



Society for International Development
Berlin Chapter



BERLINER AFRIKAKREIS

The Initiative Southern Africa (INISA) and the Society for International Development (SID-Berlin) cordially invite you in cooperation with the Afrika-Haus to the next Berliner Afrikakreis:

Wednesday, 03. April 2013, 19:00 – 21:00

Afrika-Haus Berlin, Bochumer Str. 25, 10555 Berlin (U-Bahn: Turmstr.)

Shifting Balance of Power? – The Politics of the Nile

Speaker:

Berhanu Belachew (Head of Department of Geography, Kotebe College, University of Addis Ababa)

Tobias von Lossow (Research Assistant to the Director, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik)

Chair: **Christian Arndt** (Society for International Development, Berlin-Chapter)

The discussion will be in English. No registration necessary

Dispute over the utilisation and distribution of its waters has always been an integral part of the history of Nile Basin politics. Agreements from the colonial era ensure Egypt and Sudan the lion's share of available water resources to the developmental detriment of upstream countries Ethiopia, Burundi, Eritrea, Kenya, DR Congo, Ruanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. After years of negotiations within the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), Ethiopia broke the status quo in 2010 and signed - under the outspoken protest of Egypt and Sudan - the Entebbe Agreement with Burundi, Kenya, Ruanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Ethiopia engaged since in an ambitious hydropower program to exploit the potentials of the Blue Nile. In April 2011 it officially commenced the construction of Africa's largest hydroelectric power plant, the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

The enormous population growth in the Nile Basin, doubling to approx. 860 Million people in 2048 according to the UN, and increasing dependency on the Nile for water and energy will gradually increase the potential for conflict.

What is needed to achieve a comprehensive new agreement, if possible? How credible are Ethiopian claims to be able to create a regional win-win situation under its ambitious hydropower policy?

We would like to refer to a recent publication by Tobias von Lossow "Machtverschiebung am Nil" (http://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/aktuell/2013A11_lsw.pdf), February 2013.

We are looking forward to an interesting debate!

Best regards

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