

Dialogue Facilitation and Capacity Building: Supporting Cooperation in the Eastern Nile Basin

Background

- Ten countries share the Nile Basin
- 95% of Egypt's freshwater comes from upstream countries
- 86% of the water arriving in Egypt comes from the Ethiopian highlands
- There is no agreed legal framework about water allocation accepted by all the countries
- Since 1999 Nile Basin Initiative: governmental efforts at cooperation supported by the World Bank, UNDP etc.



Irrigation channel in Gezira, Sudan (photo: S. Mason)

Issues and Interests

- Ethiopia (population of ca. 65 million) would like to build dams and develop irrigation to feed its population, there are chronically 2 million people in need of food aid
- Egypt (population of ca. 70 million) is concerned that less water will flow downstream, if Ethiopia builds dams and develops irrigation
- Sudan would like greater water shed management and flood control
- All countries are in favour of hydropower production
- If governments agree on a joint "win-win" projects (dams, canal through swamps), local population may be negatively affected by them



30 participants of the Nile Capacity Building Forum, visiting Nile Basin Initiative office in Ethiopia (photo: S. Mason)

Activities

- 3 moderated dialogue workshops with 6-15 participants from Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan (academics, ministry, NGO)
- One joint publication by the participants of the workshops
- 2 capacity building workshops in Egypt and Ethiopia
- 2 finished PhDs, 3 ongoing PhDs
- Participant of the Dialogue Workshop: "For me it was a great learning experience to understand other people's perspectives, beyond that, I have seen how an informal setting such as this could achieve more tangible outputs than a formal setting, which has a number of constraints"

Team and Info

Dialogue Workshop facilitators: Günther Baechler, Hansueli Müller-Yersin, Ursula König

Organizers and supporters: Kurt R Spillmann, Alexander Zehnder, Samuel Luzi, Rea Bonzi, Simon Mason, Marwa Gouda

Capacity Building Trainers: Magdy Hefny, Asha El Karib, Atta El Battahani, Yacob Arsano, Simon Mason, Judith Niederberger

Publications: www.isn.ethz.ch under "publishing house" under "Environment and Conflict Transformation".

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