series "The Future of Water" and "The Nile quest". The Nile quest tells the story about a journey from the Mediterranean up the White and the Blue Nile to their sources, dealing with the role of the river system in the region's history.

After twenty years of experience in African countries, **H.E. Giuseppe Mistretta** is now Principal Director for the Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Deputy Director General for Global Affairs. Diplomatic official since 1984, Mistretta served as Ambassador of Italy in Ethiopia from 2014 to 2017. His previous diplomatic experiences include also Rome, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, United States of American, Libia and Great Britain.

H.E. Luigi Guidobono Cavalchini Garofoli had a long and successful career working for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as an important figure in the Italian diplomatic and cultural community. His first major assignment was at the Italian permanent representation for the European Community in Bruxelles. There, he coordinated the Italian temporary presidency during the negotiations that lead to the entrance of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark in the European Community. He was first appointed as ambassador in 1987 and just a few years later he became the Italian ambassador in Paris for four years. After the end of his mandate, he became the Italian permanent representative in the European Union. Nowadays, he is a member of many socio-cultural associations and since 2015 he is the president of Hydroaid – Water development management institute in Turin.

Emanuele Fantini is lecturer and researcher at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, in The Netherlands. He holds a PhD in Political Sciences (University of Turin) and a European Master in Human Rights and Democratization (University of Padua). His research interests include: water governance and conflicts, social movements, religion in public spaces, media studies, and visual research methods, with geographic focus on Ethiopia, the Nile basin and Italy. Emanuele is also associate researcher at the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy-University of Oxford, and coordinator of the project “Open Water Diplomacy. Media, science and transboundary cooperation in the Nile basin”, studying the role of media and scientific communication in transboundary water interactions. On these topics he also hosts the podcast “The sources of the Nile” (available on iTunes and Soundcloud). Emanuele has worked both long term and consultancy positions for bilateral agencies (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), multilateral institutions (UN Habitat), local authorities and international NGOs in Ethiopia, Sudan, Morocco, Serbia and Myanmar.

Lama El Hatow is currently pursuing her PhD in Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), the Netherlands, in the Department of Public Administration, doing her thesis dissertation on “Climate Change as an opportunity for Water Cooperation across the Blue Nile River Basin”. Lama is an Environmental and Social Specialist

focused on issues related to climate change and water resources. She is also the Co-Founder of the Water Institute of the Nile (WIN), a think tank established by Egyptian youth after the Revolution in 2011, with an alternative vision for the basin-wide management of water resources of the Nile River, focused on win-win solutions between civil society of Nile Basin riparian countries. Lama works as an Environmental Consultant, consulting for organizations including the International Finance Corporation (IFC, part of the World Bank Group), GIZ, UNDP, and the UNFCCC. Lama has also been engaged in the UNFCCC international climate change negotiations for the last 5 years, focused on climate change policy in the Arab world.

Tamer M. A. Abd Elkreem holds a B.Sc. from the University of Khartoum and an MPhil from Bergen University. He is a PhD graduate in Anthropology from the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies. Currently, he is teaching at the University of Khartoum, conducting his research on the power relations of development in the Gezira Agricultural Scheme with a research grant from APN/SSRC. He is interested in the anthropological analysis of mega-developmental projects and their power relations, knowledge production, politics, actors, factors and repercussions.

Mekdelawit Messay Deribe is from Ethiopia and he is a Civil Engineer by training. He recently graduated with a Masters degree in Environmental Sciences from Wageningen University, the Netherlands. He has always been interested in water studies, be it the technical and design aspects of water science or the more social water management and governance. Recently, he has been working more on transboundary water governance and hydro diplomacy. He wrote his Ph.D. proposal on water allocation and governance on the Nile basin.

Meklit Berihun Melesse attended its B.Sc. in Civil Engineering at Addis Ababa University. He then worked at the same institute as an assistant lecturer. During its stay at the university, he also worked as junior researcher on a study on Awash Basin (the most utilized basin in Ethiopia) and was involved in editorial works for the Ethiopian Building Code and Standard. He have worked as junior sanitary engineer at a local consultancy and as an assistant project coordinator at an international consultancy on the development of two industrial zones in Ethiopia. He is currently studying Environmental Sciences at Wageningen University and Research.

Abeer R.Y. Abazeed is Phd student at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs in Leiden University (Netherlands). Her Phd research tackles the role of civil society in hydro-politics issues in the Eastern Nile Basin (Egypt- Sudan – South Sudan – Ethiopia).