

## Conference Report

### Nile 2002

*Khartoum, Sudan, 29 January–1 February 1994*

The Nile 2000 series continued this year with the successful completion of the 1994 conference held recently in the Friendship Hall, Khartoum, Sudan. The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources of Sudan hosted the event, and financial support was provided by the co-sponsors: the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The conference was well attended by representatives from the Nile Basin countries: Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire. Representatives also attended from Canada, Finland, France, India, The Netherlands, South Africa, the UK and the USA.

Several other international organizations were represented at the conference including: the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), and the International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI).

The main theme of the conference was the comprehensive water resources development of the Nile Basin: the vision ahead. The conference included presentation of five keynote papers, and 24 technical papers, and nine general papers from Nile Basin countries. The total number of participants was 150.

The *keynote speakers* covered the subjects of:

- cooperation in international river basins;
- data collection and water resources development;
- water resources development in the Nile Basin;
- policy issues in basin-wide integrated development of rivers.

The *invited papers* covered the subjects of:

- scope and objectives of the Technical Cooperation Committee for the Promotion of the development and environmental protection of the Nile (TECCONILE);
- water resources demonstration atlas of the River Nile Basin;
- the proposed International Nile Basin Association (INBA);
- the Mekong committee and its role in regional cooperation;

- application of satellite-based forecasting for the River Nile;
- promoting the management of international river basins.

The *technical papers* covered three main topics:

- basin-wide and national level resources planning;
- water resources assessment and management;
- environmental considerations.

The *country papers* covered the following topics:

Burundi: general overview of water resources and their use in Burundi;

Egypt: water resources development in Egypt;

Ethiopia: framework for cooperation between co-basin states in the Nile Basin;

Kenya: policies, plans and constraints on water resources development in the Lake Victoria basin of Kenya;

Rwanda: Rwanda water resources overview;

Sudan: Sudan strategy for enhancing cooperation between co-basin states in the Nile Basin;

Tanzania: basin-wide and national water resources planning;

Uganda: environmental aspects of water resources management in Uganda;

Zaire: perspective on cooperation for the development of the Nile Basin in Zaire.

The keynote papers emphasized the global, historical and policy issues pertaining to the development of the Nile Basin water resources. Examples from other international rivers were brought forward and examined for possible application and adaptation to the Nile Basin specific case.

The invited papers covered a wide range of high-tech applications in collection, presentation and dissemination of information, institutional arrangements for cooperation between governments and non-governmental bodies, and individuals. The technical papers presented a wide range of research papers covering the three main topics. They indicated a high level of commitment of the researchers and they identified the vast gap between current research and development priorities. The country papers emphasized the need for cooperation among the basin states. Several of the concepts advanced were considered worthy of note for future development.

Environmental imperatives dominated many of these papers, especially those from the upper riparian states. Considerations related to water scarcity issues dominated the papers of the northern states.

The papers presented formed an excellent background for in-depth and intensive discussions among the participants. Three formal sessions and three informal sessions discussed the issues of potential cooperation among basin states, and the role of external support agencies and development priorities. A list of high-priority development projects was identified and international agencies were invited to take an active part in assisting and financing these proposals for the benefit of all basin countries.

It was agreed that future conferences will be hosted as follows:

1995 Tanzania;

1996 Uganda;

1997 Kenya.

Each country will form a national organizing committee which will determine the theme, topics, venue and dates of the events in consultation with an international advisory committee.

The full conference proceedings will be prepared and printed.

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