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P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: (251-11) 5525849 Fax: (251-11) 5525855
Website: www.africa-union.org

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER STORAGE
AND HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT FOR AFRICA AT THE
AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE CENTRE**

**16 TO 18 APRIL 2013
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**Opening Speech of Dr. Elham M.A. IBRAHIM,
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Energy of the African
Union Commission at the Conference on Water Storage
and Hydropower Development 2013**

Theme: "Contributing to the Implementation of the PIDA Initiative"

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
16th April 2013

- **Your Excellency Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Minister of Education**
- **Honourable Alemayehu Tegenu, Minister of Water and Energy of Ethiopia**
- **Distinguished members of Regional and International Organisations;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

- On behalf of the African Union Commission and on my own behalf I would like to welcome you to the International Conference on Water Storage and Hydropower Development for Africa 2013.

- I would also like to particularly thank the organisers of this conference, Aqua–Media International, (International Commission on Large Dams) ICOLD and (Ethiopia Electric Power Corporation) EEPCo and the supporting organisations that include UNECA, (The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage) ICID

- CIID, (International Energy Agency Hydropower) IEA Hydro, IWRA, (The European Small Hydropower Association) ESHA, ETCOLD, BDS and Exhibitors.

- Last but not least I would like to thank all of you who have come from different corners of the world to contribute to this conference. Your presence here for these three days is very crucial to the success of the conference and the development of hydropower in Africa and the World as a whole.

- **Your Excellency**
- **Honourable Minister**
- **Distinguished Delegates**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

- We are all aware of the overall state of Energy in Africa. More than half Billion people on the continent have no access to modern energy sources. In 18% of the countries in Africa **energy access** is still less than 10%.
- This is one of the biggest constraints of economic development and also a big challenge for the continent to be competitive and to combat poverty more effectively. There is urgent need to increase the energy access on the African continent, especially in the Sub Saharan part.
- The technically feasible hydropower potential in Africa is about 1,750,000GWh/year of which only 5% is exploited. The total installed hydropower capacity in Africa is about 20.3GW currently generating 76,000GWh/year only.
- Although Africa needs 7,000 MW of new power generation capacity each year, it has been installing only an average of 1,000 MW annually in recent years. At the present rates of electrification most African countries will not be able to reach universal access to electricity even by 2050.
- The economic growth of Africa is on the rise, being the fastest in comparison to other continents. The energy demand is increasing. This is a strong motivation to improve the infrastructure and eradicate the numerous constraints imposed on energy access.
- You would recall that the Declaration adopted by the 12th AU Summit held here in Addis Ababa in February 2009, on the development of infrastructure and energy in Africa, in which the Heads of Governments and States emphasised, among others, “the urgent need to enhance access to energy infrastructure and services for the majority of the African population, as

well as to enhance the inter-State trade in the energy sector by implementing major integrative hydroelectric power projects”

The African Union Commission in collaboration with its African partners including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) elaborated a Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). This programme, which is on the agenda of this conference covers four (4) sectors that include energy, trans-boundary water, transport and ICT. One of the main components of PIDA is the implementation of the Priority Action Plan by 2020. It includes 15 integrated energy projects, 9 of these projects are related to hydropower generation.

The overall capital cost for delivering PAP by 2020 is about \$68 Billion of which about \$21 Billion is for Hydropower generation and about \$19 Billion is for Power transmission corridors and inter-regional connections.

- A number of actions are taking place as part of PIDA and other complementary Renewable Energy measures like:
 - The geothermal risk mitigation programme that already started in 5 countries and will soon be extended to be eleven.
 - There are a number of different member states who have embarked on initiatives of large solar power generation plants.
 - Also, economically viable and proven small scale hydropower technologies have been commercially developed and are available for generating both electrical and mechanical power for industrialization and development especially in remote rural areas.

- Our efforts are also shared by partners from different parts of the world, including the Private Sector, Financial Institutions, Public-Private-Partnerships

and NGOs. For example we have an Africa-EU Energy Partnership that is taking a joint action to increase the energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in Africa by building 10,000MW of new hydropower facilities by 2020. Together with our different partners, we will continue to mobilize the financial resources that are required for the achievement of our set goals.

Before I end my remarks allow me to announce that this year (2013) the Africa Union is celebrating its 50th anniversary since it was founded as the Organisation of African Unity. As you know, the Organisation of African Unity successfully achieved the main objective of its creation which was the liberation of the entire continent from colonial powers and apartheid.

The Africa Union, its successor, is now tirelessly directing its efforts to implementing the development and integration agenda by establishing policies and plans of action which will facilitate socio-economic development and stability of the continent.

In that regard, I wish to invite you to join us and promote, the celebration which will cover the period from May 2013 to May 2014.

This years' theme is Pan Africanism and African Renaissance, which cannot be realized without working together and joining efforts.

wishing you a very successful conference ,fruitful deliberations and concrete contributions to the development of hydropower.

Thank you for your kind attention.