



HYDROPOWER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2011

31 March - 1 April 2011 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



PRESS KIT

Press Release – EMBARGOED TILL 9am Thursday 31st March 2011, Addis Ababa

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi opens *Hydropower for Sustainable Development 2011*

His Excellency Prime Minister Meles Zenawi today opened *Hydropower for Sustainable Development 2011* – a strategic conference to discuss the role of hydropower in Africa’s sustainable development, being held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa - 31st March to 1st April.

Hon. Alamayehu Tegenu, Ethiopian Minister of Water and Energy, H.E. Elham M.A. Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy, AUC, H.E. Abjoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of the UN Commission for Africa, co-hosted the opening session sharing their views on sustainable hydropower.

“It is the hope of the Ministry of Water and Energy that this event will enable considerable advances in understanding, best practice and successful approaches to the social and environmental as well as economic aspects of hydropower development” said Hon. Alemayehu Tegenu, Minister of Water and Energy, Ethiopia

“Successfully harnessing Ethiopia’s hydropower potential will play a central role in ensuring Ethiopia’s strong economic development and the eradication of poverty, by supplying reliable electrical power to the country.”

The two day, high-level conference, embodies the vision of Prime Minister Zenawi who actively encouraged stakeholders to come together to advance sustainable hydropower in Ethiopia.

It brings together around 200 high-level policy makers, regional actors, civil society representatives, industry leaders and members of the financial sector to present and discuss real-world solutions to the challenges of supplying electrical power in Africa, with a focus on regional cooperation. The event also addresses the need for further human and technological capacities in the hydropower sector.

“This event is an opportunity for a range of stakeholders to be involved in guiding the course of decision making, enabling essential cooperation to advance sustainable hydropower, and presenting real-world solutions to the challenges of supplying water and energy in Africa. We’re looking forward to participating in these discussions and to exploring the role and contribution of hydropower.” said Richard Taylor, Executive Director, International Hydropower Association.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Water and Energy, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, is hosting the event. The International Hydropower Association has played a key role in building the conference programme, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation. SinoHydro, by invitation of Prime Minister Zenawi has provided financial and organisational support to the conference.

The conference programme is structured into four key themes: African renewable energy potential and hydropower development in Ethiopia, regional cooperation for water and energy (including transboundary issues), sustainability and good practice, and finance and investment.

Hydropower for Sustainable Development 2011 builds on the Declaration adopted by the 12th Summit of the African Union (February 2009) and the Maputo Declaration signed by the Ministers in charge of Energy (November 2010).

A set of recommendations for advancing sustainable hydropower, drafted by conference participants, providing practical guidance on achieving sustainable hydropower development in the East African region and beyond, will form the key output of the event.

Press enquiries:

Ms Sophia Denekews
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Email: denekews@uneca.org
Tel: +251 11 544 5098

Ms Christiane Yanrou
African Union Commission
Email: yanrouc@africa-union.org
Tel: +251 911 20 16 34

Thor Windham-Wright
International Hydropower Association
Email: tww@hydropower.org
Tel: +44 208 652 5294