The 2014 World Water Day with the theme “Water and Energy” is a testament to the growing attention on the inter-linkages and interdependencies between water and energy as we expand the conversation on water as a driver for growth and development. The relationships between the sectors are as old as creation itself but attention on the diverse effects is becoming increasingly critical and evident. This is so because the times are different; we are now in a time when we are witnessing escalating demands on these resources due to multiplying populations and rapid urban migrations.

To grow the link between water and energy for development remains acute in a continent such as Africa where electricity generation is the lowest in the world and hydropower potential is under developed with only 3 per cent of Africa’s renewable water resources exploited for hydroelectricity, compared to an average of 52 per cent in Asia, 45 per cent in OECD countries, and 21 per cent in Latin America.