



## **Meseret DAWIT TEWELDEBRIHAN**

**Home Country:** Ethiopia

**Degree:** PhD in Hydrology

**Expertise:** Hydrology, Soil, Water and  
Hydraulics Engineering

**Research Focus:** Dynamics of Lake and  
Groundwater Interaction

**Host University:** UNESCO-IHE, Delft, The  
Netherlands

**Fellowship Awarded:** 2016

Meseret Dawit Teweldebrihan was born in Sasiga, part of the EastWelega zone of Ethiopia, located in the Horn of Africa. After attending local primary and secondary schools she moved to a school in the Gida Ayana district of Ethiopia where she specialized in natural science. Meseret then joined the Assela Technical and Vocational Training Center where in 2006 she obtained a diploma in Rural Water Supply and Sanitation.

Meseret completed her undergraduate studies at the Haramaya University (HU), Ethiopia, where in 2011 she gained a BSc in Soil and Water Engineering and Management. In 2014, with support from the Netherlands Fellowship Program and RAIN Foundation, which promotes sustainable rainwater harvesting, she received an MSc in Hydraulic Engineering Land and Water Development from the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education. Since then she has been a lecturer and researcher in the HU's department of Hydraulics and Water Resources Engineering.

Meseret is continuing her academic career at UNESCO-IHE with research focused on assessing the dynamics of lake and groundwater interaction. Climate change and environmental degradation have led to a number of problems in this area, requiring novel engineering, socio-economic and environmental methodologies, in particular to address farming and food security challenges. Ethiopia has historically suffered extreme periods of drought, often causing water bodies such as lakes, rivers and springs to disappear. Meseret hopes that her studies will provide technologies and methodologies to help tackle these problems.

After completing her PhD studies in the Netherlands, Meseret intends to resume her role as a researcher and lecturer at HU. She expects that stakeholders in Ethiopia, including farmers, universities, research institutions, and policy makers, will benefit from the results of her research. She plans to be a role model for women in her country, showing that anyone can achieve a high-level and rewarding professional career regardless of gender and background.