

# The AWTI Project

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The Arba Minch Water Technology Institute AWTI was founded in 1986 by the Ethiopian Government through the Ethiopian Water Commission. The objective was to establish an Ethiopian centre of excellence in water training and research. From the start, the German Government supported establishment and development of the institute as part of its economic cooperation programme with Ethiopia. The present project “Assistance to AWTI” was initiated in 1989 and executed by the German Technical Cooperation GTZ, which contracted RODECO Consulting for implementing the first two phases. Since 1994, Siegen University officially became involved as one of the university “twinning” partners for AWTI.

The current and final phase of the project concentrates on the development of the water research potential of the institute. This phase is implemented via the “Integrated Water Resources Development in Lake Abaya Chamo Basin” programme and is supported by researchers from AWTI, Siegen University, Technical University Dresden and Free University Berlin. The main instrument is to assist AWTI lecturers in their Master and PhD research and their advanced education as well as to jointly conduct research.

The first PhD was awarded to an AWTI lecturer in 2001; another four will follow until 2006. Further PhD research is just to be started. Within the programme, two German lecturers are conducting PhD research in the Lake Abaya Chamo Basin and are expected to graduate in 2005. Several publications, such as the AWTI Journal and a series of symposia on “Integrated and Sustainable Water Resources Management” (AWTI Conferences) are also part of the project.