



Ethiopia Water and Energy Week (EWEW)

Concept Note



Ethiopia's plan for socio-economic growth calls for expansion in renewable energy, irrigated agriculture, manufacturing, hydropower, and municipal water supply and sanitation – all of which depend on reliably available water. Government, the private sector, development partners and civil society organizations have important roles to play in developing effective water and energy security policies and investments. The Ethiopian government's vision furthermore emphasizes to become a middle-income country through green and inclusive growth. Thus, water resources must be given top priority during development planning, to ensure that Ethiopia's rising economic tide lifts all boats.

Ethiopia has a complex topography, diversified climate, and immense water resources, which lead to a huge untapped potential for hydropower and irrigation development. Currently, Ethiopia runs more than a dozen mega projects in the hydropower and irrigation development in the country. The completion of these mega-projects will have significant contributions to the realization of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the challenges and contribution of the sector are not clearly understood and appreciated by the wider public and some stakeholders.

In light of this and based on the experience of other international water weeks, the Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy (MoWIE) is organizing the first Ethiopia Water and Energy Week (EWEW) from June 17-20, 2019 in Addis Ababa. The theme of the event will be *"Transformation of Water and Energy sector for Ethiopia's New Horizon of Hope"*.

The main purpose of the EWEW is to raise awareness about the water and energy sector potential, development challenges and opportunities among the public and to create a national and international interaction platform for public-private-development partners. More specifically, the event has the following specific objectives:

- To raise awareness on the state of the water resources and its contribution to the development of the country.
- To discuss and build common understanding on the challenges, risks and opportunities facing the trans-boundary rivers of Ethiopia.
- To showcase achievements of the water and energy sectors and get new ideas, insights, and innovative technologies.
- To discuss the energy sector development and the governments vision to achieve universal access to electricity services and becoming power hub in Eastern Africa by 2025.
- To renew commitment among national water sector actors to deliver on the national and international targets.
- To create a platform for multi-sectoral interaction among stakeholders.

The EWEW aims to implement its objective by organizing a four days long event that includes plenary sessions, seminars, on studio discussions, exhibitions, and business and professional networking sessions. In addition, a number of strategy documents, research papers and project lessons with the four main sectoral themes of water supply and sanitation, irrigation, basin development, and energy are included.

The event is expected to be attended by more than 1000 international and local water sector stakeholders including federal level ministries, regional bureaus, donors, civil society organizations, utilities, academic and research institutions, and private sector actors.

The EWEW will offer a unique avenue for researchers, policymakers, practitioner's and development partners from Ethiopia and elsewhere to debate and build their knowledge of water, irrigation, and energy sectors and the ongoing structural transformation in Ethiopia. The week will focus on tracking progress on performance, identifying gaps, challenges, and emerging issues, as well as in recommending timely corrective policy actions. We strongly believe that by providing up-to-date information, undertaking comparative analyses and discussing the success stories and lessons learned, the event would make a strategic contribution to Ethiopia's sustainable transformation process.

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Bank Details for the EWEW

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