

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UGANDA TO HOST 15<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN WATER CONGRESS IN 2010**

**(Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009)** The Minister for Water and Environment, Honourable Maria Mutagamba, has today announced that Uganda has been chosen to host the 15<sup>th</sup> International African Water Congress, due to take place in Kampala from the 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

The Congress will be organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) on behalf of Government of Uganda in association with the African Water Association (AFWA). The host utility shall be National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), whose Managing Director is the current Vice President of AFWA.

The theme of next year's Congress relates to energy and climatic change and the challenges facing water and sanitation service provision in Africa. It will seek to address these issues under the following sub-themes:

Climate change and energy issues, what are the threats to the water and sanitation industry.

Partnership and contractualisation for better water and sanitation services  
Half way assessment of the progress towards the Millennium Goals for Development.

New technologies of information and communication in the management of water and sanitation.

The Congress will bring together renowned African and international experts and leaders to discuss water and sanitation challenges facing the continent, particularly in the fields of water management, sanitation, climate change and energy.

The Congress will specifically look at water and sanitation service delivery, namely efficient management, investment financing, research and capacity building.

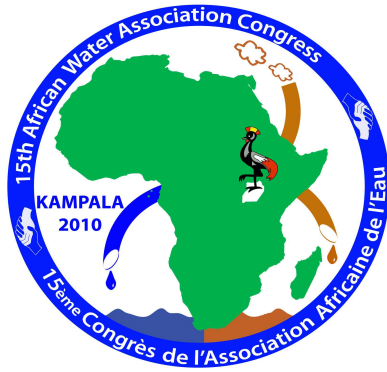
Unlike previous AfWA Congresses, the 2010 event will have an international aspect. Invitations to register are now being accepted and the Congress website, also being launched today, is fully operational and has further information about the Congress itself, speakers, exhibition space and sponsorship options.

**Speaking at the launch, the Minister said:** “I am certain that the 15<sup>th</sup> International African Water Congress we are preparing for will contribute to the continuous search for answers and solutions to the inequity in service provision between the rich developed world and the developing world, and between the rich and poor of the developing countries.”

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**Notes to Editors:**

The African Water Association (AfWA) is a network of 70 water utilities from over 30 countries in Africa. As part of the mechanisms to enhance exchange of ideas and recent developments in the water and sanitation industry, AfWA holds an African Water Congress every two years.



PRESS RELEASE

## **UGANDA GEARING UP FOR FIRST INTERNATIONAL WATER AND SANITATION CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION**

**Dignitaries and Industry Leaders Wangari Maathai, Mo Ibrahim and Prince Charles  
Confirm their Participation and Support**

**(Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009)** Preparations are well under way ahead of the 15<sup>th</sup> International African Water and Sanitation Congress and Exhibition, due to take place in March 2010 (15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>) at the Commonwealth Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala.

The Congress is being organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) on behalf of the Government of Uganda, in association with the African Water Association (AFWA). The local host utility is National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), whose Managing Director is the current Vice President of AFWA. The President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Museveni is the Congress Patron.

The theme of next year's Congress relates to energy and climatic change and the challenges facing water and sanitation service provision in Africa. Specifically, water and sanitation service delivery, efficient management, investment and financing and research and capacity building. This is a highly topical and extremely relevant issue for the African continent which is facing further hardship as a result of an ever changing natural environment.

**President of the African Water Association, Mamadou Dia said:** “We face a future of environmental uncertainty and as you may be aware, the devastating effects of climate change and the increasing cost of energy are having a serious impact on water and sanitation resources on the continent of Africa. Environment and energy conservation policies are now a key focus for many Governments, industry leaders and corporations around the world, however, this shift in policy has yet to be given the same attention here.”

**He added:** “This is why the 2010 Congress will be so important for future policy making, resource provision, effective management, financing and research in this area for Uganda and for Africa.”

For the first time in the 30 year Congress history, the event will be opened to an international audience, with invitations being extended to East African Presidents and dignitaries as well as international exhibitors, sponsors, delegates and experts from India, Europe, USA, China and Africa. This is a huge achievement for Uganda as the chosen hosts. The African Water Association (AfWA), chief organizers of the event are expecting over 500 African and International exhibitors, in addition to 2,000 participants and guests at the event.

**Dr William Muhairwe, Managing Director of National Water and Sewerage Uganda and local host utility for the 2010 Congress said:** We hope that the outcomes of Kampala 2010, in addition to the showcasing of the latest advances in water and sanitation technology, will ensure that the unnecessary suffering and loss of life brought about by inadequate or lack of water and sanitation resources is brought sharply into focus on the worldwide stage. We hope that the media, the corporate and NGO sector and the public will get behind the organizers and give their full support to such a relevant and important event which deals with issues relevant not only to Uganda but African.”

In a reflection of the perceived importance of the event and the event theme, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai and Sudanese business mogul Mo Ibrahim have confirmed their attendance. His Royal Highness, Prince Charles will address those in attendance at the opening ceremony by live video link.

SN Brussels is the first confirmed airline partner for the event. All information about Congress airlines partners and pricing will be available on the Congress website.

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For further information about the 15th International African Water Congress and Exhibition, please log on to. <http://www.nwsc.co.ug/> OR <http://www.aae-event.com/>

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**Notes to Editor**

The African Water Association (AfWA) is a network of 70 water utilities from over 30 countries in Africa and other internationally affiliated members. As part of the mechanisms to enhance the exchange of ideas and recent developments in the water and sanitation industry, AfWA holds an African Water Congress and Exhibition, every two years. The last Congress was held in Cotonou, Benin in 2008.