

The GIZ Magazine

akzente

Political participation

Active participation by responsible citizens is vital for democracy and development.

OTHER TOPICS:

Drug treatment: Five Central Asian countries are adopting innovative approaches to treat drug users in prison.

Kenya: Dairy goats offer better prospects.

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Dorothee Hutter,
Director of Corporate Communications

Dear reader,

‘Politics is for people’: this first issue of *akzente* in 2012 turns the spotlight on political participation. Continuous dialogue between government and society is the lifeblood of a functioning democracy. Popular participation is about much more than just voting in elections. It ensures that everyone – including disadvantaged groups – can articulate their needs, so that an equitable balance is achieved between diverse interests.

In the ‘IN FOCUS’ section, we give you an insight into some of the many projects being implemented by GIZ in this context on behalf of the German Government, and show how the political, sociocultural and regional conditions in partner countries offer highly diverse starting points for international cooperation for sustainable development.

We also report on the social transformation taking place in Tunisia, which has created a new sense of political confidence. The revolution in this North African country was the catalyst for a series of popular uprisings across the Arab world that are still ongoing in 2012. Meanwhile, on the other side of the world in Bolivia, indigenous movements have come to dominate the political debate in recent years. Here, GIZ is tasked with boosting popular participation and democracy. Our activities in support of civil society in Zambia are also profiled in this article.

In this issue, you can also find out how sustainability standards are being implemented in Thailand’s palm oil industry and why GIZ has been a shareholder in the non-profit *sequa gmbH* since 2010.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothee Hutter".

Dorothee Hutter



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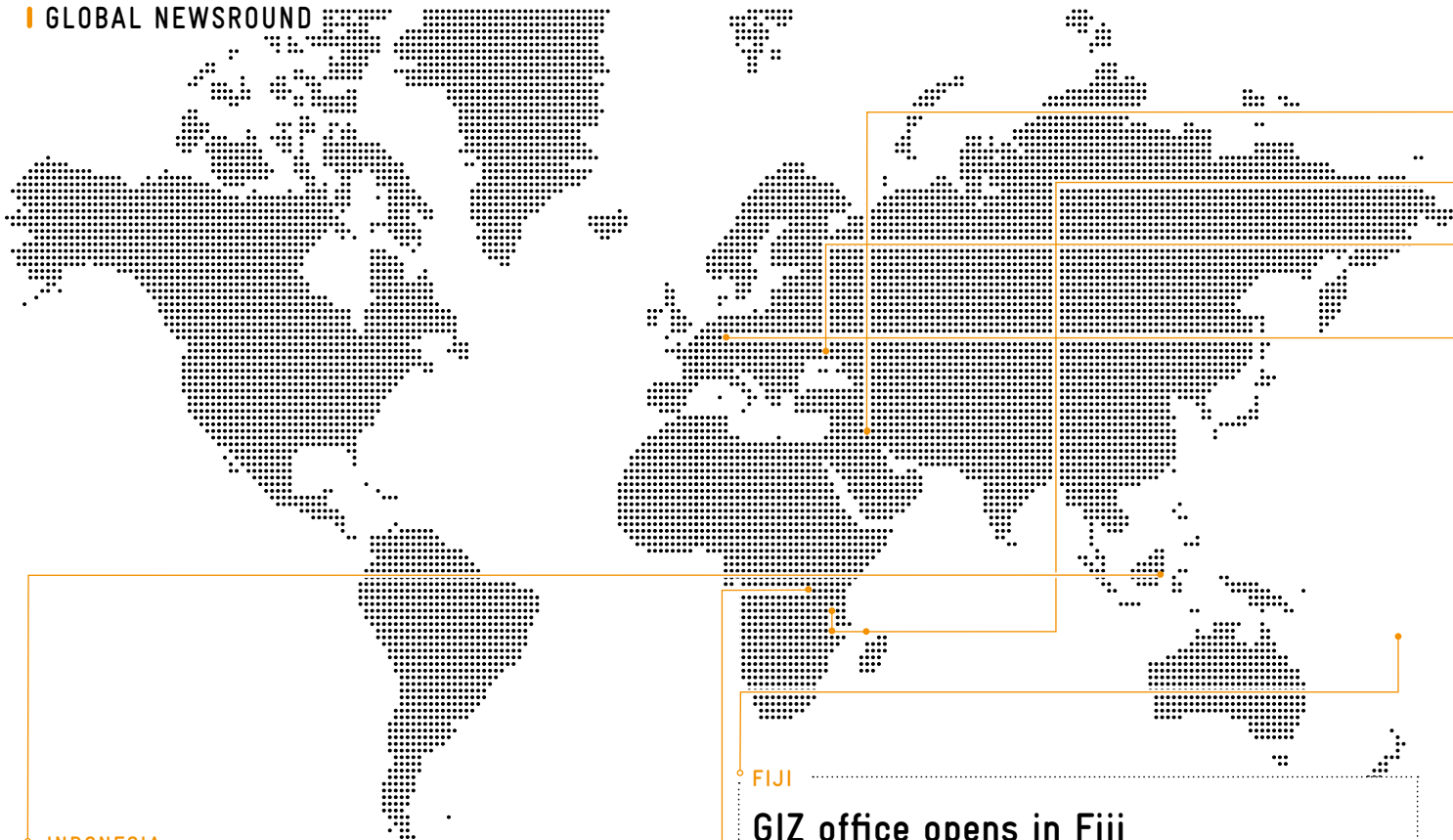
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INDONESIA

In the frame: forests in Indonesia



Giant tree stumps – remains of the rainforest – support homes in Sumatra.

Lush green woodland as far as the eye can see – this is the classic motif in most forest-themed photo competitions. But when GIZ launched an online photo contest in Indonesia in 2011 to celebrate the United Nations International Year of Forests, many of the 2,600 images submitted offered a different perspective. One of the winners, Amston Probel, portrayed houses in Lampung province (shown here), built by local communities on tree stumps – all that remains of the rainforest in deforested areas. By building at height, they protect themselves and their homes from wild elephants. The winning photos were on display at the Ministry of Forestry in Jakarta and can also be accessed on the internet.

☞ <http://forclime-photocontest.com>

FIJI

GIZ office opens in Fiji

New projects – and a new office for GIZ in Oceania since last year: in 2011, the ‘Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPiR)’ programme, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), was expanded to 12 island states. In addition, GIZ is now implementing a regional project on climate change mitigation through forest conservation in the Pacific Island countries, funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). Until mid-2011, these projects were managed from GIZ’s Manila office, but in November 2011, GIZ opened a branch of the Manila office in Suva, Fiji.

RWANDA

Building peace and reconciliation

The Civil Peace Service (CPS) supports local partner organisations in many different countries working in the fields of conflict prevention, peaceful conflict resolution and post-conflict reconciliation and peacebuilding. The CPS, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and supported by GIZ, has been operating in Rwanda since 2001. An anniversary event to celebrate these 10 years of engagement was held in Kigali in November 2011. As part of the programme of festivities, local partner organisations showcased some of their current projects – including ‘football for peace’ and a youth peace radio programme. Working with young people is a priority area of activity for the CPS in Rwanda. Together with its partners, it aims to empower young people and other target groups in conflict resolution, and also supports mediation processes and offers trauma counselling in order to assist the people of Rwanda in dealing with the legacy of genocide and building a lasting peace.

UKRAINE

United against HIV/AIDS



Top footballer Anatoliy Tymoshchuk is a Goodwill Ambassador for the 'Fair Play' project.

'I take control on the pitch – and you can take control of your life,' says Ukraine's top footballer Anatoliy Tymoshchuk, a Goodwill Ambassador for the 'Fair Play' project. As part of the project, football is used to educate young people about HIV infection and healthy lifestyles and teach them 'fair play' on and off the field, with activities taking place on pitches all over Ukraine. These social skills give young players more self-confidence and empower them to say 'no' to drugs and to discrimination and violence against persons living with HIV. The 'Fair Play' project, which is funded by BMZ, builds on GIZ's experience in the field of youth development through football, which was a great success during the World Cup in South Africa.

GERMANY

Sustainability Code unveiled

The German Council for Sustainable Development, whose Berlin office is hosted by GIZ on behalf of the German Government, has published a Sustainability Code for companies and organisations. Unveiled in the third quarter of 2011, the new Code defines standards for sustainable economic development based on 20 environmental, social and corporate governance criteria, and provides a set of indicators for comparing companies' sustainability performance. Companies and organisations can opt to make a 'declaration of conformity', which involves disclosing details of their efforts to comply with sustainability standards.

 www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/en

MOZAMBIQUE, TANZANIA AND THE COMOROS

Clear borders prevent conflict


Even today, only around a third of the territorial borders and even fewer of the sea borders in Africa are legally defined and clearly demarcated – a situation which has provided a breeding ground for conflicts for decades. That's why Germany is supporting the African Union Border Programme (AUBP), which aims to settle unresolved border issues – with notable success, most recently on 5 December 2011, when Mozambique's President Guebuza, Tanzanian Prime Minister Pinda and President Dhoinine of the Union of the Comoros signed an agreement on the delimitation of their maritime borders. Clearly defined maritime borders in this region have a particularly important role to play in defusing potential conflicts over the oil and gas deposits recently discovered off the coasts of Mozambique and Tanzania and in creating legal certainty over access to these resources. GIZ is implementing the Border Management in Africa project on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office.

IRAQ

New structures for the economy

As part of the German Government's efforts to support reconstruction in Iraq, GIZ has been working in the country on behalf of BMZ since 2011, the aim being to promote sustainable economic development. The Open Advisory Fund has a key role to play in this context. Its activities focus on four areas over a three-year period: economic and financial system development, reform of vocational training, employment promotion, and development partnerships. As one of the first steps, a dialogue forum was initiated, involving the Bundesbank and the Central Bank of Iraq and focusing on monetary policy, banking supervision, and vocational training in the banking sector. The Advisory Fund is not GIZ's only project in the country: on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office, GIZ is also working to improve vocational training provision in northern Iraq.

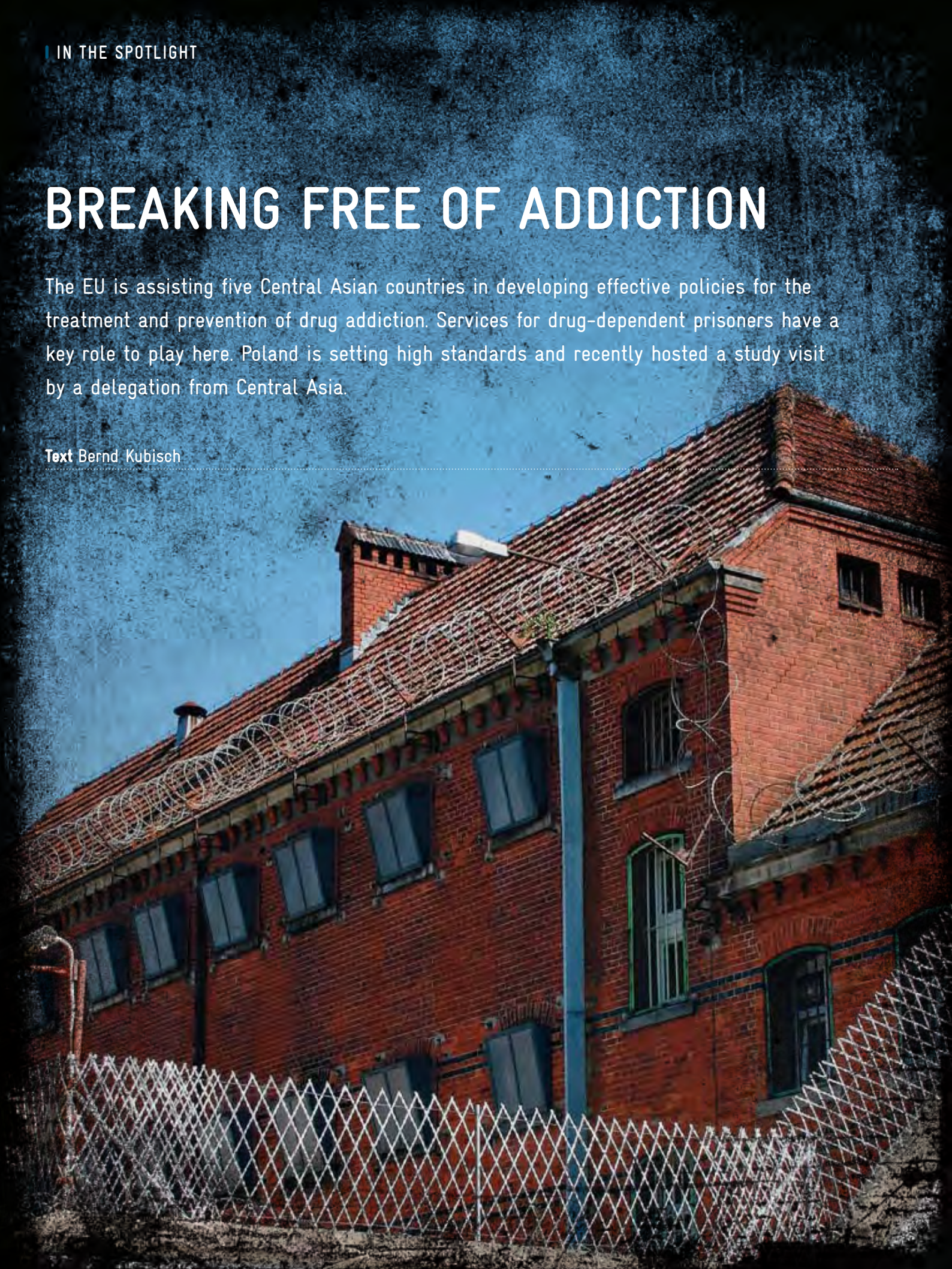


 Latest news at: www.giz.de/en

BREAKING FREE OF ADDICTION

The EU is assisting five Central Asian countries in developing effective policies for the treatment and prevention of drug addiction. Services for drug-dependent prisoners have a key role to play here. Poland is setting high standards and recently hosted a study visit by a delegation from Central Asia.

Text Bernd Kubisch



In a small reception area in Lubliniec women's prison in Poland, Director Lidia Olejnik has arranged for tea, coffee and cakes to be served. Today, she and her staff are preparing to welcome a 15-person delegation from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The visitors are keen to see how Lubliniec and other Polish prisons deal with drug-dependent prisoners. Poland established treatment facilities for drug- and alcohol-dependent inmates within its prison service some time ago, and its system now serves as a model for a number of former Soviet republics.

'This study visit forms part of the Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP), which is funded by the EU and assists the Central Asian countries in implementing policies for the treatment and prevention of drug addiction,' explains Ingo Ilja Michels from GIZ, former Head of the Office of the Federal Government Drug Commissioner and now Project Leader for Phase 5 of the CADAP programme. 'During their visit, the delegates will be visiting six Polish prisons. The aim is to give them an insight into modern approaches to treating addictions in a prison setting so that they can implement these systems, as far as possible, back in their own countries – not only in prisons but also in public health facilities.'

The Lubliniec prison currently has 226 inmates, all of them women. At present, 63 are placed in the Drug Dependency Unit, where they are attempting to break their addictions – with robust support from therapists, medical staff and social workers. There's one major difference between Lubliniec and many prisons in other countries: treatment and therapy are delivered inside, not outside the prison as an integrated and coordinated service package.

Activities aimed at building the women's confidence and equipping them with practical skills for life after their release are an important component of the programme. 'As a reward for good behaviour, inmates who are sufficiently well-motivated can do voluntary work for a few hours a week at a nearby care home or other social facility, helping to look after the elderly or children with disabilities, for example. In this way, they can give something back to society,' says Lidia Olejnik. The arts and theatre also



Women in Lubliniec prison have the chance of a drug-free life.

play a major role: the prison has set up a theatre group that performs in schools and then discusses the dangers of drugs with the audience. 'We recently performed in front of 1,800 people in Częstochowa,' says a 27-year-old inmate who is about to successfully complete her drug treatment programme. 'That was an amazing feeling – really empowering.' The Polish prison service's leading international role in drug treatment for prisoners is largely due to the efforts of its former director, the sociologist, criminologist and prison reformer Paweł

Moczydłowski. As an advisor to many Polish ministers and presidents, including Lech Wałęsa, he successfully advanced his concept of prisoners' rights and decent prison conditions. Moczydłowski has been involved with the EU programme since 2004, becoming Senior Consultant within the Treatment Methodologies (TREAT) component of CADAP in 2009. Today, he joins the Central Asian visitors for coffee in Lubliniec prison – and engages them in animated conversation. Moczydłowski is well aware of the problems facing their countries, »

CENTRAL ASIA DRUG ACTION PROGRAMME

AT A GLANCE

The Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP) is a key pillar of the Action Plan on Drugs between the EU and the five Central Asian states. The number of drug users in the Central Asian countries has risen dramatically, and infectious diseases and deaths among drug users are increasing. The EU is supporting these countries' efforts to reduce drug use. Coherent action is needed, along with effective prevention and better treatment methods for addicts. The programme is designed to ease the difficult transition from the punitive policies which date back to the Soviet era to a modern drug policy in line with EU standards. Phase 5 of the programme, now under way, began in early 2010 and will run until July 2013. The budget for this phase of the programme amounts to EUR 4.9 million. GIZ has now taken over the management of the programme on behalf of the German Government, with funding from the EU. GIZ is responsible for coordination and networking among all the stakeholders, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and various non-governmental organisations. The programme's remit also includes analysing and evaluating drug policy structures and mechanisms in all five Central Asian countries. The Centre for Interdisciplinary Addiction Research (ZIS) at the University of Hamburg is responsible for facilitating the introduction of effective treatment methodologies for addicts, while Czech partners lead on data collection and analysis. The National Bureau for Drug Prevention in Poland deals with information and prevention campaigns.

👉 www.cadap.eu

having initiated a number of reforms there as well. 'Respect for human dignity and support to enable prisoners to overcome their addictions and reintegrate into society are key tasks for the prison system,' Paweł Moczydłowski emphasises and points out that decent treatment of prisoners brings real benefits for the in-

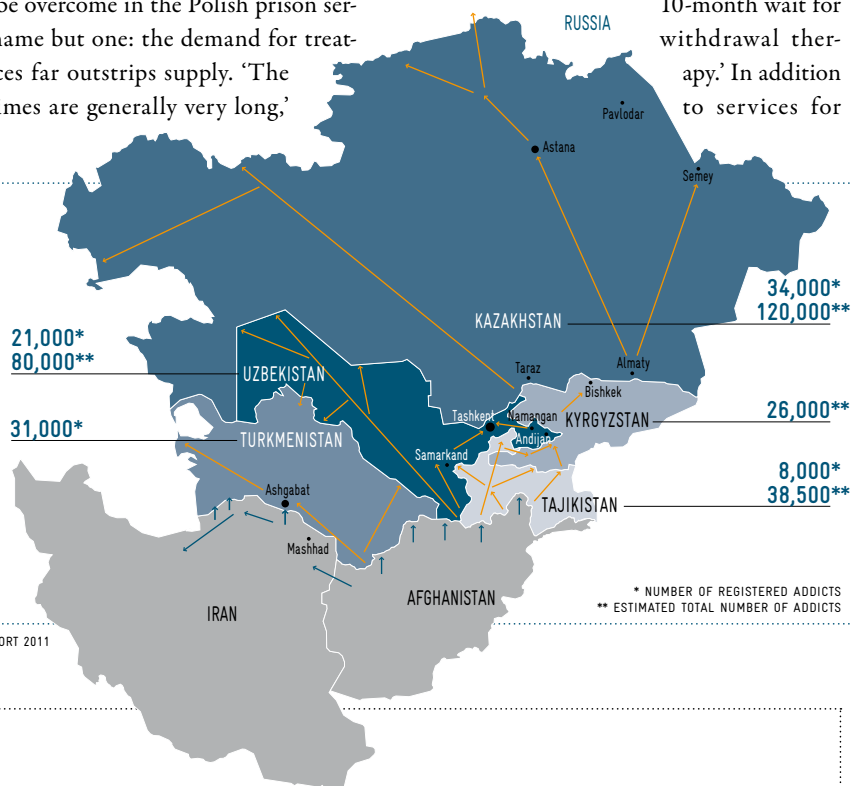
stitutions themselves: 'There hasn't been a single prison riot in Poland for 20 years.'

That does not mean that there are no challenges to be overcome in the Polish prison service. To name but one: the demand for treatment places far outstrips supply. 'The waiting times are generally very long,'

says Elzbieta Staud regretfully. She is a psychologist and therapist at the Podgórze men's prison in Kraków. 'In our facility, inmates have a 10-month wait for withdrawal therapy.' In addition to services for

THE MAJOR HEROIN TRAFFICKING ROUTES THROUGH CENTRAL ASIA

The major heroin trafficking routes from Afghanistan to Russia and Western Europe pass through Central Asia. Along these routes, there has been a sharp increase in drug use and its associated problems over the past two decades.



SOURCES: CENTRAL ASIA DRUG ACTION PROGRAMME, ANNUAL REPORT 2011; UNODC, WORLD DRUG REPORT 2011

» INTERVIEW

'MORE TIME AND MONEY NEEDED'



Paweł Moczydłowski hosted the delegation of Central Asian experts during their visit to Poland.

The Drug Action Programme was launched a full 10 years ago. Why is it taking so long?

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the five Central Asian countries have faced major challenges, especially in relation to their new responsibilities in the field of drug control and treatment and the prison system. In the past, prisons were simply massive barrack-like buildings where people were locked away, and to some extent, that is still the case. There is a widespread lack of understanding of democracy and the separation of powers, as well as a massive drug problem. These countries are major hubs

for drug trafficking, especially from Afghanistan. There is also a shortage of prevention and treatment facilities. The EU cannot leave the Central Asian countries to deal with these problems on their own. A great deal of investment will be needed – and by that, I mean both time and money.

Do you see any progress being made?

Compared with the situation in the past, I do see some progress in all five countries, but mainly in Kyrgyzstan. Things are moving more slowly in the other countries. With support from the EU, Turkmenistan not only has the highest number of treatment units in its prison system; it is also the only country participating in the programme to have set up a clean zone that provides separate accommodation for prisoners undergoing treatment, where they are also given counselling and help with re-

integration. New facilities are planned for prisons in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Where are there still problems?

Progress is still too slow. Take the example of Tajikistan: here, there are plans to set up new treatment units in prisons. Years ago, the programme provided support to open a unit in the prison hospital in Dushanbe, which was to be equipped to run drug treatment programmes. Firm commitments were made, and yet the unit is still not up and running. There is also a shortage of staff with the necessary skills. Old and obsolete structures and extreme mistrust are ongoing problems in many places. And of course, the demand for treatment from prisoners themselves is considerable, and there is a massive shortfall in available places.



Staff at the women's prison in Lubliniec are skilled in the management of drug-dependent prisoners.



The Central Asian visitors were able to gain an insight into the systems in place in six Polish prisons.

HIV/AIDS AND HEPATITIS PREVALENCE AMONG HEROIN AND OPIUM ADDICTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

Most heroin and opium addicts in Central Asia are injecting drug users. Often, several people will share a needle, resulting in a high risk of infection with diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are now running programmes that distribute sterile needles to drug users. Only Kyrgyzstan offers a methadone treatment programme in three prisons, although this could be effective in curbing the spread of HIV.



	Number of registered addicts who are injecting	HIV infection and drug dependency
KAZAKHSTAN	91.7%	67.9%*
KYRGYZSTAN	96.1%	62.9%*
TAJIKISTAN	57.4%	55.2%**
TURKMENISTAN	no data	no data
UZBEKISTAN	64.0%	41.1%**

* Heroin/opium addicts as a percentage of HIV-positive persons in the country; ** Percentage of HIV-positive persons who are heroin/opium addicts
SOURCE: CENTRAL ASIA DRUG ACTION PROGRAMME

drug users, the Podgórze prison also offers 49 treatment places for alcohol-dependent prisoners. The treatment provided for this target group has also an important role to play in Poland's prison system: in 2010, a total of 1,668 drug users and 4,722 alcoholics underwent treatment while in prison. Some inmates who have managed to overcome their addictions have volunteered to talk to the guests from Central Asia in the visitors' area in Służewiec prison in Warsaw. 'Before, I was too scared to admit to my dependency and my weaknesses, but not anymore,' says 33-year-old Krzysztof. Sitting beside him is Jarek, who is in his mid-30s. He has been on day release for the last seven months and has extended his six-month drug addiction treatment to eight months, the maximum possible. 'I had very bad problems with addiction,' says Jarek. 'But now I've been clean for quite a few months.'

Jumanova Saodatkhon from the Uzbek Government's Centre on Drug Control is impressed by the discussions with the therapy groups and the inmates themselves, who benefit from the system of day release. 'I am very surprised by the openness of the debate in Poland.

There's a lot that we can learn.' Kalybek Kachkynaliev from Kyrgyzstan agrees, but adds: 'We have a long way to go before our prisons and drug treatment services reach the standards in place in Poland and other EU countries.' Even so, compared with the other Central Asian countries, Kyrgyzstan is well ahead in terms of the quality of drug treatment provided in its prisons. 'Kyrgyzstan now has eight units modelled on the Polish system,' says Ingo Ilja Michels. 'They were set up with support from the EU programme.' Kazakhstan has two treatment centres of this kind, while Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan each have one. The prisoners are very happy with the new treatment offers, says Michels, based on his numerous discussions with inmates: 'It's because they are treated decently. They are able to deal with their addiction because they are not exposed to pressure from criminal dealers, and because they have better conditions than the other prisoners.' In the treatment units, around a dozen inmates share a dormitory, whereas normally, 50 – and sometimes up to 100 – prisoners are accommodated in a single barrack, where there is tremendous pressure from drug dealers. 'The

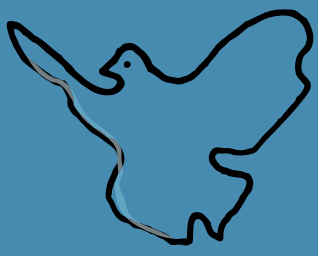
problem is that after the prisoner has completed the treatment, which takes a few weeks, they are sent back to their old prison surroundings if they still have some time to serve,' explains Ingo Ilja Michels. Methadone treatment is also needed. But there are some rays of light, says Marcus Martens from the Centre for Interdisciplinary Addiction Research (ZIS) at the University of Hamburg, which is also involved in the programme. 'In Uzbekistan, another rehabilitation centre is opening in a prison, thanks to the support from the programme. In Kazakhstan, there are plans to open a unit in a women's prison in the Karaganda region, and in Turkmenistan, we were able to deliver training for a rehabilitation unit in a prison.' It takes time to make progress in the Central Asian states. 'That's why study visits like this one in Poland are so important,' Jumanova Saodatkhon emphasises at the end of the visit. ■

> Contact

Julia Jesson > julia.jesson@giz.de



פתרונות
למצוא
להתחייבכדי



ICH WILL
MEIN UM-
FELD MIT-
GESTALTEN

ЦЕНЗУРА



ZENSUR

PROTECTING
THE ENVIRONMENT
IS IMPORTANT TO ME

是重要的
保护环境

我们是人民

WIR SIND
DAS VOLK

نحن
الشعب



TAHRIRPLATZ

ميدان التحرير

DOES MY
VOTE COUNT?



لي صوت في
الانتخابات

我的声音

DIREKTE DEMOKRATIE



ОНЛАЙН-ПЕТИЦИИ

ONLINE PETITION



网信
上访

我们要
各方需

НУЖНЫ
ЛИ НАМ
ПАРТИИ?

BRAUCHEN
WIR PARTEIEN?

أريد دفع الأمور
إلى الأمام

I WANT TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

THEMES

IN FOCUS: Politics is for people: active engagement by citizens is vital for a healthy democracy and sustainable development.

OVERVIEW: Examples of GIZ's work

IN NUMBERS: The many faces of participation

ДЕМОКРАТИЕ КЛАПТ NUR, WENN ALLE MITMACHEN



Politics is for people!

Without active engagement by responsible citizens, democracy cannot flourish and sustainable development is impossible.

Text Friederike Bauer **Illustrations** Vera von Laufenberg, Sabine Schiemann

The momentum of the events took many people by surprise – including Inès Abid. Finally, it took just four weeks – one month – to drive President Ben Ali out of office and out of the country. After decades of dictatorship under Ben Ali and his predecessor Habib Bourguiba, the Tunisian people had had their fill of bad governance, lack of freedom and poor prospects. They rose up and protested with such intensity, and for so long, that the dictator finally had no option but to flee. Medical student Inès Abid was one of those who demonstrated against Tunisia's strongman during those heady December days in 2010. On 14 January 2011, the protestors achieved their goal – more quickly than expected. But even then, Inès did not return to her studies and her old routine, for there was still work to be done. Now 22, she recalls how she had come to appreciate the new freedoms and opportunities for participation. 'We are so lucky to have experienced this moment in history. How could anyone let all that pass them by, without joining in?' she wonders, looking back.

The very next day, Inès joined forces with a group of students in Tunis and founded the 'Young Independent Democrats' (Jeunes Indépendants Démocrates – JID) as an expression of the new mood, but also as a way of engaging actively

with politics. Until then, there had been no freedom of expression and no independent media, no non-governmental organisations worthy of the name, and no political organisations other than those permitted by the government. There was no open exchange or constructive debate. However, modern states need both these things if they are to organise themselves effectively, master the challenges of governance, and take decisions that benefit the people. And suddenly, there was scope for this – and Inès and her fellow students were keen to seize the opportunity. 'I was quite happy to devote a few months of my life to this good cause.'

Paving the way for democracy

Despite what the name might suggest, JID is not a political party but a politically independent civil society organisation. Its aim was not to be voted into the Constituent Assembly but 'to pave the way for, and consolidate, democracy'. Convinced that there was one thing the people of Tunisia needed more than anything – reliable information about the current political events and the plethora of new parties springing up everywhere – the Young Democrats, equipped with mobile phones and laptops, began to collect information on a »



› OFFERING ALTERNATIVES

What kind of world do we want to live in? In democratic societies, this is not just a question for governments. Many ordinary citizens have their own ideas too – like this participant at the World Social Forum in Belém, Brazil in 2009.



› **HAVING A SAY**

In a democracy, every vote counts: a novel experience for many voters in Tunisia's 2011 elections. Now, know that they can actively influence political conditions in their country.

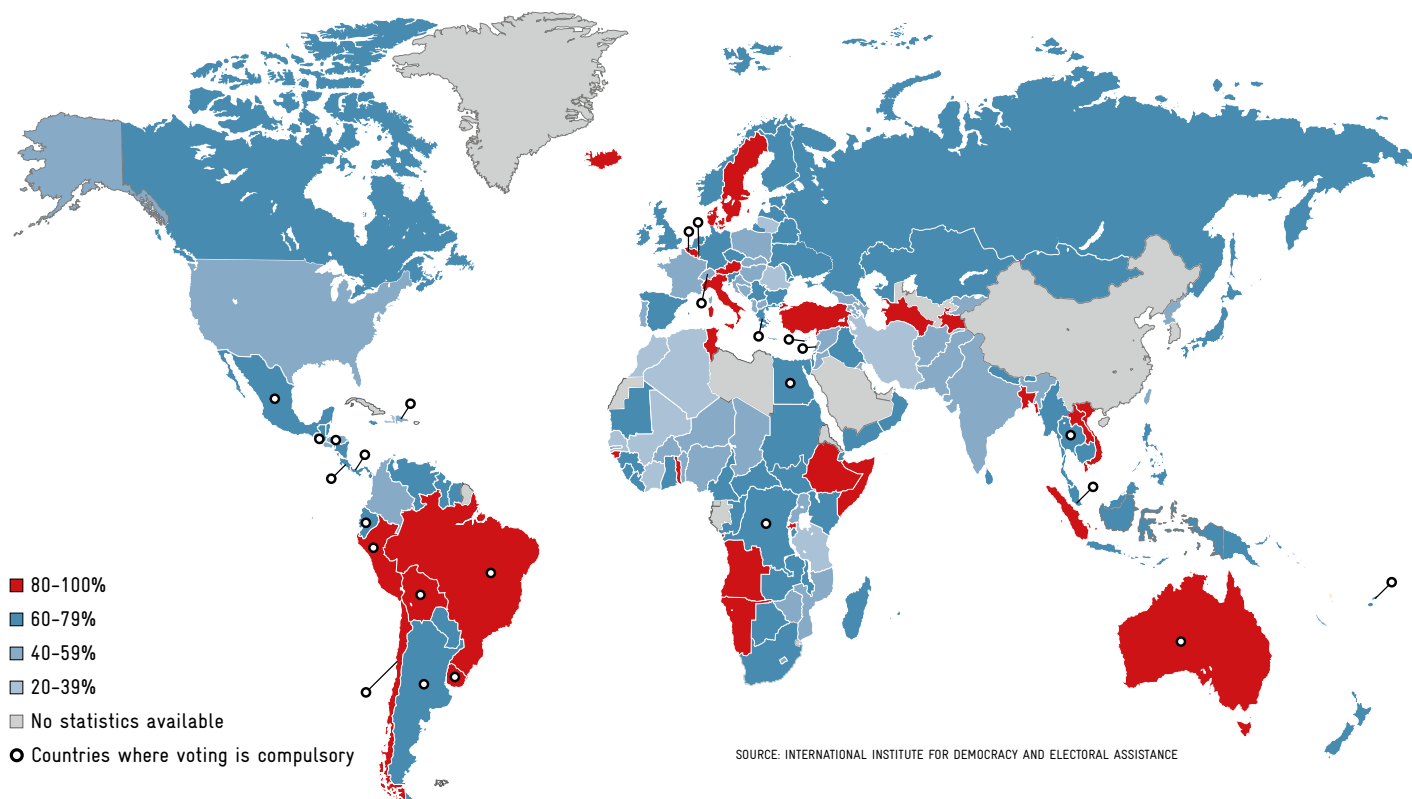
strictly non-partisan basis. They developed a questionnaire that they sent round to the political parties and asked them to provide feedback about their positions and political objectives. ‘Should there be a separation between religion and state?’ was one of the questions. ‘Do we need a strong parliament or a strong president – or both?’ was another. They then collated the information and published it on the internet. Using the set of questions and answers, and with assistance from a committee of experts in governance and politics, they developed an interactive computer programme, based on a German model and with German support. Here in Germany, the ‘Wahl-O-Mat’ service is well-known. It allows voters to choose between various possible answers to a set of questions about their political views, providing instant assistance to voters keen to see which of the political parties is most in tune with their own ideas and expectations. In Tunisia, the system was dubbed ‘ikhtiartounes’, which means ‘Tunisia’s choice’. On behalf of BMZ, GIZ supported the development of the computer programme and the management of the project. ‘It

was an exciting process,’ says Marion Geiss from GIZ’s Tunis Office, but she emphasises: ‘We did not influence the content in any way.’ Instead, Inès and her fellow activists worked through the profusion of new parties and their fledgling manifestos. In many cases, the questions from Inès and her colleagues triggered heated debates within the groups being surveyed. ‘Do we really want the regions to have a greater say? Do we genuinely want women to play as prominent a role in public life as men?’

The Tunisian people have now voted and decided on the composition of the Constituent Assembly. Turnout was close to 90%. The outcome of the elections is not to everyone’s liking, but the fact that the elections took place and were conducted democratically is due in no small measure to people like Inès Abid and her fellow students. With their website, ‘ikhtiartounes.org’, they provided many thousands of Tunisians with valuable information and guidance for the first free elections held in Tunisia since independence from France in 1956. GIZ has now handed over the computer pro- »

VOTER TURNOUT WORLDWIDE

Voter turnout for the most recent presidential and parliamentary elections as a percentage of the voter population.



gramme to the JID – in preparation for the national parliamentary elections, due to take place before the end of 2012. And once again, Inès and her fellow activists have every intention of being involved.

Events in Tunisia and its neighbouring countries are unfolding with breathtaking speed, with the young generation in particular calling for good governance and opportunities for political participation, but a move towards democracy is

‘Beginning with the words “We the peoples”, the United Nations Charter reminds us that crafting solutions to global challenges is a job not only for governments, but for people, communities and civil society.’

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

under way – to a greater or lesser extent – in all the world’s regions. In the last 20 years alone, the United Nations (UN) has provided electoral assistance to more than 100 countries. This ‘growing demand’ faced by the UN sends out a clear message: elections are just as much a part of political life as Facebook is part of the internet. Whether elections are always free and fair is a moot point, although nowadays, the conduct of elections can be monitored and evaluated more effectively using modern communication tools than was previously the case. Nonetheless, even notorious dictators are now recognising that elections are essential, at least as a one-off, to confirm their position of power. And it is vital that elections involve more than mere casting of votes: they should offer a genuine opportunity for lively debates about policy positions and potential solutions, not only among the political elite.

Zambia is a good example. Although it went largely unnoticed by the international community, the recent power shift in Zambia was almost as spectacular as the events in Tunisia. For only the second time since independence in 1964, a peaceful handover of power took place in this southern Afri-

can country, following an election victory for an opposition party. In 2011, after three fruitless attempts, Michael Sata from the Patriotic Front defeated the incumbent president and was elected to the country’s highest office. He had previously contested the 2008 election against Rupiah Banda, but was narrowly defeated by his rival. Sata maintained at the time that electoral fraud had robbed him of victory, but he ultimately conceded defeat. Were his suspicions justified? That never became clear. Nonetheless, there was a general consensus – not only among international observers and donors but also in Zambian civil society – that there should be no room for doubt next time round. And indeed, far more Zambians cast their votes in 2011 than in 2008, when turnout had fallen to a record low of 45%.

Practice makes perfect

It was the non-governmental organisations, first and foremost, which stepped up to the plate. They used the by-elections that routinely take place in Zambia to hone their skills. Under Zambian law, by-elections must be held when a member of the national parliament dies or resigns their party membership. Unlike the situation in Germany, where other candidates automatically step in to fill the vacancy, these mini-elections take place in various constituencies across Zambia several times a year – providing a perfect practice ground for the national elections, as it turned out. Civil society organisations were thus able to focus intensively on building their skills and learning the basics. What are the best methods of informing the public about the candidates’ different positions and, more generally, about electoral values and processes and the benefits they bring? What is the best way of organising in order to obtain the fullest possible picture of events as they unfold on polling day? Practising all these skills in microcosm proved to be invaluable in preparing for the major elections. On behalf of BMZ, GIZ has been implementing a programme to strengthen civil society capacities in Zambia since 2005. Within this framework, it has provided support for a number of civil society organisations and networks over recent years, including the Anti-Voter Apathy Project, Caritas Zambia and the Southern African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, which are engaged in political education and aim to drive the reform process. With Zambia set to hold major national elections – parliamentary and presidential – in September 2011, this group of CSOs, headed by Caritas, joined forces with half a dozen other organisations and formed a network, known as the Civil Society Election Coalition, also supported by Ger- »



› EXERTING INFLUENCE

By voting in referendums, citizens can directly influence political decisions. In 2011, the majority of the Italian electorate voted against the privatisation of the municipal water supply.

man development cooperation and co-financed by Irish Aid. Their motto was simple: by working together, we can achieve more.

And indeed, the voting in 2011 came under rigorous scrutiny: more than 1,500 election observers, including many from the Coalition, flooded the country and kept a very close eye on the events as they unfolded on 20 September. Election monitoring took place in every constituency, with no exceptions. According to GIZ Programme Manager Jörg Holla, 'civil society can undoubtedly take some of the credit' for the transition from Banda to Sata, for 'without its monitoring activities, doubts and conflicts could have arisen again.' As it was, Banda conceded defeat within just 14 hours and handed over the reins to his successor. And as Holla reports, this all happened 'very peacefully'.

The elections themselves are just one – albeit the most obvious – proof of the importance of civil society in Zambia, and indeed elsewhere. They also play a key role in relation to poverty reduction programmes here. For example, a number

of organisations have formed an anti-poverty advocacy network known as 'Civil Society for Poverty Reduction', which among other things undertakes regular monitoring of the quality of delivery of basic services, such as clean water, and whether these services are genuinely reaching the public. Based on its analyses, it makes policy recommendations that are forwarded every six months to the relevant government departments and the media. This creates a basis for constructive dialogue between the public sector and civil society about the best way forward. After all, elections are isolated occurrences – important, admittedly, because they are the framework in which the populace exercises its sovereign power of deciding who should govern, thus legitimising government authority, but elections alone are not enough. 'Free and fair elections are central pillars of a democracy,' says Katrin Schäfer, a planning officer for political participation at GIZ. 'But they do not guarantee the existence of democratic conditions. They are merely an indicator. It is what happens between elections that counts.' In other words, everyday poli-

EXAMPLES OF GIZ'S WORK > POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

>ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

Election monitoring missions



Commissioned by: The European Commission

In order to support democratic elections, the European Commission sends election monitors to Asia, Africa and Latin America. GIZ is the European Commission's contract partner and is responsible for the practical organisation of the missions in-country. One of GIZ's partner companies is responsible for ensuring the safety of the deployed personnel. The European Commission's missions stand out because they not only analyse events as they unfold on election day: they also look at the election campaign and media reporting. GIZ and its partners have already carried out monitoring missions in Angola, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Chad.

>ZAMBIA

Strengthening good governance and participation

Project: Governance, State and Civil Society

Commissioned by: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Overall term: 2005 to 2015

Despite its economic progress, Zambia continues to face major challenges as only a small minority of the population is so far benefiting from the country's growth. Zambia is therefore pursuing a long-term strategy of poverty reduction. In order for this to have any effect, it is essential to ensure that this includes the interests of all sections of the population. On behalf of BMZ, GIZ is assisting various groups within Zambian civil society to form networks, adopt positions on key policy decisions, and, in this way, make a constructive contribution to the political process. An important partner organisation is the Civil Society Election Coalition – a network of various civil society groups that run information campaigns and monitoring missions to support the electoral process. Other organisations review and comment on the Government's development plans or critique decisions adopted by the municipalities.

tics is equally important – and has just as much, if not more, influence over people’s lives. That’s why public participation is an indispensable element of good governance, which means an effective government at the top, to provide decent living conditions, and an engaged civil society at grassroots to ‘shake things up’ and ultimately provide a firm foundation for policy-making.

The term ‘good governance’ clearly shows what it’s all about: it’s about the way in which policies are shaped and formulated and decisions are taken within a polity. It’s about achieving a balance of interests, but it’s also about standards, institutions and procedures that are transparent and comply with clearly defined rules. It’s about freedom, human rights and government accountability, so that every person can live a self-determined life in dignity. The antithesis of good governance is arbitrary governance and torture, a ‘disconnect’ between government and people, and misery. Good governance is dependent on many different factors, such as responsible politicians, a well-performing justice system, an inde-

pendent parliament and media freedom, but also an engaged civil society that plays an active role in social and political affairs and carries out ‘monitoring’ in the best sense of the word. In its literal sense, ‘civil society’ means nothing more than all the non-military elements in a state. This is a somewhat bald and inexact definition, but it does express one thing very clearly: civil society has to do with ‘ordinary’ life, with everyday issues, with people’s normal aspirations and concerns. There is nothing out of the ordinary or elitist, uncommon or rarefied about it. On the contrary, it is quite commonplace. It relates to everyday life, universal concerns, and is inclusive and all-embracing – because it is about civility in the broadest sense. And it is also connected to the concept of ‘civic-mindedness’ – the courage to see things for what they are, speak out and take action.

In political terms, the term ‘civil society’ originates in the thinking of Italian political theorist Antonio Gramsci, who used this term to denote all non-state organisations that influence everyday attitudes and public opinion. Today, it »

›BOLIVIA

Promoting decentralisation



Project: Decentralised governance and poverty reduction support programme

Commissioned by: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Overall term: 2002 to 2012

Bolivia is characterised by a high degree of social, cultural and regional diversity. Its highly centralised system of government took very little account of the interests of rural and indigenous communities. A series of reforms initiated in 1994 broke open this rigidly centralised system that had existed for so long, and redistributed powers and financial resources to various other levels. GIZ is supporting this process on behalf of BMZ, the aim being to achieve more democracy and popular participation and improve the public administration’s transparency, efficiency and effectiveness. To that end, its activities include promoting dialogue between government departments and civil society organisations.

›NEPAL

Creating inclusive structures

Project: Political participation, social inclusion and crisis prevention within the framework of federal governance models

Commissioned by: German Federal Foreign Office

Partner: Secretariat of the Nepalese Parliament

Overall term: 2008 to 2010

The Government of Nepal requested the international community’s support for the reconstruction and stabilisation process and the drafting of a new constitution. On behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office, GIZ provided advisory services to various bodies on the drafting of the constitution and contributed to the debate on issues relating to the future of municipal governance and the strengthening of an independent judiciary in a federal system of government. Associations of municipalities submitted proposals for the inclusion, in the draft constitution, of provisions on the role and powers of local government institutions. Information on constitutional issues, federalism, political participation and social inclusion was provided for the general public, with a particular focus on young people and students.



› **STANDING UP FOR YOUR BELIEFS**

Another way people can participate in political processes is to join a political party and stand up for their beliefs. These men are showing their support for the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy at a rally in Lusaka, Zambia.

generally describes the section of society that is located between the state and the private sector and thus plays an important role in promoting debate and in advocacy. It includes all forms of engagement by citizens that is not profit-oriented or dependent on party politics. The Tunisian student Inès Abid and her fellow students are an almost perfect example of civil society because they have no desire to earn money through their activities and are strictly non-partisan, being independent of political parties. However, identifying and delineating the various groups is not always quite so straightforward. The understanding of what constitutes 'civil society' can also vary from country to country. Clubs, associations, initiatives, social movements, the churches and trade unions are generally assumed to be components of civil society and are seen as essential in building a pluralistic community of engaged citizens and exercising scrutiny of the government. Often, civil society organises itself into non-governmental organisations – the drivers of civil society, as it were, but not encompassing it in its entirety.

Civil society: a driver of change

No matter how it is defined, one thing is certain: civil society is seen as indispensable for a country's development. As a consequence, it has experienced a massive upsurge in popularity over the past two decades. Indeed, some people believe that civil society has become fashionable and 'on trend' because governments are no longer able to solve the complex problems facing the world today without assistance. This applies in international cooperation for sustainable development just as it applies in international politics more generally. There is universal agreement among political observers that without non-governmental organisations, there would be no bans on land mines and nuclear testing; there would be no Kyoto Protocol to protect the climate, no International Criminal Court and – on a highly topical note – no UN organisation dedicated to the empowerment of women (UN Women). It was always the non-governmental organisations that exerted influence, collected information and pooled knowledge, and exerted pressure until their goals were achieved. And it was always the open-minded politicians and diplomats who fully appreciated the expertise and persistence of their civil society 'partners' – despite certain differences of opinion and, occasionally, somewhat long-winded debates. Hans-Peter Kaul, Germany's former chief negotiator in the process leading to the establishment of the International Criminal Court and now a judge at the ICC, is convinced that without civil society's interest and passion, the Interna-

tional Criminal Court would not exist today. There are now more than 13,000 NGOs registered with the United Nations (UN) in New York alone; no one knows how many there are around the world. Nonetheless, the number is increasing. The UN, at any rate, talks about a 'growing role for civil society' in global affairs.

In the context of international cooperation for sustainable development, too, political participation and civil society

'It goes without saying that in a democracy people should be able to decide on and design the kind of home they want to live in.'

Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956), German poet and playwright

are increasingly seen as an expression of good governance. 'Involving civil society is important in all GIZ's projects and programmes, not only in the governance sector but across the board,' says GIZ expert Katrin Schäfer. 'Civil society can help to increase society's acceptance of reforms, and it can also ensure that decision-making takes account of the rights and interests of as wide a cross-section of society as possible.' A fruitful relationship between state and society is therefore both the prerequisite for, and the goal of, sustainable development cooperation.

Bolivia is a good example. Until 1994, this Andean state was one of the most centralised countries in the world. All the key political decisions were taken in La Paz, but had little impact outside the major cities. Rural regions, by contrast, were largely bypassed, receiving very little by way of assistance from the state, least of all any public service provision. Their participation, such as it was, was limited to voting in presidential and congressional elections. And yet the majority of Bolivians – around 60% – lived in rural regions. As Bolivia skidded from one crisis to another, the government introduced a package of comprehensive reforms that aimed to involve the public more fully in political life and thus facilitate implementation of policy decisions. The 'Ley de Participación Popular' (Law of Popular Participation), which came into force in 1994, brought about a seismic shift in Bolivia's political landscape and initiated a transformation process »

that is still ongoing today. Whereas Bolivia previously had 23 administrative divisions (municipios), it now has 337. And everywhere across the country, local and municipal councils meet, and mayors and councillors are elected.

Citizens' oversight

The most significant innovation, however, was the popular participation that accompanied decentralisation. Suddenly, ordinary citizens had the right to have a say and to influence decision-making via 'organizaciones territoriales de base' (local grassroots organisations) and 'comités de vigilancia' (watchdog committees). Although the 'Ley de Participación Popular' is no longer in force and is due to be replaced with new legislation on 'citizen participation and social oversight', the institutionalised right of 'popular participation' (participación popular) is here to stay: in every village and neighbourhood, Bolivians can come together to form organisations in order to demand information and openness from mayors and other office-holders and exercise their right to have a say. In other words, citizen engagement has become part of the country's political culture.

GIZ has facilitated and supported these changes in Bolivia for many years via the 'Decentralised governance and poverty reduction support' programme commissioned by BMZ, which aims to build the capacities of civil society and strengthen its opportunities for political participation. Almost ten years on, Julia Iversen from GIZ in Bolivia is positive about its outcomes: 'Despite all the challenges that result from robust citizen engagement, we have observed that in our project area, social divisions have narrowed wherever people have the chance to be genuinely involved at every stage in the political process – in other words, not only in planning but also in the implementation, oversight and evaluation of policies.' Based on her practical project work in Bolivia, this GIZ expert thus confirms what is now the consensus among the international community: without good governance, a country cannot achieve sustainable development – and without a dynamic civil society, good governance is no more than empty rhetoric, a cliché and a fashionable catchphrase. Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan summed it up back in 1998: 'Democratisation gives people a stake in society. Its importance cannot be overstated, for unless people feel that they have a true stake in society, lasting peace will not be possible and sustainable development will not be achieved.' The international community has repeatedly confirmed this linkage in numerous documents and declarations over recent years, most recently at the Millennium+10 Summit in 2010,

whose outcome document states: 'We acknowledge that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.'

Accordingly, as one of its priority areas, international co-operation for sustainable development focuses on democratisation, civil society and political participation. The programmes vary from country to country, according to local conditions, but all comply with one basic and stringent rule: 'Promoting participation does not mean that external actors try to change the power structures within the country,' says Katrin Schäfer. 'We help to create conditions that promote dialogue between state and civil society and build decision-makers' skills to facilitate participatory policy-making,' Egypt is a good example: here in Tahrir Square – the name means 'Liberation Square' – in the heart of Cairo, now instantly recognisable all over the world, GIZ has created a forum for the young democracy movement. On behalf of BMZ and together with the Goethe-Institut and the German Embassy in Cairo, GIZ opened a 'Tahrir Lounge'. Since April 2011, anyone interested can come here to attend lectures about the new Egypt, participate in training and workshops in areas related to civic engagement, or simply to share their ideas with other people.

'It's all happening!' says GIZ Country Director Roland Steurer, summing up the great interest in the Lounge. 'There is a massive demand and the offer is right.' Indeed, the Lounge has been such a success that a similar forum is now flourishing in Monofeya in the Nile Delta, with two more in preparation in Upper Egypt. It goes without saying that their programmes are not headed by Germans. Instead, a young Egyptian woman working in Cairo is responsible for organising and coordinating the events. Like Inès Abid in Tunisia, she is dedicated to the Arab Spring, giving up her normal life 'to help rebuild my country after the revolution'. So what is she hoping to achieve with her work, she was asked recently. She explained that she wants to awaken the Egyptian people's political awareness and inform her fellow citizens about the linkages between political issues. But ultimately, it is all about 'democracy, democracy, democracy'. And building democracy is something that takes time and commitment. ■

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN FIGURES

67% of Germans trust non-governmental organisations and charities with regard to their action in combating poverty, a view shared by 62% of all EU citizens.

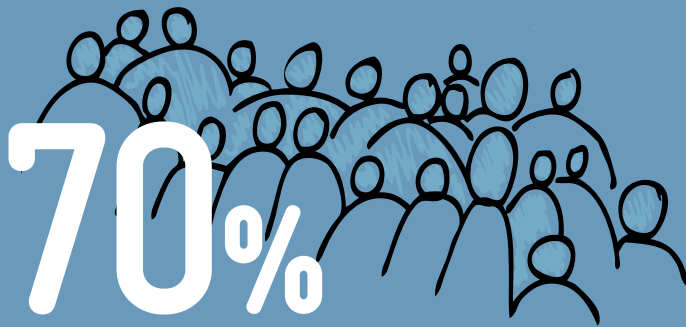
SOURCE: SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 365, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 2010

67%

134,015

134,015 Germans signed an e-petition in 2009 in protest at the Act to Impede Access in Communication Networks, which aimed to block access to websites offering certain types of content – making it Germany's most successful e-petition to date.

SOURCE: PETITIONS COMMITTEE, GERMAN BUNDESTAG



70% of Finnish workers belong to a trade union – more than in any other country.

SOURCE: OECD, 2010

3,382

3,382 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2010, compared with just 40 in 1948. The figure has constantly risen since then. Besides ECOSOC, many other international organisations involve NGOs in their decision-making processes.

SOURCE: ECOSOC



Three million people in Rome protested against the invasion of Iraq in 2003. The demonstration holds the record as the largest ever anti-war rally.

SOURCE: PARTICIPATION: TRENDS, FACTS AND FIGURES, NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS, 2011



94%

94% of the German electorate have voted on at least one occasion or can envisage engaging in this form of political participation, according to a representative survey carried out by TNS Emnid in summer 2011. By contrast, only 30% would consider joining a political party.

SOURCE: TNS EMNID



» Outside view

FOCUSING ON THE COMMON GOOD

The role of civil society and political participation in a functioning democracy

» PROFILE

Petra Roth is the Mayor of Frankfurt am Main and has held this office since 1995. She and her colleague Christian Ude from Munich have presided over the German Association of Cities for the past decade.

Frankfurt has very ambitious plans. One of our major projects is the Culture Campus. The University is vacating its old site, freeing up space that in future can be put to very good use as accommodation for music, dance, acting and other creative arts. This will exert a powerful attraction. This major project will play a key role as we continue to develop our city. We want it to be a showcase district that acts as a model for others: a creative hub with great scope for development, while also setting the environmental bar very high.

As a district, the Culture Campus will combine work, cultural and living space in an innovative way: there will be 'barrier-free' living for senior citizens as well as child-care facilities for young families close by. Sounds too good to be true? On the contrary: the policies being pursued by the City's cabinet, which I head up, are firmly behind this ambitious initiative.

Communication with local citizens is the key: the Culture Campus is a wonderful project

that calls for an innovative approach. That's why we have set up planning workshops, to give long-standing residents and new arrivals alike a forum where they can have a say. There is great interest from local residents, and this clearly shows that they have high expectations of the project's potential. The Culture Campus offers tremendous scope for citizen engagement.

This was not always the case, however. Local residents were quite sceptical in the early days. They were worried that the new space would only attract 'high culture' and that the homes would only be affordable for affluent residents who would be willing and able to pay EUR 15 and more per square metre for their living space. In these early stages of the debate, there was a great deal of talk about 'gentrification'. It was clear to everyone that long-standing residents were worried that their neighbourhood would change beyond recognition and that they had serious concerns about the innovations.

PHOTOS: ALEX KRAUS



Fears of this kind can only be assuaged if citizens themselves can advocate for their ideas about their district's development. This has become apparent in other consultation projects as well. There are two main prerequisites for political participation in a functioning democracy: firstly, citizens' interests should be seen in relation to the good of the community as a whole, rather than in terms of their own particular interests; secondly, if participation is to be

est outside the city, but it is not designed to be a tourist attraction.

The Culture Campus is a showcase project at a time when very many politicians are talking about the 'energy revolution'. There is no shortage of municipal projects that make extensive use of renewable energies – nowadays, energy-saving is right at the top of the municipalities' agenda. This has an important role to play in making the energy revolution promoted by pol-

Frankfurt is building homes that make it possible to experiment with new forms of community living.

Without citizen engagement, a project on the scale of the Culture Campus cannot be realised. As is always the case with major urban infrastructure projects, we cannot make everyone's wish come true, but without the ideas contributed by the local community and people who want to move to the campus in future, these projects simply cannot progress.

The Culture Campus makes it clear that civic society thrives on the practical approach adopted in municipal politics. In the 21st century, more and more people are living in cities. But in Germany's federal system, the role of the cities is not recognised to an adequate extent. That's why in the German Association of Cities, we are firm advocates for the municipalities and insist that they have a say on major policy reform projects such as the energy revolution and housing.

In the cities, politics is close to citizens because its representatives are familiar and accessible. This is a vital resource. In the past, we would have talked about the virtues of 'civic-mindedness'. Today, we say that politics and civil society need passion and commitment from those who serve the community – in the common interest. ■

Politicians must engage seriously in the debate: listening to what citizens want should not be seen as a burdensome duty.

successful, politicians must take the projects under discussion seriously and should not see the consultation with local residents as a burdensome duty.

Both these prerequisites are entirely realistic as long as projects such as the Culture Campus are seen as positive for the City's development as a whole and everyone is clear about their true dimensions. What's more, the Culture Campus has great potential to become very special, attracting interest from people outside the city as well. But Frankfurt is not building the Culture Campus merely as a locational factor, which is what Bilbao has done with the Guggenheim Museum. The Culture Campus has the potential to generate considerable inter-

iticians in Berlin a reality at the local level. On the Culture Campus, heat will be recovered from wastewater, there will be very little need for car parking because car sharing services will be used as a matter of course, and incineration of waste will provide a source of district heating. The energy revolution can only thrive if people see that they can get involved. Nowadays, political engagement is all about good ideas for a better life – and making them a reality.

Before this can happen, however, the third dimension of the Culture Campus must be put in place. Frankfurt is not building on a greenfield site. It has the opportunity to create between 1,200 and 1,500 new homes right here in the city. And these are not ordinary homes.

HIGH-TECH JAPAN

HOW DO WE LEARN? How does human intelligence develop? And what lessons can we learn for future technological developments? These are just a few of the questions being looked into by Dr Joschka Boedecker at the Asada Laboratory, a robotics research facility at the University of Osaka. The researcher is an alumnus of the Heinz Nixdorf scholarship programme to promote the Asia-Pacific experience of young German professionals, implemented by GIZ on behalf of the Heinz Nixdorf Foundation.

Photographer: Julie Platner





The coveted oil is extracted from the palm fruit at Ao Luek oil mill. It is used in the cosmetics and food industries and also processed into biodiesel.

A CLEAN CONSCIENCE

Palm oil has been getting a bad press, since in many areas primeval forest is being cleared to make way for oil plantations. But there is another way. Small farmers in Thailand are showing foresight by practising sustainable cultivation – a growing number of companies now only buy ‘clean’ palm oil.

Text Rolf Obertreis

The side rails can barely contain the load. The red pick-up is full to overflowing. Samdet Jinda is not unduly concerned. He manoeuvres the car towards the bunches of oil palm fruit, piled up into huge mounds outside the Univanich palm oil mill in Ao Luek, 60 kilometres north of the holiday resort of Krabi in southern Thailand. Two of the mill workers drag the bunches from the pick-up’s loading bay using long metal poles. Today Jinda is delivering around 2.8 tonnes of fruit. At six baht per kilo, the mill will pay him around 16,800 baht – around EUR 410. Jinda is happy. His small 20-hectare plantation is in Baan Kaokane, about 20 kilometres from Ao Luek. Each year he supplies around 240 tonnes of palm fruit. That makes Jinda one of the larger smallholders in the region: an average plantation measures four hectares and yields around 60 tonnes of fruit annually.

With an annual income of around EUR 9,000, small farmers who make their living from oil palms in the Krabi region are not badly off, says Daniel May from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). They have the usual status symbols – cars, motorcycles, televisions, mobile phones. The farmers’ prospects are good: worldwide demand for palm oil is growing rapidly, mainly as a result of increasing affluence in emerging markets like China, where food and consumer habits are changing. Demand for sustainable palm oil has also been boosted by climate protection measures and the search for crude oil alternatives. In Thailand, it is the number one feedstock for biodiesel. According to GIZ calcu- »

THAILAND



> THAILAND

Capital: Bangkok
Population: 69.5 million
Urban population: 34.4%
Percentage of people living in extreme poverty: 10.8%
Life expectancy: 74.1 years
Human Development Index ranking: 103 (out of 187)

Source: Human Development Index 2011

AT A GLANCE

- Sustainable palm oil production
- **Commissioned by:** German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
- **Overall term:** 2009 to 2012

BMU uses funding provided by the Climate Initiative to promote the introduction of international sustainability standards in Thai palm oil production and certification for cultivation and processing. 80% of oil palms in Thailand are cultivated on smallholdings. The project cooperates with four oil mills and 1,000 small farmers. The focus is on production management, sustainable growing methods and improving yield. The small farmers also profit from improved health and occupational safety. The methane produced as a by-product of oil extraction is used as fuel and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere. The oil mills have excellent greenhouse gas balances and now meet international guidelines on greenhouse gas reduction. The first sustainability certificates for palm oil from Thailand will be available in the first half of 2012.

👉 www.bmu-klimaschutzinitiative.de/en



1 Many smallholders earn a good living from palm oil. 2 The palm bunches containing the oily fruit are unloaded using long metal poles. 3 Experts advise smallholders on switching to sustainable oil palm cultivation. 4 The valuable oil is extracted from the palm fruit at the mill.

lations, using palm oil cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 60% compared with fossil fuels. And oil palm cultivation in Thailand requires no rainforest clearance. The farmers make use of rice fields that would otherwise lie fallow.

Palm oil doesn't deserve its bad image

In German supermarkets, too, palm oil is omnipresent. Palm oil and palm kernel oil are found in margarine, pizzas, chocolate, candy bars, jelly babies, biscuits and ice cream, not to mention cosmetics, washing powders and detergents. 'Almost half of all supermarket products contain palm oil,' says Daniel May. And the reason is simple: compared with rape seed, sunflower and soya, oil palms are three to four times more productive, yielding around 3.5 to 4 tonnes per hectare. Approximately 51.2 million tonnes of palm oil and palm kernel oil were consumed worldwide in 2010, around 1.3 million tonnes in Germany. The major producing countries are

Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Colombia. Thailand's role is relatively minor, with a share of three per cent.

'Palm oil is not bad oil,' says Martina Fleckenstein of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). But it has a lousy image. And no wonder. Cultivation areas have doubled worldwide since 1990, and in Indonesia they have increased tenfold. Here and in Malaysia, tropical rain forest is still being cleared to make way for oil palm plantations. Elsewhere, valuable farmland is being reassigned and peat bogs on the island of Borneo are being drained, releasing large quantities of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide that they store. The manufacturers of detergents and foodstuffs, cosmetic and face creams, have been under extreme pressure for years as a consequence of this poor image. In 2010, for example, Greenpeace denounced cosmetic products from Unilever and chocolate bars from Nestlé.

In 2004, the WWF set up the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). This volun-

tary association of organisations and companies has established criteria for sustainable production and now provides certification. Today, there are 24 plantations and almost 100 oil mills worldwide that meet the guidelines. Nevertheless, at just 5 million tonnes per year, certified palm oil accounts for not even 10% of annual global consumption. Almost 50 German companies are now RSPO members, including the Aachener Printen- and Schokoladenfabrik Henry Lambertz, Bahlsen, Bayer CropScience, Beiersdorf, Griesson - de Beukelaer, Haribo, Henkel and REWE. Moreover, it is hoped that a Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil will significantly increase the share of sustainably produced palm oil in Germany, thereby forcing a switch to sustainable and certified cultivation in producing countries.

This is the starting point of the project implemented by GIZ in Thailand since 2009 on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). GIZ consultant May and



his 13 mainly local staff advise small farmers on switching to sustainable cultivation. The project forms part of the Climate Initiative, which is financed by revenues from emissions trading. As of 2012, BMU has allocated EUR 3.5 million to this project.

It has long been clear to smallholders like Jinda, as well as to Univanich Managing Director John Clendon, that to ignore sustainable palm oil is to jeopardise their future. As an operation, Univanich is something of a model in this respect. It expands its own plantations using only rice fields abandoned for other reasons. After Viet Nam, Thailand is the world's second-largest rice exporter; it is adjudged by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to be 'food secure' and therefore does not depend on these fields to supply its own population. Univanich helps small farmers with previous experience mainly in rice cultivation to make the switch to palm oil. It also assists former employees to become independent by setting up a small oil palm plantation. The mill also carries out its

own research into higher-yield seeds, which are now sold in ten countries. The methane gas resulting from oil production is used to generate electricity that is fed into the public grid. 'We supplied 2,000 homes last year and cut carbon emissions by 90,000 tonnes,' John Clendon says. 'But we're also concerned with social standards.' In other words, fair wages and good working conditions.

A route to self-employment

Akapir Kamnoo is another of Univanich's suppliers. The 36-year-old stands on his 12-hectare plantation. He has a mobile phone in his hand, a ring on his middle finger, a silver chain around his wrist. Kamnoo doesn't look much like your traditional farmer. 'Nowadays many of them are more like plantation managers,' Daniel May explains. 'Some have a few employees and take on day labourers for the harvest.' Kamnoo proudly holds up a green card. It identifies him as one of the 500 smallholders supported by GIZ. 'I used to work at the mill; today I am my own boss and earn more.' But Kamnoo also knows he has to increase productivity, cut his costs, improve organisation and raise safety. 'We also use less fertiliser. We leave the palm leaves and grass between the palms on the ground to rot.' Kamnoo now knows the best time to harvest, the moment when his palm fruit produce the highest yields.

So far, the costly switch has not resulted in extra income, in part because of the complex written documentation. At best, his 'smallholder' card means he can buy fertiliser at a better price and drive his pick-up directly to the off-loading ramp at the Univanich mill, bypassing the often lengthy queue of vehicles. Kamnoo is aware of the critical discussions going on in Europe about palm oil. More importantly, he knows that without a certificate of sustainable production his opportunities will diminish. As of 2012, Shell Thailand has said it will buy only certified palm oil; from 2015, the Thai food corporations are following suit.

German companies are also among those increasingly turning to 'clean oil' and are prepared to pay a premium for it. Henkel has been using sustainable palm oil for its production of

surfactants for washing powders and detergents since 2008. The company plans to switch over completely by 2015, says Mareike Klein, responsible at Henkel for sustainability. The Bonn-based sweets manufacturer Haribo has adopted a similar strategy, and REWE plans to produce its own brands from late 2012 using only clean palm oil. The required annual volume of 15,000 tonnes will be delivered in separate tanks, with a closed supply chain from palm tree to supermarket shelf.

So far, certified palm oil has made few waves in Germany. Where it has sold at all, this has been as relatively modest accompanying cargoes. For this reason, Henkel is taking the indirect approach and buying certificates for sustainable palm oil. The trading platform Green-Palm has so far passed on worldwide takings totalling USD 14 million to certified oil palm farmers. 'The greater the demand for certificates, the more sustainable palm oil there will be on the market,' says Henkel manager Klein.

Kamnoo is also keen to contribute to the scheme and enjoy the benefits. 'There is no way around certification. But the price has to rise. It should be at least five or ten per cent higher.' He hopes to receive the certificate by mid-2012 at the latest. According to GIZ Project Manager May, the 500 small farmers are to become a model for all oil palm growers in Thailand, as well as for farmers in Asia, Africa and South America. Univanich chief Clendon is also committed to clean oil palm bunches, since it enables him to sell his palm oil more easily and at a higher price. It is a win-win situation: for the small farmers, the environment and climate, the oil mill company Univanich, the image of Henkel, REWE and Co. and even for German consumers. For now they can reach for palm oil products off the supermarket shelf with a clean conscience, safe in the knowledge that with each purchase they are directly supporting the sustainable production of this renewable resource. ■

► CONTACT

Daniel May ›
daniel.may@giz.de



WAY TO GOAT

Germany supports private sector agricultural initiatives in Kenya. In particular, the promotion of producer associations is paying dividends. Figures show that small farmers are more productive and earn more when organised into associations.

Text Michael Netzhammer

The path to Charity Wakiuru Githae's house leaves the road and goes up a gentle slope. Beans, corn and potatoes are growing in the fertile, red soil. To the left of the path are coffee bushes and banana trees. Her house stands amid blooming hibiscus and purple bougainvillea: the open interior is

shielded by a group of close-standing wooden huts. The view from the property looks out over a green, intensively farmed landscape. On a clear day, the country's national landmark, Mount Kenya, can be seen on the horizon. Githae has placed chairs in the shade. She begins to tell her story. 'In the past we

used to have to work in our neighbours' fields if we wanted to earn a little extra money. But now we have built our home. And we can support our son in Nairobi, who has just opened a clothing store,' she explains.

She laid the foundations of this modest prosperity some 17 years ago – with the pur-



❶ Membership of a producer association pays dividends for small farmers. ❷ The associations offer training courses for goat breeders. ❸ The milk produced is for personal use and for sale. ❹ The right feed is important for milk and meat quality.

chase of a goat. Today she keeps four milking goats and four kid goats in small covered wooden pens. She grows the food they need on her own land. 'I sell the milk to my neighbours. But I get most money by selling the young goats,' explains the mother of three grown-up children. A female goat sells for around 15,000 Kenyan shillings, a young male 10,000. That is equivalent to EUR 135 and EUR 90 respectively – not inconsiderable sums, particularly as she can sell six young animals per year.

Know-how for breeders

Most of what Githae knows about keeping goats, feeding them and protecting them from disease she learned at workshops run by the Dairy Goat Association of Kenya.

The association's President, Julius Kang'ee, travelled with George Waroga Kamau of the Ministry of Livestock Development to Central Province. The Dairy Goat Association, explains Kang'ee, organises farmers into small groups, runs regular training sessions, maintains a network of vets and provides assistance with marketing. 'Most of all, though, we support farmers with the job of rearing goats. We register the animals and provide breeding males,' the former teacher explains. He puts the successful operation and financial independence of the Dairy Goat Association down to the support of the Kenyan-German development programme 'Private sector development in agriculture'. This programme brings together the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries Development and Livestock Development,

breeders' associations and companies. German involvement is carried out by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

'Agriculture is the basis of the Kenyan economy. It employs around 70% of the entire population,' says Kamau. But the potential is far from exhausted. The aim of the programme is to develop this potential further, placing particular emphasis on eight products: goats, potatoes, sweet potatoes, mangoes, passion fruit, fish, poultry and beef.

Each product requires a separate strategy. Higher income for farmers and producers is not just a question of how much they produce. Farmers must also consider how they process, store, transport and market their products. »



Charity Wakiuru Githae has achieved modest prosperity from her small goat farming business. She receives support with marketing her products from the goat breeders' association.

Losses, whether during harvesting or transportation, must be minimised; better marketing improves sales prospects. All this benefits not just the small farmers and processing plants: 'If farmers produce more and ensure less food goes to waste, we improve the food supply for the rest of the population,' says GIZ Project Manager Andrea Bahm in Nairobi.

To achieve this, however, it is also necessary to change the economic and political framework for agricultural products. The private sector also needs strengthening. 'And that can only be done if we develop the skills of farmers and small entrepreneurs, and at the same time ensure they get the required support,' says Andrea Bahm. Take dairy goats, for

example. How do breeders protect their dairy goats from parasites? What feed do they need? How can they market the milk more effectively? And where does goat breeder Githae turn to for help when her animals fall ill?

Breeders require regular training and need to know that immediate assistance is available in an emergency. Training individual farmers would be too costly, however. So the programme helps to organise farmers into cooperatives or self-help groups and provides support for associations – on condition that they are able to advise and train members appropriately. Associations are required to finance themselves through members' contributions and service charges. The

results speak for themselves: goat breeding has created many informal jobs in feed production and preparation, for example, as well as in milking, mucking out and sales. What is more, goat farmers grouped into associations earned around EUR 7.5 million more than in previous years – equivalent to over EUR 550 per farmer.

New breeding methods and good husbandry boost success

Of course, getting to this point was a lengthy process, says Julius Kang'ee of the Dairy Goat Association. 'The goats used to roam wild, the animals suffered from parasites, produced little milk, breeding was completely disorganised and we lacked the knowledge and the proper methods.'

The progress is discernible in Githae's goats. Like all members, the 48-year-old keeps her livestock in partially covered, elevated wooden pens. 'The pens allow the urine to run off and my goats no longer have to lie on the ground,' she explains. In addition, the breeder ensures they get a balanced diet, she deworms her animals every three months and trims the goats' hooves. She learned all these skills at seminars organised by the association. 'That's why our members' animals fall ill less often – and if ever they do, Charity can use her mobile phone to call one of our trained veterinarians,' Kang'ee explains.

The fact that the goat farmers today earn more is also down to the breeding. Kenyan dairy goats typically produce no more than half a litre of milk per day. 'That's why we started importing Alpine goats with German support back in the 1990s and cross-bred them with Kenyan goats,' the president explains. Today's average daily milk yield is by Kenyan standards a very healthy two to three litres. Some animals produce as much as five litres per day. Each litre fetches between 35 and 65 Kenyan shillings (EUR 0.30–0.60) in rural areas and up to 155 shillings (EUR 1.40) in Nairobi.

Sustainable animal breeding requires that there is no interbreeding of livestock

from the same families to avoid the spread of genetic defects. At the same time, a controlled programme of breeding increases the animals' milk yield. For this reason the association has drawn up a genealogical register. It also organises goat farmers into self-help groups. Each group is responsible for buying a male goat, with the association using the relevant genealogical information to determine which group gets which male. The association charges its member an annual flat fee to cover the services it provides.

Githae must also pay for registering her animals, vets visits and training sessions. And for each goat sold, the 48-year-old hands over 10% of the sale price to the association. 'Thanks to these fees and contributions from our members we are independent of state subsidies, which means we can maintain and re-invest in our services,' says Kang'ee. So far the association has 13,000 members. But there are still around 934,000 unaffiliated goat farmers in Kenya. That's why Kang'ee is keen to expand into other provinces. The aim of the work of the association is to increase milk production, for only then will the dairy farmers be able to tap into markets such as Nairobi. Kang'ee sees great opportunities in this respect. But the challenges are also daunting: milk has to be collected, processed under sterile conditions and transported.

Entrepreneurial prospects for goat farmers

Not all dairy farmers share this vision. Githae only wants to keep as many goats as she is able to feed herself. David Riua Kabui, on the other hand, is excited at the idea. The 28-year-old lives a few kilometres away. He started farming goats in 2000 and used his income to finance training at a further education college. 'My target is to have 100 goats,' he says. In order to provide feed for so many animals he has already started shredding, fermenting and storing forage maize. 'This means I can feed the animals faster and all year round,' the young man explains. In the dry months there is a shortage of fresh fod-

der. His aim now is to gradually increase the size of his herd. He can already see the way his future is shaping up. 'One hundred goats would produce enough milk to make it worthwhile delivering to larger towns – and

for that I would need to invest in a four-wheel-drive pick-up.' ■

> CONTACT

Andrea Bahm > andrea.bahm@giz.de

KENYA



> KENYA

Capital: Nairobi
Population: 41.6 million
Urban population: 22.5%
Percentage of people living in extreme poverty: 19.7%
Life expectancy: 57.1 years
Human Development Index ranking: 143 (out of 187)

Source: Human Development Index 2011

AT A GLANCE

- Private Sector Development in Agriculture
- **Commissioned by:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- **Partner:** Ministry of Agriculture
- **Overall term:** 2003 to 2013

Farms and the agricultural industry generate roughly half of Kenya's gross national product. The most important export products are tea, vegetables, cut flowers and coffee. And yet annual growth in the agricultural sector needs to be a lot higher if it is to make significant improvements to the alarming conditions of impoverished rural populations. Many farmers lack the know-how to improve their yields and have no access to the market. In addition, high population growth is increasing the pressure on natural resources. Soil fertility is declining, deforestation and erosion continue as before. On behalf of BMZ, GIZ adopts a broad-based advisory approach to improving the state regulatory framework for the agricultural sector and for private sector initiatives, with a view to creating jobs and boosting income for small and medium-sized operations and their employees. It also promotes the introduction of ecologically sustainable growing and processing methods in agriculture, as well as measures to improve access to regional and international markets. Other advisory approaches focus on the use of biogas, the introduction of fuel-efficient firewood stoves, potential increases in productivity and production and transport costs.

All initiatives are underpinned by a market-oriented, holistic development approach, which systematically takes into consideration all actors and all goods and services flows in a given value chain and involves the private sector through development partnerships (PPPs).

CAJAMARCA'S BIG CHANCE

Smallholders in Peru are bringing to market a little-known orchard fruit. Tara is in great demand as an ingredient in the food industry and in the natural leather tanning process. But if tara is to bring prosperity to its growers, it needs to be farmed sustainably.

Text Peter Korneffel



Although unprepossessing as a fruit, tara is extremely versatile. And it provides Peruvian smallholders with a very welcome additional source of income.

It is Wednesday afternoon on a street corner in San Marcos, Cajamarca Province, the 'land of thorns' in northern Peru. The tin rollerblind of the house on the corner is open. Inside, young men gently slide heavy sacks off their shoulders onto the weighing scales. They relax a moment until the red numbers in the display have performed their light show. Then they heave the sacks onto their shoulders again and climb a wooden ladder onto the enormous loading bay of the articulated lorry from Lima. By nightfall the men will have climbed the ladder over 300 times. According to Isabel Machuca's calculations, that

is. The sales assistant at the local 'Asociación de Productores de Tara', the association of tara producers, sits on a sack near the entrance, keeping an eye on the loading process and the scales, a pocket calculator and notebook on her lap. 'We'll load around 23 tonnes of tara today. We're currently getting around 120 soles per hundredweight. That's not bad.' 120 soles are equivalent to almost EUR 35. That means tara is fetching ten times the amount it was just a few years ago. Today it represents a new source of income for 20,000 small farming families in Cajamarca, where for decades the statisticians have been record-

ing depressing poverty rates in excess of 50%. But in sleepy San Marcos, a small town that doesn't make it into the pages of any tourist guide, something exciting is happening: thanks to tara, the livelihoods of people in Cajamarca are about to take a turn for the better.

Tara is an unprepossessing legume that grows in the Andes. At one time, there were whole forests of tara in western South America; today, these shrub-like trees border the fields of the potato and cereal farmers. The trees' leaves are similar in shape to those of the ash, the blossom is small and white, the »



AT A GLANCE

- Sustainable Rural Development
- **Commissioned by:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- **Partner:** Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI)
- **Overall term:** 2003 to 2015

Natural resources in the rural regions of Peru are rarely used sustainably and often destroyed. Other than agriculture, few alternative sources of income exist. The situation is exacerbated by climate change and natural disasters. 60% of the population are classed as living below the poverty line. On behalf of BMZ, GIZ supports Peruvian regional governments and authorities in developing and implementing strategies geared to the sustainable management of natural resources. In addition, in the regions of Piura, Cajamarca, Amazonas and San Martín, elements of smallholder production are being integrated into domestic and export markets. These measures have directly benefited 1,500 producers to date.

GIZ trains experts in the management of conservation areas and bio-corridors, in adaptation to climate change and in environmental communication and education.

pods – before they turn brown and dry – are bright orange. The seeds resemble lentils.

Maria Elena Rubio Leiba grows tara and is also one of ten buyers belonging to a farmers’ cooperative in the remote rural community of Limapampa. As late as the first week of October she is out bringing in the last tara harvest from her small plot of land. ‘In the past we used tara as a cure for flu, and the powdered seeds were known to heal open wounds,’ the farmer recalls. Using a long bamboo stick, she knocks the sun-dried pods to the ground. ‘My father was a shoemaker. He used tara to tan cow hides. Then one day we heard that people in San Marcos were buying tara.’ She bends down to gather hundreds of pods into her sheets. ‘So we used to borrow donkeys at harvest time. The paths here were terrible. In San Marcos they paid us 3 soles for a quarter of a hundredweight.’ Today tara is the only fruit Rubio Leiba sells. Everything else grown on the terraces of her ‘chacra’ is for use by herself and her family: potatoes, corn, yucca and whatever the small vege-

table garden and solitary cow can produce. Maria Ana Rubio Cerdán is Rubio Leiba’s aunt. Already 78 years old, she lives in the neighbouring village of Paucamarca and can still remember in precise detail the formula used by her husband to tan leather: ‘First you have to buy lime. You wash the leather for a month until it is bleached. Then you make a brew using the tara. You soak the leather in this brew for two or three days. And then you repeat the process twice.’

Occasionally you still come across tara tanners in the area around San Marcos. One of the last is 67-year-old José Estanislao Melendez. He pulls a dubious-looking rag from an earthenware pot. He has his own recipe for extremely strong leather: ‘I leave the leather in the lime for eight days before giving it another eight days in the cold tara brew.’ Behind the house, he demonstrates his use for the tanned leather. Two oxen stand stoically on the edge of the field, joined at the shoulder by

turers. It is anti-allergenic, impregnating and biodegradable. As antioxidants, the tannins and gallic acid derived from them are also used as preservatives in food, suncreams and medicines. They also help build up the body’s natural immunity to viruses and bacteria. In addition, tara gum is a popular, neutral-tasting thickening agent used in food.

Preserving diversity, keeping traditions alive

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ has been helping farmers’ cooperatives in the Cajamarca region to produce and market local products such as tara since 2007. One objective of the Peruvian-German Sustainable Rural Development programme is to use regional products sustainably, with a view to preserving not only biodiversity, but also knowledge of traditional processing methods.

The advisory services provided are embedded in the national Perúbiodiverso project, co-financed by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), with the Peruvian Ministry for Foreign Trade and Tourism as the lead executing agency. Perúbiodiverso aims to improve turnover and profitability for companies and producers that observe sustainability standards where the trade in local agricultural produce is concerned.

The project is also benefiting the tara growers in San Marcos. For example, it has been found that lacewing larvae offer a successful organic approach to combating butterfly parasites. Tree care and organic fertilisation at the start of the rainy season also help improve yields. And thanks to Perúbiodiverso, there are now even nurseries for the indigenous tara tree. Smallholders who have acted on advice provided by the producer association have already increased yields by 50%. And business is booming: importers for tara grown in Cajamarca are based in China, Argentina and Europe. The markets are showing dynamic growth. In 2010 Peru, the world’s only tara exporter, processed around 9,000



Tara trees belong to the same family as the carob. They form elongated pods in which the seeds are stored.

a heavy yoke to create a sturdy working team. And Melendez would be hard pressed to find a better way of securing the yoke to the horns of the oxen than with his own tanned leather straps. Leather straps for yoking a team of oxen is unlikely to create waves in today’s market. But the natural tannin found in tara pods is increasingly finding buyers among modern leather manufac-



❶ Isabel Machuca from the association of tara producers keeps a close eye on deliveries. ❷ Maria Blasina has been selling tara in her shop for three years. 'Our takings have never been as good as they are today,' she says. ❸ José Estanislao Melendez is one of the last tara tanners in the Cajamarca region.

tonnes of the fruit and exported it in the form of tara gum and the transparent gel derived from the endosperm of tara seeds for USD 43 million. This gel or gum is in great demand and currently commands prices up to USD 6,800 per tonne.

Isabel Machuca from San Marcos knows this well. She is still using her pocket calculator to tot up the weight of sacks for the heavy cargo destined for Lima. The tara in the articulated lorry is now almost man-high. In the building diagonally opposite sits Victor Quiroz, sales manager of the tara producers' association. Every truck that starts up its engine for the 18-hour trip across the Andes to Lima is music to his ears. But he is not entirely

happy with the current arrangement, since the biggest turnover from this natural product is generated not by the producers but by the wholesalers and exporters in the capital.

'There are only three companies worldwide that process tara on an industrial scale, and just one company that makes the special machinery required,' Victor Quiroz explains. Until a few years ago, the producers in San Marcos operated their own tara mills. But it was not cost effective. 'Today, although 2,000 families sell their tara to us, it usually amounts to a few sacks,' says Victor Quiroz. 'But we would have to be collecting 2,000 tonnes of tara to make it worthwhile buying our own machine to extract tara gum.' The aim of the

producer association is to cut out the middleman and export directly. Then the farming families of Cajamarca would enjoy much higher profits from their tara trees.

The tara producers have already succeeded in boosting profitability with the help of technical advisors from the Peruvian-German Sustainable Rural Development Programme. Now Victor Quiroz is looking forward to the next step: direct export. That would be a sensation for the entire region – and could become reality in just two or three years. ■

➤ CONTACT

Roberto Duarte > roberto.duarte@giz.de



Wolfgang Zimmermann values the creativity and opportunities for international exchange at the Zschortau location.

OUT AND ABOUT

A PLACE OF CHANGE

AS WOLFGANG ZIMMERMANN opens the door to the conference building of the International Training Centre Leipzig-Zschortau, it is obvious how comfortable he feels in this place. 'For me, Zschortau is a special world that offers peace for concentrated work and creativity,' explains the man with a PhD in geography. Each year, the training centre is visited by around 450 experts and managers from developing and emerging countries, who come to take part in a wide range of training courses on international cooperation. Transformation and integration are the key concepts that have most shaped the centre throughout its history: what started out in the 1960s as an agricultural engineering college in the GDR developed into an international further education institute. Although Leipzig-Zschortau is today a GIZ location, the experiences of German reunification - in particular the shift in values and democracy-building it brought - are still tangible. Zimmermann's great desire is that Leipzig-Zschortau will also experience changes in the years ahead. His hope is that the centre will not just be open to experts from GIZ partner countries, but will also become a place of learning for company staff.

Anna Friedemann visited Wolfgang Zimmermann in Zschortau.



GIZ has 18 locations in Germany. One of these is Zschortau in Saxony. The training centre here is seen as a symbol of unified German international cooperation.



Wolfgang Zimmermann of the International Training Centre opens the doors to the conference building, once a stately home.

ONE QUESTION, FIVE PEOPLE

WHAT CAUSES DO YOU SUPPORT?

Political participation begins at home. Five members of GIZ staff talk about personal causes they actively support on a daily basis.

1

PETER BOLSTER
is responsible for the renewable energies project in Cambodia.



Intercultural exchange

Whenever I can, I try to promote artistic exchange between the cultures. Where language is left wanting and politics, religion and social norms create only divisions, pictures, sculptures and music can bring people together.

KATRIN SCHÄFER
is a planning officer for political participation and advised on content for the IN FOCUS article.



Tolerance and a pleasant environment

I want to live in a tolerant society and in a city in which my mobility requirements are not met at the expense of clean air and less noise. That's why in recent years I've got involved in local politics, although at the moment I'm finding it difficult to play an active role.

2

3

PÉTER SZUSZÁN-SPANGENBERG
was appointed Administrative Director at the GIZ Office in Afghanistan in 2012.



Non-profit causes

I support non-profit organisations which address social issues that are important to me. A few years ago I helped support asylum seekers who had come to Germany to find a new home. More recently, I've been concerned with the financial crisis and have taken part in several events in Frankfurt.

OLGA KÜHNBACH
is a personnel officer in the GIZ Leadership Development Section of the Human Resources Department.



My neighbourhood

Social interaction is important to me. That's why I regularly take part in meetings on local political decisions and volunteer occasionally for clean-up campaigns. I also make a point of shopping at smaller, long-established retailers rather than chains and department stores.

4

5

CLAUDIA FREUDIGMANN
is a senior planning officer in the Good Governance and Human Rights Division.



My children's future

Participation in the decision-making process starts at home. I'm trying to bring up my children to be responsible and involved members of the community and to have the courage to say what they believe. A good education also involves learning about politics to some extent and is not unlike the advisory services we provide for young people in the partner countries.

BUSINESS KNOW-HOW FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

sequa gGmbH was an initiative of the German private sector. The non-profit company's focus is on sustainable global development. Which explains why, almost two years ago, GIZ acquired a share in sequa.

Text Gabriele Rzepka

GIZ

ZDH

SEQUA

BDA

BDI

DIHK

Twenty years ago, Hanns-Eberhard Schleyer and Franz Schoser had the visionary idea of combining state development cooperation with business-sector institutions – in other words, with chambers and associations. At the time Schleyer was Secretary General of the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (ZDH), and Schoser Secretary General of the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK). They set up a non-profit company – sequa gGmbH – which was to act as a hinge between development cooperation and the private economy. GIZ has owned a 49% stake in sequa* since 1 January 2010. With that, the original vision of the two founders is also now reflected in the company structure.

Competence across four areas

The founding organisations and GIZ are joined by the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA). As such, sequa represents 4.6 million German companies, 133 chambers, a large number of associations and over 800 supra-company educational institutions. The founders' idea, with the help of German partners from this network, was to promote self-regulatory bodies in the private sector in developing countries and emerging economies, to train experts and managers there and to help improve living and working conditions for as many people as possible. sequa pools the required know-how from within its network and implements projects in the following four areas.

The work of business chambers and associations

Over the years, sequa has built a global reputation in the international cooperation market for its organisational development and performance improvements at chambers and associations. The company is the implementing

agency for the Chamber and Associations Partnership Programme (KVP) funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

'We use pooled know-how and tailor our projects precisely to the needs of our local partners,' says Managing Director Gebhard Weiss. But the initiative for new projects comes directly from German chambers and associations

looking to get involved in BMZ partner countries. For example, the Cologne chamber of trade and commerce is in contact with a chamber organisation in Burkina Faso that urgently wants to develop better organisational structures. Weiss explains the role played by sequa as follows: 'We draft and present an application for BMZ support based on the project idea submitted by the Cologne chamber. Once it has »

KAZAKHSTAN

OPPORTUNITY FOR SMEs

Kazakhstan's aspiring small and medium-sized businesses need entrepreneurial know-how, but also political support. GIZ and sequa are helping to provide both.

Kazakhstan's economic upturn is based on its expanding oil industry and abundance of natural resources. In the last 15 years, however, many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have also sprung up. For these operations, competition is growing steadily, as are the demands made on the organisation and marketing of products. Yet the country's economic and institutional framework has until now been acting as a brake on their development.

As part of the Development of Business Support Structures project, sequa collaborated with GIZ to improve conditions for small and medium-sized enterprises in four pilot regions. With help from the project, for example, the companies organised preliminary interest groups. Chambers and associations were able to establish appropriate structures for their work. With the help of German economic experts, they developed appropriate services for small and medium-sized enterprises in Kazakhstan. This included support for start-up companies and foreign trade promotion. The Kazakh entrepreneurs took part in study tours in



Small business owners have for years felt little benefit from the economic upturn in Kazakhstan.

order to gain experience of the instruments used in Germany to promote the regional economy and to learn how dialogue between state and private sector is structured. In addition, sequa promoted a political exchange and cooperation between associations, entrepreneurs and politicians in Kazakhstan. At round table events, participants drew up proposals to improve policies for small and medium-sized companies. The success of these initiatives is clear to see: today, local chambers, associations and consulting companies are volunteering their services to small and medium-sized companies.

* Foundation for Economic Development and Vocational Training

been approved, we act as a contact for the chamber in Cologne and BMZ.'

Private sector development

A dynamic, functioning private sector is the basis for economic growth and sustainable development. It is a principle to which both GIZ and sequa subscribe. And their activities complement one another well, as Gebhard Weiss explains: 'In our projects, we help associations and chambers in our partner countries to actively represent the interests of their members at regional, national and municipal level to enable business to develop.' In addition, sequa, along with GIZ and the Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG), also implements development partnerships with the private sector as part of BMZ's develoPPP.de programme.

Vocational training

The chambers of skilled trades, industry and commerce evolved in Germany over the centuries from the guilds and mercantile communities. They had a decisive influence on vocational education in Germany as we know it today. A vocational training model was created in which the state, companies, unions and chambers were all equally involved. Today sequa exports this know-how. Experts and managers from the chambers, their member companies and training centres develop curricula, advise educational institutions, and offer training for vocational school teachers, trainees and trainers in other countries.

Social dialogue

With the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA) on board, sequa also provides support for in-company and supra-company negotiation processes between social partners in developing countries and emerging markets. sequa experts act as mediators in discussions on free collective bargaining, employees' participation rights and occupational safety regulations. sequa also provides its expertise as a service to international clients. Any money earned benefits the real core

KYRGYZSTAN

TRAINING WITH A FUTURE

A formal education is the best start to a successful future career. That's why sequa and GIZ in Kyrgyzstan support the introduction of a binding training and examination system.

The Kyrgyz Government has set itself the objective of combating unemployment and developing vocational opportunities for young people in particular. If young people are to have a future, their training qualifications must be recognised by state vocational education institutions, the private sector and society.

So on behalf of GIZ, sequa has been advising local partners such as the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Migration and the State Agency for Vocational Education and Training, the Chamber of Trade and Industry and vocational training institutions on the introduction of a certification model for vocational education since June 2011. In addition to examination regulations for initial vocational training, guidelines for examiners and trainees must be drawn up in order to give vocational education a binding structure. So that employers recognise the qualifications, the project directly involves local businesses in the process. In future, they will also take part in examining trainees. sequa experts also draw up regulations for the skilled workers' examinations in such a way as to make them comprehensible and transparent for employers.

Through all these measures, sequa sup-



The quality of training has a major influence on the employment prospects of trainees.

ports the state body for accreditation and certification of vocational education, developed by GIZ in a programme geared to vocational training and employment promotion. This involves representatives of the government, the private sector and civil society and is tasked with safeguarding the management quality of vocational schools and the relevant examination system. To this end, GIZ and its partners are developing standardised procedures and methods in line with European models. sequa is responsible for the aspects of certification procedures and examination regulations.

School graduates with recognised vocational qualifications have a much better chance of finding a job that corresponds to their training and requirements.

business, says Gebhard Weiss: 'We don't make any profit. We use the income to part-finance projects for which international donors provide only a certain percentage of the total funding.' ■

 www.sequa.de

RECOMMENDED READING

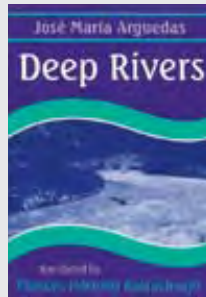
WORLD LITERATURE



A BUILDING SPECULATOR offers a large sum of money to drive the occupants of Vishram Society out of their apartment block. Only Masterji, an elderly teacher, attempts resistance – but his efforts are in vain. Shrewd, acerbic, immensely entertaining and in images made for the big screen, the Booker Prize-winning author describes criminal wheelings and dealings in the economic wonderland of India and the dark underbelly of the glittering megacity that is Mumbai.

Cornelia Zetzsche, literary editor at Bayerischer Rundfunk

Aravind Adiga, Last Man in Tower. Atlantic Books. ISBN 9781848875173



JOSÉ MARÍA ARGUEDAS achieves here something quite unique: in his story tracing the initiation of the boy Ernesto, he summons up the native Indian and hybrid cultural universes of Peru in a way that leaves their pulsating unfamiliarity intact. A deeply moving, almost forgotten masterpiece, which reveals the author's deep affection for the Quechua culture and the natural environment of his homeland.

Iliya Trojanov, writer, translator and publisher

José María Arguedas, Deep Rivers. English translation by Frances Horning Barraclough. Waveland Pr Inc. ISBN 9781577662440



CAPE TOWN is the meeting point for competing secret services and rival terrorist groups, the established elite and latest crisis profiteers, organised crime and very private felons. South African Deon Meyer writes crime novels of such sophistication that they attract even readers who normally profess no interest in crime fiction. 'Trackers' is his masterpiece.

Karl-Markus Gauß, writer

Deon Meyer, Trackers. Translated from the original Afrikaans by K. L. Seegers. Atlantic Monthly Press. ISBN 9780802119933

👉 www.litprom.de litprom – the Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature – provided the reviews for akzente. The titles were selected from litprom's 'Weltempfänger' list of best new novels.

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Productive Use of Energy – PRODUSE. A Manual for Electrification Practitioners. Available in English.



Cooperation with the Private Sector – Promotion Programmes. International Survey. Available in English.



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ON EQUAL TERMS

50 years of BMZ

ANNIVERSARY On 14 November 1961, Walter Scheel was appointed the first Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany. German development policy has changed a lot since then, but has also remained loyal to many ideas from the early days, such as forming partnerships with developing countries that are based on equal terms and rooted in political and social consensus. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) believes that development is the best form of investment in a more peaceful, equitable and free world.

The book 'Auf Augenhöhe' (on equal terms) sums up the past 50 years of German development policy. It analyses continuities and changes in BMZ's work and the political context, and contains interviews with contemporaries, in-depth articles and project examples.



Auf Augenhöhe, 50 Jahre Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung 1961-2011. By Sebastian Harnisch and Siegmund Schmidt. Editor: Dr Rolf Steltemeier, 2012, 206 pages, hardback, ISBN 9783832972448, EUR 39.00



DRIVING TRANSFORMATION

GIZ'S 2012 ESCHBORN DIALOGUE will turn the spotlight on the role of cities as global players. Wherever we look in the world, urbanisation brings with it considerable challenges – from climate change and the use of natural resources to migration and the growing gap between rich and poor. But cities also hold the solutions to global problems such as how we can transform societies and achieve greater sustainability.

Today cities generate more than 80% of global economic output, but they also account for some 75% of CO₂ emissions. Over half the world's population lives in cities, and this is set to rise. Urban centres are where the stage is being set for global change, with cities now engaging as actors at national and international level

and helping to drive transformation. Economic, political, social and ecological developments are becoming increasingly intermeshed.

How can actors in international cooperation support such complex processes? How can we do more to offer integrated solutions and bring about more sustainability? Some 400 professionals from the realms of politics, business and civil society will meet with GIZ experts in Eschborn to discuss the theme 'Driving transformation – the city as a global player' from the perspective of international cooperation.

The Eschborn Dialogue will take place on 5 and 6 June 2012.

www.giz.de/eschborn-dialogue

PREVIEW

akzente issue 02/2012

DRIVING TRANSFORMATION Issue 02/2012 of akzente will focus on the theme of the 2012 Eschborn Dialogue, 'Driving transformation'. In four reports, we provide insight into projects in GIZ's partner countries. And in the 'background' section, we take a look at the work of our 'regional centres' in Germany.



PHOTO: DIRK OSTERMEIER

AUTHORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



Friederike Bauer is a freelance writer on international politics and cooperation. For *akzente* she wrote the article on political participation.



Anna Friedemann works for GIZ Corporate Communications. She visited the GIZ International Training Centre in Zschortau.



Peter Korneffel is a Latin America reporter and Alexander-von-Humboldt expert. In Peru he 'discovered' the tara plant. www.korneffel.de



Bernd Kubisch works for the dpa in Berlin and reports for GIZ on the EU's Central Asia Drug Action Programme.



Michael Netzhammer is a freelance journalist specialising in development topics. In this issue he reports on dairy goats in Kenya.



Rolf Obertreis is economics correspondent for a wide range of media. For *akzente*, he researched the topic of sustainable palm oil production in Thailand.



Dirk Ostermeier is a freelance photographer. For this issue he photographed Kenyan dairy goats – and their owners.



Gabriele Rzepka is a freelance journalist specialising in development policy and technology. In this issue of *akzente*, she explains the sequa business model.

AKZENTE

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• Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40, D-53113 Bonn, Tel.: +49 228 44 60-0, Fax: +49 228 44 60-17 66

• Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5, D-65760 Eschborn, Tel.: +49 61 96 79-0, Fax: +49 61 96 79-11 15

Dorothee Hutter, Corporate Communications

Email: akzente@giz.de

Internet: www.giz.de/akzente

Officer responsible: Daniele Lovens, Head of Corporate Image (GIZ)

Content concept and editing: Wolfgang Barina (executive editor), Daniele Lovens, Sofia Shabafrouz, Dr Felix Sommer (GIZ); Karsten Fiehe, Dagmar Puh (muehlhausmoers corporate communications)

Consultant for the IN FOCUS article: Katrin Schäfer (GIZ)

Design concept: Sumi Teufel (GIZ)

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It's daybreak, and voters are already standing in line to vote in South Africa's 2009 parliamentary elections. In a democratic system of governance, elections are the most important mechanism for citizens' participation – but they are by no means the only one. Referendums, involvement in local politics, and participation in demonstrations and campaigning are other ways in which the general public can influence the political process.