ETHIO-GERMAN PROJECT
„SUPPORT FOR THE ARBA MINCH WATER TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE“

UNIVERSITY OF SIEGEN, GERMANY
Reasearch Institute for Water and Environment

ARBA MINCH UNIVERSITY, ETHIOPIA
Arba Minch Water Technology Institute

Lake Abaya Research Symposium 2004
- Proceedings -

Catchment and Lake Research

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FWU Water Resource Publications
http://www3.uni-siegen.de/fb10/fwu/ww/publikationen/volume0405/
Vol 4, 2005, Lake Abaya Research Symposium - Proceedings
ISSN No. 1613-1045

Layout
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Printing
Printing Office, University of Siegen, Siegen, Germany
ISBN No. 3-932604-17-2

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GTZ Country Office Ethiopia
University of Siegen

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Preface

The Arba Minch Water Technology Institute, since June 2004 promoted as Arba Minch University (AMU), has been supported by the German Government since the beginning in the 1980s. The support of training facilities for waterworks personnel was in the interest of both partners, the German Government through GTZ and the Ethiopian Water Commission, because of the urgent and long-term needs for technical personel to operate water supply systems.

The bilateral project "Assistance to AWTI" started in 1989; in the first phase it focussed on the establishment of laboratory and workshop facilities. However, since the beginning, the development of an appropriate research programme and so-called twinning relations with German universities were on the agenda. Degree programmes in Water Resources Engineering were initiated that made research and consultancy at AWTI posibble. The improvement of water supply systems for a sustainable utilisation of the huge water resources of the country alone was not sufficient anymore. Water resources management and development became an important topic of all recent Ethiopian Governments . The in the meantime passed Ethiopian Water Resources Management Policy demands for more and qualified engineers, consultants and researchers.

Therefore, the focus of the last two project phases was changed towards advanced capacity building by supporting PhD and MSc training and research. The German partner universities, i.e, University Siegen and Technical University Dresden, concentrated on the joint research programme "Integrated Water Resources Development in Lake Abaya Chamo Basin" as a basis for advanced research. Other partners, such as academics from the Free University of Berlin, University Rostock, University of Applied Sciences Münster, joined the programme with various supplementary activities. In the meantime, universities in Europe as well as in North America have joined the German universities as international partners of AMU, supporting the academic efforts of this young university.

With this first "Lake Abaya Research Symposium" the German-sponsored project facilitates the presentation of research results and their discussion, while focusing primarily on lake and catchment research conducted by AMU researchers. However, the forum is also offered to academic contributions from all over Ethiopia and beyond.

The symposium offers a forum for discussions on water resources research in general between Ethiopian water professionals and researchers focussing on river and lake catchment areas. This forum will contribute to the overall development of the Ethiopian water sector, as well as enhance the cooperation between the different actors.

Ethiopian and German PhD students, who receive support from the project, present their research findings. As well, their supervisors and other collaborators are invited to present related research results. The make-up of presentations follows international proceedings, keynotes are followed by research papers and supplemented by poster presentations covering a range of various topics. The last session of the symposium focuses on the future; therefore, short papers are presented by young PhD students for discussion. A final panel discussion shall give some ideas on future water research needs in Ethiopia.

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