

The GIZ Magazine

akzente

Europe

Building a common future

OTHER TOPICS:

Education: What is drawing young Malaysians to Germany?

Economy: How specialists are opening doors in Chile

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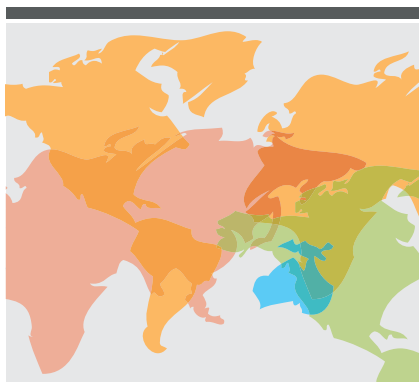




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giz COMPANY PROFILE

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH offers sustainable and effective solutions for political, economic and social change processes. GIZ is a federal enterprise that employs more than 16,000 staff members and operates in over 130 countries worldwide.

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DEAR READER,

Over half a century has passed since Robert Schuman and the other founding fathers laid the cornerstone for a common Europe. It has been a work in progress ever since. Time and again, the European project has been redeveloped, extended and renovated. So what stage has construction work reached today? Are we still excavating and pouring the foundations? Or are we already choosing the furnishings? Have building plans had to be modified? Is the structural design still holding up? How solid is the basic framework? Eurosceptics, today more numerous than ever, even question whether there is a common foundation at all.



The stability and sustainability of the European Union also depends on its neighbours. In times of globalisation that does not simply mean those countries right next door. Conflict or natural disaster in any location in the world also can affect Europe. Security, climate change, energy supply – the seed for Europe's credibility is being sown in places as far flung as Mali, Bangladesh and Brazil.

Our cover story looks at the current status of the European 'structure' and identifies some of the challenges now facing the union – both internally and externally. As Gilbert Khadijala's opinion article shows, the EU model informs the architecture of other regional alliances. In this issue's interview, Angela Filote, Head of the EU Commission Representation in Romania, also explains that the bonds of marriage are closer than ever despite the seven-year itch.

This issue's reports from abroad take us to Chile and Afghanistan. A report from Georgia illustrates how women's rights are being promoted. We also show how people in South-East Asia reclaimed their personal documents and birth certificates following the flooding caused by the tsunami.

As ever, I hope you find this issue both interesting and informative.

Dorothee Hutter
Director of Corporate Communications

Germany and China boost cooperation on e-mobility

INNOVATION Together with Miao Wei, the Chinese Minister for Industry and Information Technology, German Chancellor Angela Merkel launched an electromobility project during her seventh trip to China in July. The project is coordinated by GIZ.

Electromobility is a key part of the strategic partnership between Germany and China, and an important focus of innovation. It aims to ensure that private purchasers of electric cars in China have more efficient and reliable options for charging their vehicles. A lack of appropriate charging stations is currently hampering the development of electromobility in China. 'Our aim is to ensure that the innovative technology finds broad-based acceptance,' Chancellor Merkel said.

GIZ was commissioned with coordinating this joint project on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Business partners from the private sector include four German and five Chinese automobile manufacturers – in



German Chancellor Angela Merkel presents the Sino-German partnership in Beijing.

addition to renowned Chinese and German partners from the fields of science and politics at the national and local level. The

results and recommendations of the first project phase are expected towards the end of this year.

100,000

NETWORKERS in 190 countries are already using the Alumniportal Deutschland. The platform is geared to people who have studied, worked or carried out research in Germany. The social network allows users to forge new contacts, exchange information on exciting projects and ideas and in so doing foster links with Germany. The Alumniportal signed up its 100,000th member in August.

www.alumniportal-deutschland.de/en

Commitment to sustainability

AWARD This year's B.A.U.M. Environmental Award went to Tanja Gönner, the Chair of GIZ's Management Board. She described the award as 'a fantastic acknowledgement of GIZ's commitment and work to foster sustainability'. For the last 30 years, the German Association of Environmental Management (B.A.U.M. e.V.) has recognised the work of individuals responsible for successfully implementing environmental and sustainability management within companies and organisations. A lawyer by training, Ms Gönner has long been known for her commitment to sustainability, both as a founding member of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, which allowed her to mainstream the issue of sustainability at parliamentary level, and during her time as Minister of the Environment in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg.

At GIZ, sustainability is both an obligation and a mission. 'It is at the heart of the services we deliver around the world,' said Ms Gönner. 'We offer our partners and commissioning parties viable solutions for the future. We also practise what we preach in partner countries. We believe that it is important to act sustainably as a company.'

www.baumev.de

A leg up for young engineers

SKILLED LABOUR Thirty would-be engineers from India, Viet Nam and Indonesia spent three months cramming up on German grammar and vocabulary in their home countries before embarking on a traineeship with a German company in September. As graduates of mathematics, information technology, natural sciences and technology, the participants are involved in the 'Make it in Germany' programme, an initiative of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. 'Germany currently has a shortage of suitably qualified skilled workers,' explains Reinhild Ernst from GIZ. 'In order to attract talented people from all over the world to work in Germany we are supporting the portal "Make it in Germany"

as part of the German Government's campaign to recruit more skilled labour.'

Before embarking on a traineeship, the young people took part in a one-month intensive course at the Kolping Bildungswerk in Stuttgart, where in addition to studying technical terminology and learning how to behave appropriately in the workplace, they were shown how to increase their chances of success when applying for a job. The course is financed by the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees with funding from the European Social Fund.

www.make-it-in-germany.com/en



Looking forward to a traineeship with a German company: young skilled workers from India, Viet Nam and Indonesia

Promoting judicial reforms in the Caucasus

RULE OF LAW A group of lawyers from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, united under the Alumni network Transformation Lawyers, recently held a third meeting in Berlin. They are former participants in the winter academy of the same name, which convened for the first time in Berlin in 2009. The three-week seminar, organised by GIZ in collaboration with the Hertie School of Governance and the Bucerius Law School, is one of the main components for advice on legal and judicial reform in the South Caucasus and part of the German Government's Caucasus Initiative. Many of the 130 or so graduates of the winter academy and current network participants are employed at the ministries of



justice and supreme national courts in the three countries of the South Caucasus and as such are directly involved in implementing the reforms. The network, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, also serves to improve cross-border understanding on issues concerning the rule of law.

> NEW PROJECTS

Riester pension

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Germany's Riester pension model is to be introduced in the DR Congo. The objective is to create a national pension fund for civil servants. GIZ International Services was commissioned by the Ministry of Public Service and Administration of the DR Congo and by the World Bank to introduce the pension fund.

Social standards

BANGLADESH The Lidl Foundation is set to continue its cooperation with GIZ International Services in Bangladesh's textile sector. A follow-up contract worth over EUR 7.1 million has been signed, guaranteeing support to 15 supplier operations from 2014 until 2016. In addition to promoting social standards and supporting fire protection and the health of workers, the project also aims to advance the interests of women.

Endangered islands

PACIFIC Through the programme Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region, GIZ has been working since 2009 on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to help people in twelve states prepare for changes to their lives brought about by climate change. The EU Commission has now set aside around EUR 19 million, expanding the project to include the Cook Islands, Niue and Timor-Leste by 2018. In addition, the United States Agency for International Development provided USD 1 million for the Solomon Islands.



High-profile participants: former German President Horst Köhler, the Chair of GIZ's Management Board Tanja Gönner and the Chair of GIZ's Supervisory Board State Secretary Friedrich Kitschelt (from left)

Post-2015 Agenda: 'The spirit of togetherness'

DEVELOPMENT GOALS The deadline for the Millennium Development Goals established by the United Nations almost 15 years ago will be reached in 2015. The international community is currently negotiating a new set of realistic yet ambitious sustainable development targets known as the Post-2015 Agenda. To mark this milestone, in May of this year, GIZ organised a flagship forum entitled Global Partnership and the Post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development together with

the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. International experts from politics, academia, civil society and the private sector also debated the paradigm shift in development cooperation towards a global partnership. 'International policy needs a new spirit of togetherness and a new leitmotif for cooperation,' urged former German President Horst Köhler, who gave the keynote speech. 'It calls for us to work in a spirit of partnership.'

Vocational education: Award for Pakistan

HONOURED The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry bestowed the Gold Achievement Award to GIZ's vocational education programme in Pakistan. The Achievement Awards are the highest accolade awarded by Pakistan's private sector and are conferred on leading organisations and individuals who have realised outstanding achievements in the socio-economic sector and in the area of corporate social responsibility. The award was presented by the President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain in the country's financial capital Karachi.

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the programme is cofinanced by the EU and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Pakistan and is run in close cooperation with Pakistan's authority for technical and vocational education and training.

The programme was honoured for its significant contribution to reforming the vocational education and training sector in Pakistan. The way in which it integrates the private sector was also given a particular mention.

Sustainable palm oil

NATURAL RESOURCES The volume of palm oil produced and consumed is increasing year on year. In order to safeguard people's livelihoods and protect the environment, the German Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil is campaigning for palm oil to be produced in compliance with strict regulations which include safeguarding rainforests, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and protecting people living in producer countries. The Forum, which was developed from an initiative run by Henkel AG, REWE Group, Unilever and the World Wide Fund for Nature, is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

On behalf of the Ministry and the companies involved, GIZ runs the secretariat, which coordinates and supports the Forum's work. The objective is for German products to be made using only certified palm oil as soon as possible. The Forum currently has 34 members who have already committed to achieving this goal by the end of 2014.

Festival da Bola

SPORT Germany's Federal Minister of the Interior Thomas de Maizière visited the Festival da Bola in Porto Alegre during the FIFA World Cup. This forms part of a project jointly implemented by GIZ with the German Football Association and Brazilian partners. The project sees sport as a way of helping young people whose lives are at risk from drug abuse and domestic violence to develop prospects for the future.

Thomas de Maizière with festival participants



Green logistics

MOBILITY Increasing world trade, traffic jams, exhaust fumes, climate change, high accident rates and changing requirements for mobility and logistics have given rise to a pressing need for innovative, global solutions. The German Partnership for Sustainable Mobility (GPSM) is the ideal body to steer a course that combines the know-how and solutions currently emanating from Germany in the fields of sustainable mobility and green logistics. As a platform for exchanging knowledge, expertise and experience, the GPSM supports the transition to sustainable concepts in developing countries and emerging markets. Currently in its set-up phase, the GPSM is an initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. It is also supported by the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, and the Federal Foreign Office.

www.german-sustainable-mobility.de

Connected cities

URBANISM The new online platform 'Connective Cities' seeks to promote sustainable urban development through a global exchange of experience. Over 50% of the world's population currently live in cities – and that figure is rising. Many cities are especially seriously affected by poverty and environmental problems. The aim of the initiative is to ensure that one city's innovative solutions can benefit others. The Association of German Cities (Deutscher Städtetag) and Engagement Global are cooperation partners of the 'Connective Cities' initiative, which was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

www.connective-cities.net/en



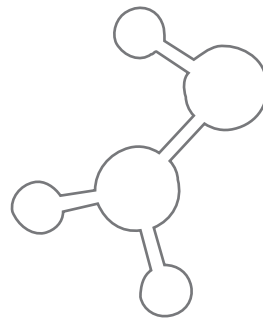
COOPERATION WITH INCREASED YIELDS

Increased yields for fruit and vegetable farmers, improved supplies for consumers

- **Project:** Promoting Entrepreneurship in the Fruit and Vegetable Sector of Northern Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Commissioned by:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- **Overall term:** 2000 to 2009

THEN In 1995, at the same time that Bosnia and Herzegovina was established as the state we know today, a double transformation process got underway: the transition from a centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented economic model on the one hand, and the reconstruction of a country largely destroyed during the Bosnian War of 1992 to 1995 on the other. Between 2000 and 2009, GIZ supported the country's traditionally important fruit and vegetable sector, with the aim of sustainably increasing both the production and sales of high quality produce. A further aim was to improve supplies of fruit and vegetables to the population and increase profits among producers. Among other things, the project set up an advisory system and helped provide access to funding and training courses. It also aimed to generate new income opportunities to stop the flow of young adult migrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

NOW The project has helped to boost fruit and vegetable production, as demonstrated by an evaluation carried out in 2013. Expansion of production has also improved supplies of fruit and vegetables to consumers and boosted producers' gross profits. The agricultural extension groups set up by the project continued their work once activities ended and the project has also achieved its aim of stemming the flow of young people leaving the region.



SUCCESS DOWN SOUTH

Baden-Württemberg and Malaysia have been working in partnership for over 15 years to train Malaysian engineers. Around 90% of the scholarship recipients studying at Swabian universities make the grade – an unusually high success rate.



Mohd Razip (left) and Sivanesan are recipients of the prestigious scholarship awarded by the Malaysia State Programme of Baden-Württemberg.



Malaysia's future engineers are trained in Germany.



Text Beate Wörner **Photos** Johannes Wosilat

A young man with a friendly grin sits down at a table on the garden terrace of a café on the edge of Aalen's old town. His name is Mohamad Amirul Ashraf Mohd Razip, or Chup for short. He has just finished a lengthy written examination in inorganic chemistry. Judging by his body language, it has gone well.

Chup is 22 years old and in his third semester studying chemistry at Aalen University. Abiman Sivanesan is also enrolled at the university. The 24-year-old will complete his Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in the winter semester. After that, he hopes to study for a Master's qualification, in order to get one step closer to his dream job as an engineer on a drilling platform. The two young men come from Malaysia and have a scholarship from the Malaysian Government which enables them to study in Germany. 'Everyone on this programme is extremely fortunate,' says Sivanesan.

650 graduates and rising

Chup and Sivanesan were admitted to the Malaysia State Programme of Baden-Württemberg after completing their secondary school leaving certificate in their home country. The programme is based on a partnership between Malaysia and the German federal state of Baden-Württemberg. Since the arrival of the first Ma-

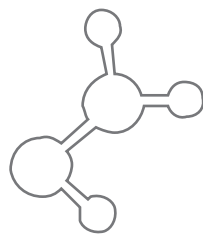
laysia students in 1999, around 650 young men and women have already successfully completed their engineering training at the 13 participating universities in Baden-Württemberg.

Practice-orientation is the key

Malaysia has made a deliberate decision to have its engineering elite trained in Germany, explains Consul Syarqawi Muhammad. He is responsible for the programme at the Consulate General of Malaysia in Frankfurt. 'Germany is renowned for mechanical engineering and engineering sciences. Our young people should be able to benefit from that knowledge and experience. But we also attach great importance to the training system used at German universities. It is very practice-oriented. Students are required to spend six months working in a company, which gives them extremely valuable practical experience.'

Student Patricia Ting explains just how valuable this engineering course is in Malaysia. 'At home, people feel it is very important to study either medicine or engineering,' she says. 'To do so is considered social success.' The daughter of a teaching family, the 26-year-old is currently studying mechanical engineering at the University of Stuttgart. She hopes to complete her Master's degree next semester.

Preparations for studying in Germany take two and a half years. Scholarship recipients »



study subjects such as mathematics, physics and English – but above all they are required to learn as much German language during this period as is necessary to be able to study at a German university.

Success with support

Chup, Abiman Sivanesan, Patricia Ting and the other scholarship holders from the Malaysia State Programme are in a comfortable posi-

Ting will soon be writing her Master's thesis.



tion. The universities provide them with tutors who help them with problems, organise extra tuition if necessary, or help them look for company work placements.

GIZ coordinates the Malaysia State Programme on behalf of the state of Baden-Württemberg and the Government of Malaysia and provides support to scholarship recipients even before their departure for Germany. Visa, health insurance, bank accounts – everything is set up for them in advance. The new arrivals are prepared for their life in Germany during a three-week integration course. 'This course was a real highlight for me,' says Sivanesan, looking back fondly. 'We learned a lot, not only about Germany and its culture, but also about everyday chores like doing the laundry.' The integration course also provided practical guidance on making a bank transfer online or using bus and train services to get around. It was followed by a six-week preparatory course in technical language at three participating universities. In addition to providing technical preparation for the degree course, its purpose was to grad-

ually prepare students for life at a German university.

'We get a lot of support,' Sivanesan explains. 'For me the course on applying for jobs was very useful. In it we learned how Germans lay out a curriculum vitae, for example, and how to approach a job interview.' Sivanesan successfully applied his newly acquired knowledge to find a company for his work placement semester.

The intensive support provided to scholarship recipients pays off. More than 90% of the students successfully complete their Bachelor's degrees, and around a half of these go on to take a Master's degree. 'We are very satisfied with this high success rate,' says Malaysian Consul Muhammad.

The GIZ approach

In designing the study programme, GIZ recognises three factors vital to successfully studying abroad. First up is good pre-university technical and linguistic preparation in Malaysia. This enables students to cope with the

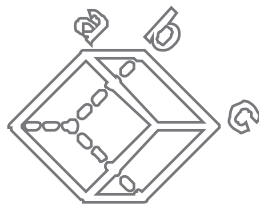
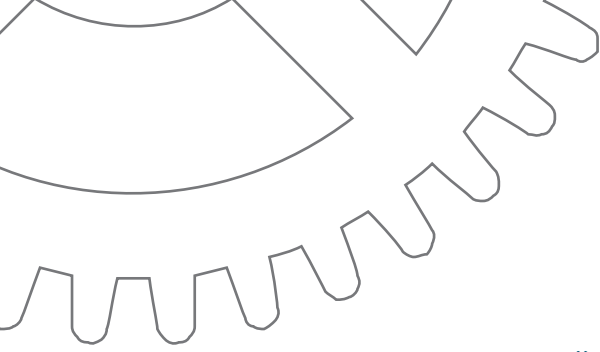
» AT A GLANCE

Close monitoring

The Malaysia State Programme combines educational transfer and cultural exchange. GIZ provides support to students during their time in Germany.



Since 1997, GIZ has been organising a support programme for young Malaysian scholarship recipients studying for an engineering degree at one of Baden-Württemberg's universities. This partnership strengthens educational export and reinforces the reputation of Baden-Württemberg as an international location for education and training. The programme is funded by the State Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts and the Government of Malaysia. GIZ provides support to scholarship recipients throughout their studies. Initial contact is made prior to the participants' stay in Germany in order to prepare them for the initial phase and facilitate their arrival in the country.



pressure to perform and to meet the technical requirements at the universities. The second factor is financial security in the form of a scholarship. This permits young students to give full attention to their studies.

And thirdly, it is important to provide intensive and high-quality support to promote social integration. ‘The key to our success rate of over 90% is the interaction between these three factors,’ says Gabriela Pico from GIZ. ‘The drop-out rate among foreign students in general is around 46%.’

A win-win situation

The Malaysia State Programme represents a win-win situation for all concerned. For the state of Baden-Württemberg, it offers an opportunity to export the quality of its university education. On completing their training, scholarship recipients return to Malaysia as experts on the Baden-Württemberg education system and in so doing enhance the state’s reputation as an international location for education and training. At the same time, the university programme offers young Malaysians the chance to develop professional and personal ties with Germany early in life. This is of even greater importance, since scholarship recipients often subsequently take up key positions in politics or business.

And last but not least, Malaysia also benefits. ‘Local engineers with a good training in Germany are important for German companies seeking to invest in Malaysia,’ says Consul Muhammad. ‘They not only understand the language of both countries, they also know the culture.’ ■

› CONTACT

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› INTERVIEW

Programme with potential



Theresia Bauer is Minister of Science, Research and the Arts for the State of Baden-Württemberg.

How important is the Malaysia State Programme in your view?

The programme has always been a key element in the internationalisation of our universities. It has enabled us to develop good relations between our universities in Baden-Württemberg and those in Malaysia. Today there are many graduates of the programme working in key positions. Networks have been created which benefit not only our universities but also the state’s export-oriented industry.

What do you see as the principal successes?

First, the practical training. In most countries engineering training is conducted at a high academic level. But this doesn’t always take into account the needs of industry. I’m talking here about engineers who are able to work with the master craftsmen to solve production issues. This approach to training is now gaining worldwide recognition – and the State Programme has played a major part in Malaysia. Secondly, I would like to draw attention to the success of two universities, Karlsruhe and Reutlingen, which have succeeded in setting up degree courses in Malaysia and taken steps to establish a presence abroad.

What role does GIZ play in the programme?

A very important one. Foreign students have lower graduation rates than German

students – for a variety of reasons, such as the unfamiliar language and culture and unforeseen financial problems. In our state programme with Malaysia we have a success rate of well over 90%. This rate is dependent on all conditions being met: strict selection, good preparation in Malaysia, a properly funded scholarship, and in particular a first-rate support system. The students receive constant back-up from their very first day in Baden-Württemberg with GIZ playing a leading role in providing this.

Do you see potential for similar programmes with other partner countries – to attract foreign skilled labour, for example?

I do see such potential. I think it would be feasible to develop programmes that target students in selected partner countries with the aim of attracting them to enrol in courses in Germany – particularly courses in the German language. The mandatory work placements and Bachelor’s theses bring these students into direct contact with our companies. Whether the foreign graduates subsequently go on to work for German companies in Germany or abroad is a relatively minor detail.

Interview: Beate Wörner

United in
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EUROPE

THEMES

IN FOCUS: Europe can only exist if there is a spirit of partnership. But its principal partners are still struggling to find sustainable European answers to key issues.

INTERVIEW: Angela Filote, Head of the EU Commission Representation in Romania

OVERVIEW: Examples of GIZ's work

FIGURES: Europe – destination for migrants, springboard for energy reforms

diversité

Unfinished agenda

Europe is both the world's biggest peace project and a work in progress. As the conflicts in Ukraine, Iraq, Syria and Mali demonstrate, Europe's member states must work together if they are to survive in a globalised world. This is the very reason why the idea of European unity needs to be revamped.

Text Dietrich Alexander

Kurt Tucholsky, one of the leading political commentators of the Weimar Republic, took the Old Continent to task when he wrote that in Europe only crime and capitalism are organised between states.

The outlook is not quite that bad in 2014. There is hope, even a sense of well-founded optimism. 'In Europe there is room for a dream,' said the newly elected President of the EU Commission Jean-Claude Juncker to the cheers of the European Parliament. 'In Europe we can only win together, and we all lose together if we lose,' he continued.

Without question, Europe is bureaucratic and unwieldy, and lacks a clear structure. To some extent it is undemocratic – yet it is still a success story. This year, the 'Free World' celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Normandy landings involving over 150,000 allied troops with a mixture of commemoration, grief, admonition and joy. Joy at the fact that 70 years after that brutal loss of human life on France's Atlantic Coast, two countries that were once at war are now friends and allies again.

And they have been able to build a free, peaceful and common Europe in friendship. Almost seven decades without war – when have we ever seen that in Europe? 'There has seldom been peace throughout Europe,' wrote Carl Philipp Gottlieb von Clausewitz, the Prussian general, military theorist and writer, 'and war is never fully extinguished in other parts of the world.' True enough, other parts of the world are always at war.

But General von Clausewitz would no doubt have been astounded by the Europe we know today and cherished the progress achieved.

In this free, united and prosperous Europe each individual citizen has too much to lose. Europe is only latently susceptible to criminal ideologies. It has risen from the rubble and bitterness left in the aftermath of the two most devastating wars in the history of mankind. Europe today is no longer a battlefield. Instead, it is an uncut diamond, an object of envy. Particularly to people living in parts of the world where hatred, resentment and violence have not yet given way to partnership, shared prosperity and freedom as is the case in many states of South America, the Arab-Islamic world and large regions of Asia.

What Europe represents today and how it is seen internationally is largely the achievement of the European Union – this confederation of states with 28 member countries and around half a billion inhabitants. The single market formed by the EU member states is the largest common market in the world measured in GDP. Freedom of movement for people and workers, the common currency and the Schengen Agreement are all pioneering achievements, representing both an opportunity and a challenge. And they signify one thing above all: responsibility.

The 'common European home' – as Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Soviet Union, first referred to the European project in a speech given in Prague in 1987 – is incomplete and a work in progress. But it »



NEW FINANCE ARCHITECTURE

Many EU states are struggling to reform their budgets. The pressures they face are due to some degree to the banking and financial crisis. Europe is working on an improved financial architecture, so that any similar future developments can be recognised and averted at an earlier stage. In this regard, the EU's most visible symbol is the new European Central Bank building in Frankfurt am Main. This will also become the seat of the European banking regulator.



ACROSS BORDERS

All entrepreneurs in Europe have the right to offer their services in other countries. A major achievement, some say; a gateway for wage dumping, say others.



WELL CONNECTED

Trade in the EU is not subject to any restrictions. The pressure of competition with other global players is enormous.



is alive, and work continues despite the lengthy agenda. Where military policy and power politics are concerned, for example, the role Europe plays at an international level is not commensurate with its economic power. Air and rail transport are still insufficiently harmonised. Agricultural subsidies, asylum policy and over-regulation are just some of the permanent irritants for EU citizens. And the pursuit of national interests continues to hinder common policy in areas such as energy, climate protection and military technology.

Much remains to be done if we want to prepare Europe for global competition. 'United in diversity,' is one of the guiding principles of the European project. How much diversity is necessary and useful for creating a European identity while preserving regional and national identities? Do we have to be more than just German, French, Spanish or British EU citizens? In other words, European first, and German, Austrian, Italian or Polish second? Although the single market is already working well economically and for the benefit of all, the same has yet to be achieved in political – and therefore social – terms. Europe does not create a sense of identity, at least not yet. Its citizens still cling to their national flags and anthems. Not that there is anything inherently wrong with that, but it prevents us as Europeans from building a shared destiny, one in which we either move closer together or lose out to competition from emerging Asian markets. It is with good reason that Jean-Claude Juncker warns: 'Europe needs a broad-based agenda for reform. We have fallen behind because we have stood still.'

Tackling youth unemployment

More than 5.3 million young people are currently unemployed in Europe – an alarming rate of 22.8%. In countries such as Greece and Spain over 50% of citizens under the age of 25 are looking for work. It would be negligent and reckless not to rally behind combatting this serious and glaring anomaly within Europe. Although various programmes have been put in place, they are usually national initiatives. They are not coordinated with European partners, nor do they complement each other in any meaningful way. At the same time, richer EU countries have launched training support programmes – to help populations in economically faltering member states on the one hand and to recruit skilled labour for their own markets on the other.

Because of the rigid austerity measures facing some countries of southern Europe, particularly Spain, Greece and Portugal, funds are limited. So too is the likelihood that these countries will retain their young people and be able to train them to meet the requirements of modern markets. As insufficient funds are being invested in education and training, these EU states will lose not only their youth to emigration but in the medium term also prospects for the future. They are becoming more and more distanced from the rest of Europe, which is marching onwards, and are falling further and further behind in terms of educational policy while losing out in the global competition for the best minds. The result is a multi-speed Europe and a divided continent, something that Europe cannot and should not even remotely consider.

Concern about nationalist tendencies

As we saw in the European elections in May 2014, nationalist tendencies, xenophobia and political disillusionment are still gaining pace, not only in the United Kingdom and France, but also in Belgium, Denmark, Austria and Germany. In her personal assessment after six years in the post of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay, who stepped down from the role in August 2014, warned of increasing hatred of foreigners. Even in stable democracies, the political rhetoric of extremists threatens to weaken the fight against discrimination, said the South African, drawing attention to the successes of right-wing parties in the European elections. One seat in the new European Parliament will now be occupied by a German politician who has declared that Europe must remain 'a continent of white people'. Pillay's reference is to a comment made by Udo Voigt, the former leader of the extreme right-wing NPD, who now represents his party as a member of the European Parliament in Strasbourg and Brussels. Statements such as these are disgraceful – particularly coming from the mouths of German politicians just 70 years after the holocaust. The great cosmopolitan European and former Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg expressed this by stating that historical experience cannot be handed down to the next generation but prejudice can.

After two world wars, Europe has finally accepted once and for all that armed conflict is an absurd means of settling differences. Social conflict within individual population groups and between different state groups – such »



MOBILE EUROPE

From students to workers – Europe's citizens are on the move. The shortage of skilled labour also means that inward migration is essential.

as between the wealthy countries of northern Europe and their poorer southern neighbours – still represents serious challenges, however. Standards and legislation need to be constantly harmonised if we want to strengthen cohesion within the union. But Brussels also needs to create greater credibility and make the 'European idea' more tangible to citizens. Put simply, it needs to be made more relevant to the people in the streets of Europe. 'Those sitting in Brussels' should not simply drift around in some administrative spacecraft called Europe. They need to shape Europe, to maintain and perpetuate the vision, fill it with life. This calls for a large degree of transparency and a broad legitimising basis – particularly with regard to decisions that directly concern European citizens. In a globally networked world, from a logical perspective, few decisions can be taken at the national level, whether these relate to climate protection, regulation of the internet, copyright law or privacy protection. There are really only two areas in which the European Union does not interfere in the politics of its member states: these are social security systems and culture and education policy. Where all other topics are concerned, it could be said that Brussels and Strasbourg have a presence at national cabinet meetings.

While Europe still has much to do inside its own borders, it must also pay attention to what is going on outside them. The crisis in Ukraine has shown how quickly the union itself can get into difficulty when there is unrest in its own backyard. The solution is clearly not that the EU should open its doors to half the world. But a worthwhile objective is to guide neighbours who have always had close ties to Europe, whether as EU accession candidates or partners, towards European standards. This is particularly true of Turkey, one of the key strategic countries on Europe's borders and already a major partner in NATO. Whether such support ultimately culminates in EU membership or not, it helps to export Europe's shared canon of values beyond its borders. And this will create greater security in the European sphere too, from Georgia to Gibraltar.

Promoting and securing peace

With the exception of the Spanish enclaves, Europe has no common border with Africa. But the terrible images of overcrowded, unseaworthy boats full of refugees regularly remind us that this problem is not just an African one. It

also concerns Europe, both for humanitarian and security reasons. Europe's credibility begins in the Congo, in Nigeria, in Ethiopia, Morocco and Tunisia. Promoting and securing peace reduces the tide of refugees attempting to enter 'fortress Europe', because it eases the pressure caused by suffering. Who would leave their country if they were guaranteed the fundamentals of peace, freedom and a little prosperity at home?

It pays to take targeted measures to combat poverty and lack of freedom at their point of origin. The logic behind this is simple: those who have the income to feed their families, and to work in peace and independence are unlikely to become refugees in the first place. Ultimately, that is not only a much cheaper solution for Europe, it also promotes a more humane image than turning away or repatriating thousands of African refugees – assuming that they actually reach Europe's shores without drowning or suffocating in overcrowded containers.

Effective crisis management

Europe is prosperous, and that is attractive to other people. But is it also fiscally secure? Following the Euro crisis that rocked the union from 2009, the effects of which can still be felt today, the answer to that question has to be a decisive no. And yet here again we recognise the strengths of the EU, which responded by bringing in the European Stability Mechanism, worth billions of euros, to stabilise teetering financial markets and cooperating members states. The mechanism was accompanied by a European debt cap as well as a Fiscal Compact and a Growth Pact. As a unit, these measures reveal the principles of effective crisis management and the basics of a new financial architecture that will bring about permanent restructuring and create a more crisis-resistant Eurozone. But the painful restructuring process does not end there. The European crisis states will have to part with a few cherished 'traditions', such as state subsidies or overly generous pay for state employees, if they are to remain or become competitive within the European Union and worldwide. European and national regulations must be harmonised, and family-run and medium-sized enterprises should be given much more support as the traditional mainstays of European prosperity.

Another key issue is renewal of the European project in terms of power politics and military strategy. Twenty-eight more or less powerful national armies with incompatible equipment of varying quality projects a poor image when one is trying to claim a global role. Conflicting interests

sometimes even prevent Europe from taking a unified stance on foreign affairs. Some progress has been made, however, with the Lisbon Treaty, which came into force in 2009, establishing the office of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European External Action Service. The EU diplomatic corps forms a network of around 140 delegations and representations worldwide. From Iran's atomic programme to combatting piracy off the coast of the Horn of Africa and global climate protection, Europe plays its part and sits at the negotiating table. Until recently its high representative or 'minister of foreign affairs' was Catherine Ashton who has now handed the baton over to Federica Mogherini. But does Europe's voice really carry any weight?

The former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is once said to have bemoaned the lack of a central point of contact for Europe: 'Who do I call if I want to speak to Europe?' That number now exists, but is Europe actually doing anything? Is it making enough use of its 'soft power', which is often talked about? Is it doing enough to support its number one partner, the US, which is groaning under the weight of its role of policing the world?

To a certain extent, yes. Europe's role as mediator in international crises is important and worthy of recognition: »

GIZ UNDER THE EUROPEAN FLAG

From renewable energies to election observation, the EU is GIZ's main client along with the German Government. The EU commissions GIZ to train food experts from EU and non-EU countries on food safety and consumer protection, for example, or advise Greek municipalities on the introduction of administrative reforms.

Worldwide and throughout Europe, GIZ has a broad network in the areas of politics, business, civil society and science. On behalf of the German Government, it supports the EU in achieving its political goals and meeting international obligations, providing one-stop strategic advice and implementation services.

GIZ offers a wide range of solutions to contemporary challenges – such as consolidating national and municipal budgets, strengthening business locations by providing vocational education and training, and activities geared to energy and climate issues.

a case in point was the breakthrough in dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo. But its actions often lack the sustainability required to permanently anchor hard-won diplomatic achievements within societies. The former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt rightly warned that the self-preservation of European civilisation is at stake. This self-preservation goes hand in hand with cogent implementation of its values. It is not enough merely to have restored peace in Georgia, in the Balkans or in Ukraine. It is not enough just to silence the guns. A peace solution will only work in the long term if it is brought to life and made tangible to the people it affects – both economically and socially. Only a robust civil society of this kind is capable of sustaining peace through reconciliation and understanding among nations, because it knows exactly what it has to lose. Europe’s objective must be to raise values and to ‘Europeanize’ to some degree the personal life plan of each individual. The President of the European Parliament, the German Martin Schulz, put it like this in Strasbourg: ‘If

we are serious about the EU as a force for peace, then our economic power must be used politically so that those who want to trade with us accept the rule of law, and do not practice the might of the stronger.’

Calls for a common energy policy

Of course, some issues cannot be kept within national or even continental borders. Climate change mitigation and environmental protection are two such areas. Energy belongs on this list too. As a country that is running low on natural resources, Germany is obliged to think beyond its borders when it comes to energy policy, and to integrate itself into a broad and profitable network in order to safeguard its economic and socio-political future. In this context, the German EU Commissioner Günther Oettinger, formerly responsible for energy, now in charge of the digital economy and society, is right when he talks of the need for a common foreign »

EXAMPLES OF GIZ’S WORK > EUROPE

Skilled labour



Project: Make it in Hamburg!
Financed by: Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, European Union
Lead executing agency: Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, European Social Fund for Hamburg
Overall term: 2014 to 2016

GERMANY Hamburg has always attracted people from all over the world who wish to work and live there. At the same time, many local companies urgently need to recruit skilled specialists. ‘Make it in Hamburg!’ brings them together. The project is aimed at graduate professionals, skilled workers, apprentices, accompanying life partners, foreign students and graduates from universities in and around Hamburg. The concept includes support for looking for a job, making contacts with employers, and career issues. It also offers supplementary training courses.

www.hamburg.arbeitundleben.de

European integration

Project: Support for the EU integration process in Serbia
Financed by: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, European Union
Lead executing agency: European Integration Office of the Republic of Serbia
Overall term: 2012 to 2015

SERBIA In 2012, Serbia attained candidate status for membership of the European Union. GIZ advises the Serbian Government on accession negotiations and establishing the parameters for a successful integration process. It supports the development of the negotiation architecture and of the strategies and concepts for formulating negotiating positions. The main focus is on the financial, business and agricultural sectors, as well as the regional development of Serbia. By mid-2015, the Serbian Government is expected to have adopted the negotiation architecture and the regulations for the procedures and processes to be used during negotiations, and to have defined the roles of the institutions involved.

www.seio.gov.rs/home.50.html

energy policy for the European Union. When dealing with countries that supply gas, oil and coal, he maintains that we need a common voice and a common European strategy if we are to improve prices and guarantee supplies. 'A safe, secure, sustainable and affordable energy supply is key to our economic and strategic interests as a global player,' says Oettinger. It falls a long way short of long-term, successful and ongoing energy planning if one European partner signs a bilateral supply agreement with Norway and the next with Russia. Oettinger predicts that we will be the ones to lose out, and he is right. What is required is a diversified, common EU-wide energy policy and energy infrastructure, so that we can avoid exposing ourselves to the whims of Russian president Vladimir Putin. The Ukraine crisis has shown the potential with which the Kremlin can put great pressure on other countries through its foreign policy.

In the European context it would certainly be sensible to also consider diversifying our energy sources.

Renewable feedstocks must be developed and supported, along with wind turbines on the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic coastlines, and solar installations in southern EU states. What role could and should atomic power play in a common Europe? Ticking time bombs in the Czech Republic or France pose a threat to the entire continent. What use are secure and clean German nuclear reactors if a worst-case scenario occurs just a few kilometres away in Cattenom in France or Temelín in the Czech Republic? The goal must be to structure an energy supply for Europe that is clean, reliable and secure. As is the case with every other field of European cooperation, this presents a major challenge. But it is also clear that it can only be done in partnership. A splintered Europe in which each country serves its own interests will lose out in the race for prosperity and development to other global players such as the USA, China, and even Russia and India. ■

Social standards


Project: Promotion of social and environmental standards in industry

Financed by: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, European Union

Lead executing agency: Bangladesh Ministry of Commerce

Overall term: 2010 to 2015

BANGLADESH Textile entrepreneurs in Bangladesh are still failing to adequately implement national labour and environmental legislation and international standards. Monitoring and implementation of the laws by state actors is still in its infancy. GIZ is supporting non-governmental organisations committed to upholding workers' rights, for example by setting up women's cafés to provide female textile workers with information about their rights. In addition, legal advice is offered to those involved in labour disputes or domestic violence. To date, this assistance has reached around 200,000 women workers.

 www.psesbd.org

Energy reforms



Project: Renewable energy in Greece

Financed by: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, European Union

Overall term: from 2013

GREECE The Greek Government has set itself the target of meeting 40% of its electricity requirements using renewable energies by 2020. This will entail extensive reforms. In particular, the legal and regulatory framework must be improved to encourage more investment in renewable energy. GIZ is supporting its Greek partners as part of an EU initiative. The project is advising the Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change (YPEKA) on modifying the system to encourage power generation using renewables and is helping to produce a detailed roadmap.

 www.bmub.bund.de/N49932

» INTERVIEW

GETTING PAST THE SEVEN-YEAR ITCH

Mrs Filote, Romania has been a member of the EU for seven years now. In marriages you often hear about getting past the seven-year itch. So how is the relationship between Romania and the EU going?

Well, the honeymoon is over, but the relation is getting closer and stronger. Trust in the EU is still amongst the highest in Romania, compared to other member states. EU confidence in Romania is also on the rise. It has been a good learning curve for both partners: main lesson being that we have to better manage our expectations. Romania saw that accession did not bring prosperity overnight, and that accession benefits depend on how much one takes ownership of EU citizenship, with both its rights and obligations. The EU also learned that deep-rooted problems, such as weak administrative capacity and corruption, take more time to be sorted out than initially expected. Now that we all know this, and we grew seven years wiser, we can actually start enjoying the marriage a little bit more.

In the EU, the public is currently focused on the financial crisis, youth unemployment as well as neighbourhood and refugee policy. What are the key concerns for Romania?

Jobs and poverty are the main concerns in Romania too, though this country fared much better than others through the economic crises, with unemployment below the EU average. However, it's still the second poorest EU member state, with significant challenges in terms of social inclusion and poverty reduction. There is a lot of public focus on the fight against corruption, as last years have seen unprecedented progress, with high corruption cases leading prominent politicians behind bars. Neighbourhood is also quite important for Romania, especially in the current geopolitical situation, where stability in the

region is challenged by acts of aggression and intimidation against sovereign states seeking closer relations with the EU.

Critics say that Romania has still not succeeded in drawing on available EU funding, despite improvements last year.

It is true that Romania's absorption rate is still low, but it did increase tenfold in the past three years, from 3.4% in June 2011 to 36.6% in August 2014. This shows the seriousness of the measures taken by the Romanian authorities, who are confident to go even further (80%, according to the Minister of European Funds) before the closing date for the 2007–2013 period, which in Romania's case is end 2015. Nevertheless, it is not just the absorption rate that matters, but the overall quality of EU support. This will be our focus for the 2014–2020 funding period, as written down in the Partnership Agreement agreed in early August, the key document governing EU funding for the following seven years. We will continue to work with our Romanian partners to improve Romania's administrative capacity, to streamline public procurement and to reduce the bureaucratic burden associated with EU funding.

Is addressing the issue of the Roma people one of the key European policy challenges for Romania in the coming years?

Romania is the EU country with the second highest rate of risk poverty or social exclusion, with almost 42% of the population affected (around 9 million people), most of them of Roma origin. The high mobility of the Roma population, combined with its poverty, different social organisation and systemic discrimination, make its successful social inclusion a challenge not only for Romania, but for the whole of Europe. This is why social inclusion and the fight against



In 2014, Angela Filote took office as Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Romania. In 2010, she became one of the spokespersons of the European Commission, responsible for the EU Enlargement and the Neighbourhood Policy. As of 2011, she worked for the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

poverty are key priorities in Romania for the 2014–2020 period. Funds worth EUR 3.4 billion have been earmarked for this end, pooling resources together from three different European funds (the Social Fund, the Regional Development Fund and the Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). It is important to address the challenge of Roma inclusion through integrated policies and projects, covering access to education and housing, health services, and employment opportunities. It will take political will, social expertise and administrative capacity, in order to have a good strategy and robust policies, owned by the Roma themselves. And, not least, it will take time. Lots of it.

Interview: Heidi Beha

EUROPE IN FIGURES



20%

of gross energy consumption for all EU countries should be generated from renewable energy sources by the year 2020. In 2012 the figure was 14.1%. The frontrunner was Sweden with over 51%.

Source: Eurostat, STAT/14/37, March 2014

24

is the number of official languages in the European Union. Special regulations exist, however, for countries such as Austria, which uses a standard variety of the official language, German. If a food is listed in a German-language EU document and a specific Austrian term exists, this term is included in a footnote. For example, 'Erdapfel' is used for 'Kartoffel' (potato) and 'Paradeiser' for 'Tomate' (tomato).

100

years or more – is the age that around 760,000 people in Europe are expected to reach in the year 2050, according to forecasts by the United Nations. By comparison, in 1950 there were only around 8,000 centenarians living in Europe.

38%

of those questioned in an EU-wide survey named 'human rights' as the quality best represented by the European Union. The same percentage voted 'democracy' as the most crucial virtue.

Source: European Commission, Eurobarometer 74, February 2011

108,000

refugees have made their way to Italy by boat since the start of the year. More than 25,000 people have died or disappeared attempting to make their way to Europe since 2000. These figures are documented by the Migrants Files database, currently the most comprehensive study into the fate of individual migrants.

Sources: International Organisation for Migration (latest version 08/14), The Migrants Files (latest version 09/14)





» Outside view

INTEGRATION: THE EUROPEAN MODEL

The development of the European Union provides a model for the regional integration of Africa. Gilbert Khadiagala explains why the process is nevertheless taking a rather different course.

In April 2014, Europe and Africa concluded their fourth summit in Brussels with a raft of promises about deepening their long-term relationships. The summit underlined the determination to strengthen partnerships around a wide range of issues such as democracy and governance, trade and investment, and development. Although most observers expected the summit to be marked by acrimony because of disagreements over trade and NATO's intervention in Libya, in the end, both sides opted to highlight their common interests and visions. One of the least discussed of these common interests is the shared vision around regional integration.

In Europe, integration began, in earnest, as a peacebuilding project, propelled by the urgency to reconstruct the war-torn continent. Over the decades, integration in Europe has advanced through various institutional iterations, including the Maastricht Treaty, the

Lisbon Treaty, and the Single Market. Through these processes, the idea undergirding collective approaches to problem-solving has remained constant.

Since Britain and France tried to forge federations in their colonies in East, Central, and West Africa, Europe has had a long interest in Africa's integration. Colonial federations stemmed from the fact that building economic and infrastructural links would provide strong foundations to overcome the problems of small economies through integration. Colonial governments also saw federations as efficient mechanisms for colonial governance and economic exploitation. Following Africa's decolonisation, Europe committed to support Africa's development and integration through a series of negotiated trade and economic cooperation agreements. All these agreements provided economic support that encouraged the construction of common institutions in Africa.

» PROFILE

Gilbert Khadiagala is the Jan Smuts Professor of International Relations and Head of Department of International Relations at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Through European engagement, African regionalism evidenced remarkable growth from the 1960s with the emergence of major institutions such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to name but three. These institutions mirror the incremental stages of building regional institutions that has informed European inte-

to dignity and independence, over the years, there is consensus that Europe's participation in African integration has, in fact, contributed to strengthening the objectives of Pan-Africanism. From this perspective, Europe's support for integration in Africa boosted African independence by affording African states the capacity to work together, build economic and political synergies, and ultimately, furnish the foundations for decreas-

post-conflict stabilisation on the premise that African regionalism can only thrive in conditions of peace and stability.

More controversially, the EU funds a substantial part of the budgets of the AU and other African regional institutions. Some critics have lunched on this aspect of the relationship to complain about Africa's inability to fund its own institutions; yet like the debates in the 1960s about Europe's role in post-independence integration, European funding of African institutions is predicated on generating a measure of institutional coherence and competence that would permit Africa to stand on its own feet in the long term.

The broad lesson since the mid-twentieth century is that integration is a process, not an event. European integration has faced formidable challenges such as questions of membership, and more recently, the financial crisis of 2008 and doubts about the wisdom of the single currency. But throughout these difficulties, what has sustained the integration project is the power of geographical proximity. Living in the same neighbourhoods, states have no choice but to cooperate. Similarly, although Africa still struggles to realise the vision of integration, obstacles have not prevented its drive for integration. Sometimes when European integration faces crises such as worries about the overbearing institutional hand of Brussels and the single currency, Africa draws lessons from these experiences as it strives to construct institutions that are attuned to the African realities. Learning how to integrate is one of the most abiding features of Europe-Africa relations. ■

The broad lesson since the mid-twentieth century is that integration is a process, not an event.

gration. Since the formation of the African Union (AU), the successor to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Africa sees regional institutions as the building blocks for the continental aspiration of building an African Economic Community (AEC) in the next decades. The proponents of an AEC see it largely in the image of the EU with institutions that have gradually culminated in the single currency.

Europe has continuously given economic muscle to the notion of independence through integration, but this idea also dovetails nicely with Pan-Africanism, the project of strengthening Africa's political and economic independence. Although some Pan-Africanists in the 1960s decried Africa's continued association with Europe as anathema

ing Africa's dependence on external actors, including Europe.

Since the end of the cold war, the escalation of conflicts in Africa forced debates about the goals and purposes of regional institutions. In Europe, regionalism grew in the fertile post-conflict environment of economic and political reconstruction. In Africa of the 1990s, regional institutions became essentially fire brigades, attempting to end the interminable civil conflicts facing the continent. Distracted by these chores, African regionalism was unable to build on the momentum of the previous years and has barely recovered from managing civil conflicts. In helping Africa manage the spates of conflicts, Europe has steadily increased funding to peacekeeping operations and provided critical resources for



blo Re



WHITE GOLD

THE BLUES, it is said, was born in the cotton fields of America. But ever since this ancient fibre was industrialised and turned into a key component of textiles, conditions for millions of people involved in cotton production and the associated textile industry worldwide have been tough. In India (pictured here are cotton workers in Madhya Pradesh) and Bangladesh, GLZ is implementing projects to improve and achieve fairer working conditions by increasing incomes and safety in the workplace.

Photographer: Jörg Böhling

OPENING DOORS AROUND THE WORLD

They advise German entrepreneurs, develop new courses and training measures, and coach energy managers: experts from German Chambers of Commerce Abroad work where development policy meets German foreign trade promotion, such as here in Chile.

Text Toni Keppeler



Upwardly mobile: Chile – pictured here is the capital Santiago – has recorded exceptional economic growth in recent years. But not everyone is feeling the benefit.

In Siegfried Schröpf's office there is a map of the world showing the average amount of sunshine Chile enjoys annually. This long, narrow country in South America, which runs for 4,300 kilometres between the Andes and the Pacific, is coloured dark red from its central belt to the far north. 'No other country in the world with a similar level of development gets so much sunshine,' says Schröpf. That's why he is here, in Providencia, a lively business district of Santiago. His office is housed in a small building dating from the late nineteenth century, sandwiched between skyscrapers of glass, exposed concrete and steel.

Schröpf, a jovial man in his mid-forties, is the managing director and co-owner of Grammer Solar, a medium-sized company. As the boss, he says that the company specialises in making 'hot air'. His words, not ours. Around 70 employees in the southern German town of Amberg assemble a special kind of solar panel: a traditional glass sheet on a dark background, combined with photovoltaic cells that drive a fan. This channels the air heated by the sun, so that it can subsequently be used for drying or heating. The Federal Foreign Office in Berlin is equipped with Schröpf's solar panels, so too is a school in Nepal. Now he wants to sell his products in Chile.

New office in record time

Siegfried Schröpf first made contact with the South American country just over a year ago. In April 2013, he was one of a group of German entrepreneurs who took part in a trip organised by the German-Chilean Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK). As a result of this, he decided it might be worthwhile to open a branch in Chile. He returned in January 2014 and by 1 March he had opened an office which now has a staff of three.

Schröpf ascribes the speed with which this all happened in part to his own drive and commitment – but also to the assistance of Madeleine Krenzlin. She was seconded to Chile by the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), a joint operation of GIZ and the German Federal Em-

ployment Agency. She is based at the German-Chilean Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of Siegfried Schröpf, she organised tax advisors and lawyers to set up the company and contacted a trade fair where the company presented its solar panels. 'Our work begins at the point where development cooperation meets foreign trade promotion,' says Madeleine Krenzlin. Jürgen Klenk, GIZ's country director in Chile, puts it like this: 'GIZ and the Association of German

Chambers of Commerce and Industry are looking to leverage synergies.'

CIM experts like Madeleine Krenzlin not only arrange contacts, they also help to build knowledge on topics such as energy efficiency and to train energy managers, for example. Training skilled workers is another key activity. Chile has little experience of Germany's dual vocational education system, which closely combines theory and practice. 'Here, theory and practice are two separate »

> CHILE



> VITAL STATISTICS

- Capital:** Santiago de Chile
- Population:** 17.6 million¹
- Per capita GDP:** USD 277.2 billion²
- Economic growth:** 4.1%³
- Percentage of population below the national poverty line:** 14.4%⁴
- Human Development Index ranking 2014:** 41 (out of 187)

Sources: ^{1,2,3} World Bank 2013 ⁴ World Bank 2011

Experts providing service worldwide

Project: CIM-AHK Programme

Commissioned by: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Priority areas: Energy efficiency and renewable energies, vocational education and training, sustainable economic development/creation of chambers

Start: 2011

The Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) places integrated experts with German Chambers of Commerce Abroad and with bilateral trade associations around the world. They work as employees with local employment contracts; there are currently 28 experts working in 27 developing and emerging countries. They also advise companies on forging partnerships with German development cooperation. The integrated experts who form part of the programme are not only working with existing chambers, they also help develop new chambers and business delegations, for example in Ghana, Algeria and Azerbaijan.

worlds,' says Klenk. Companies see training as the job of specialist schools, but the teaching they offer is so far removed from practice that graduates first need practical training before they are any use to a company.

The CIM-AHK Programme brings companies and training institutions together. 'Our CIM experts advise the key ministries responsible for vocational education and training, while the German-Chilean Chamber of Commerce advises the private sector,' Klenk explains. A prime example is the dual studies course in logistics, developed by the AHK in collaboration with the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. CIM experts were also involved in developing a further training programme for mechatronic engineers.

Education, innovation, energy

Why does Germany become involved in an emerging economy with businesses that are often subsidiaries of international companies? 'Although Chile is a middle-income country,' explains GIZ country director Klenk, 'it faces one of Latin America's basic problems: social inequality.' Half the working population earns less than EUR 400 per month. And that, in the context of an economic model which Klenk considers unsustainable, as the relatively high growth of recent years is largely due to the export of raw materials such as copper and lithium.

The government has recognised this and is now seeking to invest in three key areas: education, innovation and energy. All three are aligned with the objectives of cooperation with the German Chambers of Commerce Abroad, the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry and GIZ. The CIM experts provide advice and training, and can open doors. But entrepreneurs like solar panel manufacturer Siegfried Schröpf still need to create their own success story. ■

» INTERVIEW

'Making cooperation a whole lot easier'



Volker Treier is Deputy Chief Executive and Managing Director of International Economic Affairs at the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK).

Mr Treier, the CIM-AHK Programme is considered an outstanding example of cooperation between GIZ and DIHK. What is so special about the programme in your view?

With German Chambers of Commerce Abroad, CIM's integrated experts do exactly what GIZ and DIHK intended in their cooperation agreement: they combine foreign trade and development cooperation in a way that is beneficial to both sides. They implement vocational education and training in Latin America, raise awareness of social standards in Asia and advise on renewable energies in Africa. These are topics of concern to the German private sector, but are also relevant to GIZ. Certainly one of the programme's success factors is that CIM-AHK experts provide a local point of contact between the private sector and development cooperation. That allows the partnership to run much more smoothly.

What does the DIHK basically expect to gain from cooperation with GIZ?

Both sides complement each other extremely well: by providing advisory services on technical and policy issues in innovative fields that are of interest to both parties, GIZ is helping to create conditions that are conducive to sustainable economic activity in developing and emerging countries, for example by improving the existing framework. This benefits local businesses as well as German SMEs which receive support in successfully gaining a sustainable foothold in the market. We also work with GIZ on setting and developing high-quality standards for German companies.

What direction do you think the partnership between GIZ and DIHK will take going forward?

In the short term, our aim is to step up the cooperation. One of our goals is to boost the exchange of knowledge at the technical level, in areas such as vocational education and training, energy and trade promotion. For this reason we aim to increasingly open up cross-participation in specialist events and training courses offered by both organisations. In addition, we are encouraging German Chambers of Commerce Abroad and GIZ offices in partner countries to network on business issues to a greater degree. Last but not least, we also hope to develop common business segments. The synergies generated between DIHK and GIZ seem to be a promising basis for jointly establishing a new range of services.

Interview: Eva Katharina Dörr

» CONTACT

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Safeguarding economic recovery: Like the man seen here, many tsunami survivors are benefiting from microfinance and job opportunities created with GIZ's support.

TEN YEARS ON

The tsunami in South-East Asia in 2004 claimed almost 230,000 lives and left 1.7 million people homeless. Today, the once devastated regions in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand have well-functioning disaster risk management systems and authorities that are responsive to citizens' needs.

Text Gabriele Rzepka

The country worst affected by the tsunami was Indonesia, where 165,000 people died. In Sri Lanka and Thailand, too, countless lives were lost and there was devastation across wide areas. After the tsunami, an unprecedented number of countries provided emergency funding, and donations from the general public reached record levels. On behalf of the German Government, GIZ implemented numerous projects which, during the first few months of 2005, focused mainly on emergency aid – food, medicines and shelters. But soon, post-disaster recovery began to take priority, and that meant rebuilding homes, providing a reliable supply of safe drinking water, and revitalising the economy.

The province of Aceh on the island of Sumatra suffered a particularly high level of damage. Wolfgang Hannig from GIZ remembers the reconstruction efforts in Aceh: ‘Our first goal was at least to restore the pre-tsunami status quo.’ Providing sewing machines for local seamstresses and re-opening workshops for small repair firms were the first steps. Before the tsunami, a civil war had been raging in the region, and GIZ did not have a presence here. But due to the gravity of the situation, the rebels and the government signed a peace agreement which paved the way for long-term development.

But for normality to be restored, the people here needed jobs and incomes. On behalf of the German Government, GIZ supported village savings and credit unions and small banks so that they could provide local businesses with capital as quickly as possible. The success is still being felt today: the number of loans provided by BPRS Hikmah Wakilah, a small financial institution that received this support, soared from 200 in 2008 to 1,000 in 2014. Wolfgang Hannig still vividly recalls a visit to a credit union: ‘The chairman told me that without the disaster, the war would not have ended. And without the new-found peace, it would have been impossible for people to take charge of their own economic destinies again.’

The nascent labour market in Indonesia needed skilled workers, but the vocational colleges had been destroyed. KfW Development Bank provided funding to rebuild 11 of them. GIZ was the lead agency responsible for

teacher education, with a particular focus on modern teaching methods and practical training. In the past, vocational training in Aceh rarely had much relevance to the workplace, but today, companies’ requirements – from car manufacturers to airlines – are built into the curriculum. Together, the three vocational colleges in Banda Aceh – working closely with businesses – provide training for 2,300 students in 23 occupations.

New identity papers and health centres

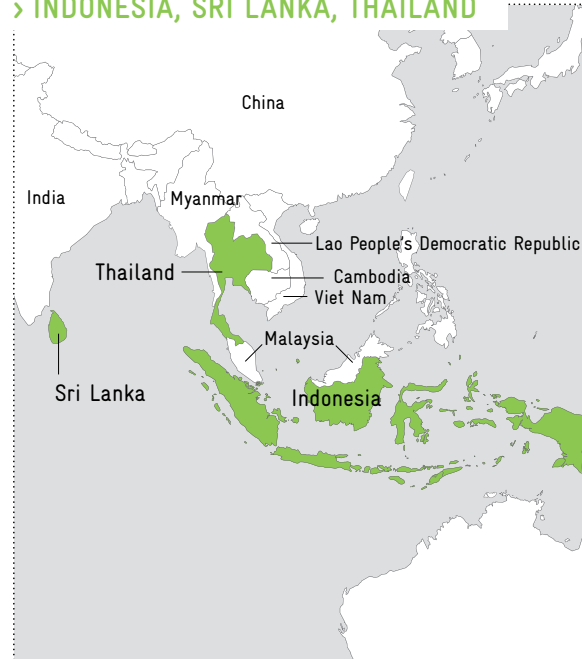
In 2005, local people also faced mounting bureaucratic obstacles. Identity papers and birth certificates had been lost to the floodwaters, but without them, people were unable to provide evidence of land ownership or claim the assistance that was their due. But there was a pragmatic solution, as Wolfgang Hannig explains: ‘For the first time ever, the public authorities deployed mobile citizens’ offices on minibuses as a form of outreach to local people. Registration, issuing documents – these rolling registry offices could do it all.’ And that wasn’t all: the authorities decided to overhaul the residents’ registration system, which had been in

a dire state even before the tsunami, and set it on a firm foundation for the future. In order to ensure that the project had broad public acceptance, GIZ sought the Islamic clerics’ support. They inspected the new system and issued a fatwa – an Islamic legal opinion – endorsing citizen registration. Today, the authorities are open to the public eight hours a day, five days a week, with the registration office in Aceh Jaya alone responsible for 85,000 local residents. Among other things, it has issued thousands of birth certificates over the past three years.

Health care was another urgent issue. KfW Development Bank invested in the provincial hospital and local health centres. Working with the local authorities, GIZ modernised the existing information system. Today, it forms one of the pillars of successful budget planning in the health sector: the budget allocated by the government to the provincial hospital has doubled in the past four years.

Wolfgang Hannig sums up GIZ’s work: ‘In Aceh, we only pursued approaches which, from the outset, had the support of key local stakeholders, and which local people would be able to continue without our support within a relatively short period of time.’

> INDONESIA, SRI LANKA, THAILAND



> VITAL STATISTICS: INDONESIA

Capital: Jakarta
Population: 249.9 million¹
Human Development Index ranking (2014): 108 (out of 187)

> SRI LANKA

Capital: Colombo (de facto)
Population: 20.5 million²
Human Development Index ranking (2014): 73 (out of 187)

> THAILAND

Capital: Bangkok
Population: 67 million³
Human Development Index ranking (2014): 89 (out of 187)

Source: ¹ ² ³ World Bank



❶ Banks in Aceh are now granting more loans, which is strengthening SMEs. ❷ Spatial planning and crisis prevention have become key priorities since the tsunami. ❸ Annual simulation training: disaster prevention volunteers in Thailand prepare for the worst.

In Sri Lanka, the tsunami wreaked havoc along the eastern and southern coasts, with further damage in the north. Unlike the situation in Aceh, GIZ had been involved here for a long time, so it was able to make use of existing contacts and infrastructure. Peter Seibert, who worked in the south of the island, looks back: 'In contrast to Aceh, the tsunami in Sri Lanka did not end the civil war. That made it more difficult to work in the north and east of the island. In the south, on the other hand, we were able to cooperate intensively with local people.' These local people, together with GIZ staff, rebuilt vocational colleges and hospitals. Women benefited particularly from business start-up training. In the city of Galle, around 70 fishermen set up a cooperative. Peter Seibert explains how it worked: 'Each fisherman paid a deposit to the cooperative, which was then topped up with additional funds. On this basis, we were able to train a bookkeeper. Today, the cooperative is building up financial reserves and the fishermen are working together to market their products.'

For the many people working in the informal sector and micro-enterprises, too, there are fresh prospects for the future. On behalf of the

German Government, GIZ worked with three microfinance institutions to develop bespoke financial products. Today, numerous small and medium-sized businesses are benefiting from the services developed at that time, from micro-credit to training and consultancy.

After the tsunami, the Government of Thailand had very specific projects in mind. Here, the death toll and the scale of the damage would have been greatly reduced if the country had had a well-functioning local disaster preparedness network. Working with the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, which is based at the Ministry of Interior, GIZ developed disaster prevention systems and training materials in two pilot municipalities. Working closely with local people, it developed evacuation and emergency supply plans and various early warning systems. Local community volunteers were trained in disaster risk management, using manuals, so that decision-making structures and know-how were embedded at the local level. Residents took part in simulation training to rehearse their emergency response. Eberhard Blanke, one of the co-managers of the GIZ project at the

time, is convinced that this was pivotal: 'People have to rehearse the procedures regularly so that every action becomes automatic – especially in a worst-case scenario.'

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation had so much faith in the programme that it has rolled it out to at-risk areas all across the country. Using teaching materials prepared by GIZ, training was provided for 75 trainers who then acted as multipliers, disseminating their new-found knowledge in the provinces. Eberhard Blanke is happy with the outcome: 'In 2014 alone, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation provided training for local people in a further 780 villages. Once a year, the Government holds an emergency training exercise in every municipality. This means that the general public is continually practising these disaster preparedness skills.' Ten years after the tsunami, people in the affected regions can now breathe a sigh of relief – thanks in part to the cooperation with Germany. ■

> CONTACT

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URGENT ISSUES

Although the international community has made major progress on combating hunger, more than 800 million people still do not have enough to eat. What are the causes of global food insecurity – and what are the solutions?

Text Philipp Hedemann

Halving, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger is one of the targets set for the first of the Millennium Development Goals. It's also a priority for the German Government: the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development has launched an initiative 'One World, No Hunger' with the specific aim of achieving this goal. And yet in 2014, around 805 million people, or one in nine of the world's people, suffer from hunger, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Nonetheless, major progress has been made: in 2010-2012, 868 million people were still suffering from hunger. In 1990, the figure was more than one billion.

Factors such as population growth and the impacts of climate change pose major

challenges, however. Although fewer people are hungry, around one third of the people living in emerging economies and developing countries suffer from 'hidden hunger', which means that they are deficient in micronutrients. According to the FAO, some 162 million of the world's children are stunted and 99 million are underweight as a result of micronutrient deficiency.

With the world's population projected to reach around nine billion by 2050, the amount of arable and grazing land available per capita is steadily decreasing. Meat consumption is rising throughout the world, and more land is being used to grow bioenergy crops. If everyone is to have enough to eat, food production must at least double by 2050, according to the FAO. However, this can only be achieved »

TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY

The German Food Partnership offers new solutions to world food challenges. Under the auspices of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the project involves public and private sector partners. Leading companies are keen to work with local stakeholders to build value chains in developing and emerging markets. The Partnership is coordinated by GIZ.

 www.germanfoodpartnership.de

by increasing productivity. In fact, there is plenty of potential here, especially in developing countries and emerging economies, where most hungry people live.

Farmers in sub-Saharan Africa achieve grain yields averaging between 0.5 and 1.5 tonnes per hectare – compared with as much as eight tonnes per hectare in Germany. With better fertilisers, pesticides, seed and more efficient irrigation, yields can increase. Some experts and multinationals are keen to combat hunger with high-yield genetically modified crops, but as there is very little research investigating their impacts on human health and the environment, this is a controversial approach.

Organic farming

A further challenge is the shrinking amount of farmland available. Some 20 million hectares of arable and grazing land – equivalent to more than half of the area of Germany – are currently being lost every year. Road and housing construction, rising sea-levels, and desertification are consuming fertile fields. Over-exploitation, overgrazing, poor irrigation, deforestation and erosion suck the goodness from the soil. Organic farming can do much to counter this loss. Although yields are often lower in the short term, organic farming is therefore a more sustainable way to achieve food security in the long term.

But increasing productivity is not the only option for combating hunger. The way we manage food also needs to improve. According to a study by the Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology, roughly one third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally, which amounts to about 1.3 billion tonnes per year, partly due to inadequate transport and storage facilities.

Due to the sheer scale of hunger in all its complexity, it is an issue that the international community must address as a matter of urgency. ■

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» INTERVIEW

'Much depends on Africa'



Gerd Fleischer is the Head of GIZ's Competence Centre for Agricultural Trade, Agricultural Economy and Standards.

What needs to be done in order to further increase food production without exceeding our planet's ecological limits?

Demand for food is increasing for a variety of reasons. World population growth is just one of them. This additional demand cannot be met by the current world market; instead, local production needs to increase, especially in Africa, where yields are very low. The average grain yield, for example, is one to two tonnes per hectare, compared with five to seven tonnes in Asia or Latin America. If we can achieve higher yields in Africa using the production techniques that are standard elsewhere in the world, we can feed the world's people without exceeding the planet's capacities. In other words, much depends on Africa.

Food security has been an issue for some time. GIZ is a member of the German Food Partnership. Could you explain why? Does the Partnership have anything new and special to offer?

The Partnership brings together a number of companies all along the product value chain, from seed to harvest to marketing. Higher yields can only be achieved if many different factors converge. It's not enough to introduce new varieties of crop if the distribution of the harvest is not organised efficiently later on. We need to look at the entire production cycle – and that's exactly what we are doing with the German Food Partnership. Potato growing in Kenya and Nigeria is one example. We are establishing a platform which involves companies such as K+S Group and farm machinery manufacturer Grimme, on the one hand, and a large number of smallholder farmers, on the other. In this way, we are attempting to modernise small-scale farming in Africa.

Some people think that because it works with the private sector, the German Food Partnership is simply a well-disguised form of economic development – and, what's more, that it is cooperating with the wrong people.

The companies don't get any money from us. On the contrary, they have to contribute to the Partnership. They provide either funding or some other form of contribution, with the private sector covering at least 50% of the costs of every project. And it's not the case that we only work with major German companies. We have opted to be flexible: we look at where there is the innovative capacity that we need in order to provide suitable machinery for small-scale farming in Africa, for example. And of course, we cooperate with local businesses as well – that's a given.

Interview: Friederike Bauer



WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

After the withdrawal of the Bundeswehr in 2014, the work to secure the livelihoods of the Afghan people will continue – with GIZ's support. A visit to Badakhshan shows how this will happen.

Text and photos Dieter Herrmann

Badakhshan in the north-east corner of Afghanistan is one of the country's poorest provinces – and one of the most beautiful. Although just 300 km from Kabul as the crow flies, visitors here find themselves in a different world. Sandwiched between the mountains of the Hindu Kush and the Karakorum, this is a wildly romantic landscape, criss-crossed by mighty rivers. Once one of the most inaccessible regions in Asia, it has been populated for more than 1,000 years.

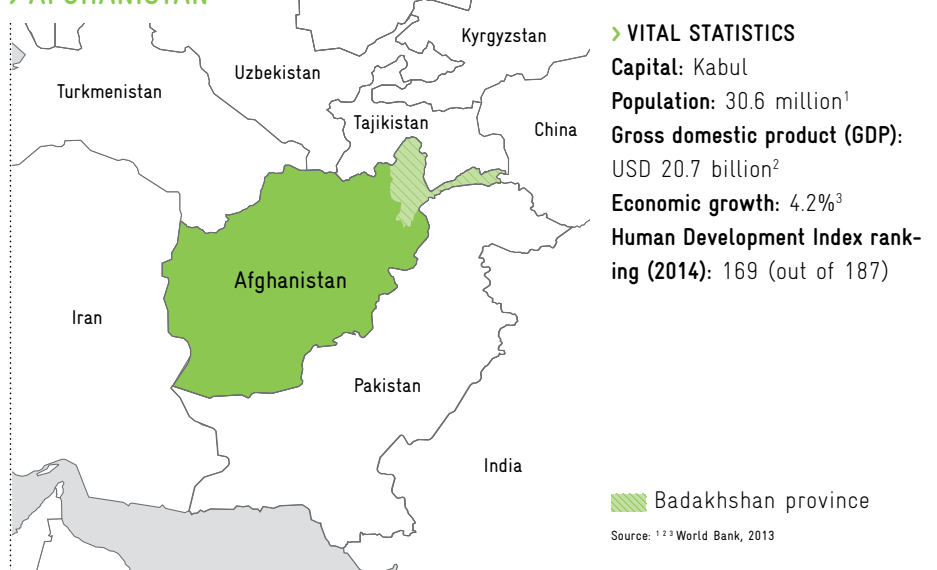
We are heading for the district of Argo, around 15 km from the provincial capital Faizabad. The journey takes at least an hour. Our driver takes us along roads that wind through some of Afghanistan's highest mountains. We finally reach the village of Ab-E-Barik. The first thing we see is an expanse of tents – dozens, perhaps hundreds of them, pitched anywhere and everywhere there is some level ground.

A deadly mudslide

There's a saying in Afghanistan: 'If you harm the mountain in your youth, the mountain will wait for its revenge.' Some people believe that this is exactly what happened – as if people had caused pain to the mountain that is home to the village of Ab-E-Barik. On 2 May 2014, the mountain suddenly started to move, slowly at first, and then faster and faster. Then torrents of mud began to pour down the mountain, with fatal consequences. Guests at a wedding were among the first victims, and then many more people were buried alive, suffocating in the mud. There are still bodies buried in the mountains of mud that now fill the valley. The government has designated the area of the landslide a mass grave.

No one knows exactly how many people were killed, but it's likely to be many hundreds. A villager, Tariq Bukhari, tells us that every single person in the village lost members of their family. 'We were at home. Suddenly, we hear a dull rumbling up on the mountain and then a roaring sound that we

> AFGHANISTAN



couldn't explain. It flattened the walls of many people's houses within seconds.' Around 400 families – more than 2,000 people – are now living in tents, too frightened to return home. But it will be winter within a few months, and then the heavy snows will come and temperatures will fall to around minus 15.

Assistance is being provided by the region's Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. Maqsd Shukrikhudoev is employed by the Department as a GIZ development worker. 'Supporting people who survived the landslide and can't return home is an immensely important step,' he says. 'Indeed, for many of them, it's likely to make the difference between life and death. But it has to be followed up by further measures to prevent disasters like the one in Argo from occurring in future.'

Deadly mudslides are by no means uncommon here in the north-east of the country. That wasn't always the case. In the past 30 or 40 years, many of the forests on the slopes have been cleared, and the loss of the trees has destabilised the soil. Population growth and the influx of people displaced by the war

from the cities have increased the demand for firewood for heating and cooking to such an extent that today, almost all the hillsides in the region are bare. And it's the destruction of the forests, local people say, which is painful for the mountain.

Restabilising the slopes

Slopes at risk of landslides now need to be restabilised very quickly – especially above the villages. 'We need trees here; in fact, we need them urgently,' says Christian Poschmann from GIZ. 'But we also need transitional solutions, to bridge the gap until the trees grow high enough. Wild rhubarb is very fast-growing and provides good soil stability.' It's also important to plant trees that will provide villagers with an additional source of income over the long term, such as almonds and fruit trees. 'Otherwise,' says Christian Poschmann, 'they will very quickly be turned into firewood.'

Observers now know exactly where there is a particularly high risk of landslides. 'We have carried out a range of studies,' says Björn Richter from GIZ. 'We need to >>



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implement preventive measures wherever the risk is greatest.’ And as he points out, local people also need to be educated about the situation and the hazards they face. This information is essential to help them decide on a safe place to build their homes.

The empowered women of Faizabad

We drive back to Faizabad, the provincial capital. Here, local women are keen to establish a firm foundation for their own futures. We meet Pohanmal Hassam Natiq, the representative of Afghanistan’s Minister of Women’s Affairs in Badakhshan province. ‘In recent decades, women’s rights have been massively curtailed, again and again,’ she says. ‘But now we are entering a new era and we want employment of our own.’

With support from the German Government, a new women’s centre is being set up in the west of the city. It’s still a building site at present, but in a few months’ time, there will be a new market hall and later a small education centre. It will be a market ‘by women for women’, for this is what most of Faizabad’s women want. Of course, there is already a large market in the city, but it’s almost impossible for a woman to run a stall there: very few women have managed to penetrate the male-dominated world of trade. ‘Anyway, most of what’s sold in the old market is rubbish,’ says Pohanmal Hassam Natiq. ‘Why should we buy fruit juice from

1 The image of fear: after the landslide, local people are living in tents. Many are too frightened to return home. 2 Looking to the future: GIZ is keen to offer new prospects for Afghanistan, especially its young people. 3 Hard work: for the people of this war-torn country, earning a living is still fraught with problems. 4 The face of determination: Faizabad’s women want to work.

» PROFILE

other countries that is possibly of dubious quality? We can make a much higher-quality local product ourselves.'

But setting up facilities to process and market local products has to be a cooperative endeavour. But here too, determination and concerted effort are driving the German-Afghan project forward. And it's paying off: 'At long last, we can use our skills and abilities and contribute to our family's livelihoods,' say the participants. Many of the women are keen to sell fruit juices at the new market. Some of them want to make crafts from cashmere yarn and jewellery from lapis lazuli, which is mainly found in Badakhshan. Others would like to sell freshly baked goods, dairy products or snacks made from rice and potatoes. The plan is for the women to run the market themselves, with support from the Ministry if any problems arise. Once the market hall is finished, it won't take long for all the stalls to be allocated. 'We are already getting enquiries from the women. They have faith in the help being provided by Germany,' says Pohanmal Hassam Natiq.

But not all the problems have been resolved. For the time being, the women traders won't be able to sell products which need to be kept cool, for although Faizabad is the provincial capital and has a population of around 100,000, electricity is only available from 6 p.m. to 10 o'clock at night. A hydro-power plant on the Kokcha River has been planned for years and will be funded mainly by Germany. However, Kabul has not yet granted permission to build the plant as it's unclear who will cover the maintenance costs. But the women are optimistic and are looking forward to the day when the market will open. ■

» CONTACT

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Fashion from Mazar-e Sharif

In the mornings, Huda teaches literature; the rest of the time, she runs her own business. A bundle of energy, she has set up a small but flourishing dressmaking business, with 15 employees, in the bazaar in her home city of Mazar-e Sharif – with German support. 'I've just secured a major contract for school uniforms,' she says, putting the finishing touches to a wedding dress. The elaborate garment costs the equivalent of EUR 130 – a fortune in Afghanistan. So Huda has a solution for women who can't afford such an expensive confection: she also offers a dress hire service.

Huda received around EUR 3,200 to set up her business from a start-up fund run by GIZ. From 2010 to 2012, GIZ offered this support in the provinces of Balkh, Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan. Applicants had to present their business plans to a jury comprising representatives of Afghan business associations and the chamber of commerce. In all, 133 aspiring entrepreneurs were awarded funding – and 37 of them were women. The new businesses were given training and assigned mentors, who provided help and guidance. Today, these new businesses have created 560 jobs.

Dressmaker Huda has plenty of plans in the pipeline: she wants to start supplying winter coats very soon and would also like to set up a small shop next to her workroom, where she would sell her own designs. 'Afghan women want quality, not cheap rubbish,' she says. She's thinking about online marketing and exporting her garments abroad and is already offering training to seamstresses. Her husband is very much in favour of her entrepreneurial activities, which are bringing in an additional income for the family. Huda's major challenge now is to source more sewing machines and find larger premises so that she can meet her customer demand.

AN ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN

Nino Elbakidze, lawyer and women's rights advocate in Georgia

Photos Vakhtang Kuntsev-Gabashvili

A strong society needs strong women: that's Nino Elbakidze's firm belief. A member of 'Article 42 of the Constitution', a human rights organisation in her home country of Georgia, Nino is committed to educating women about their legal rights and how to assert them. What's in the name? 'Article 42 of the Georgian constitution is about every citizen's right to assert their rights before a court of law and to have the defence of a lawyer,' explains 33-year-

old Nino. In the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2013, Georgia was ranked only 86th out of the 136 countries reviewed. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, GIZ is advising on legal and judicial reform in the South Caucasus. Together with 'Article 42', it has published a manual on women's rights and has already trained more than 1,000 women as multipliers. ■



Lawyer Nino Elbakidze advises a client who is fighting for child maintenance payments.



There is a particular need to raise rural women's awareness of their rights.



SUCCESS STORIES:

GIZ presents some faces and stories from around the world in a series of video interviews: www.giz.de/stories



Legal texts are discussed in the conference room of 'Article 42 of the Constitution'.



Men wanting a divorce also seek Nino's advice on legal matters.

CLOSE TO THE ACTION

GIZ's development workers are experts in many different fields. They are deployed as advisors for a specific period to share their knowledge with local people. Many of them also take an active role in their own communities when they return home.

Text Detlev Tenzer

Training Ecuador's young journalists, promoting people with disabilities in Gaza, developing forest-friendly farming in the Lao People's Democratic Republic: GIZ development workers are always in demand when it comes to carrying out development activities with local people. 'Our development workers combine technical and intercultural skills with social commitment,' says Petra Mutlu, who heads GIZ's Development Service. The deployment of development workers is agreed between the German Government and partner country governments. In many cases, they work directly with local people in the regions where they are deployed and cooperate intensively with government agencies and civil society organisations. Through their local presence, they enhance the work performed by GIZ at the national and regional level.



MARTIN SCHACHNER, ECUADOR, works with cocoa farmers in Sumaco Biosphere Reserve.



ANJA FRIEDRICH, GHANA, advises the country's Co-operative Credit Unions Association on credit risk management.



KATHARINA BOHL, BRAZIL, advises a Brazilian partner organisation on the marketing of fruits and natural oils.

Supporting farming families

Ronald Siegmund-Stuckenberg is a good example. An agronomist, he works for the Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation programme, which GIZ is implementing in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Together with Laos' Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ronald Siegmund-Stuckenberg works with farmers in the province of Houaphan in order to improve their living conditions and livelihoods, so that they do not increase carbon dioxide emissions by clearing

PHOTOS: MARTIN SCHACHNER (PAGE 42 TOP LEFT), PRIVAT (PAGE 42 RIGHT), FLORIAN KÖPP/GIZ (PAGE 42 BOTTOM), STEPHAN HÄRTEL/GIZ (PAGE 43 TOP)

forest. 'We advise farming families on how they can improve their poultry and cattle breeding. In Laos and neighbouring countries, there is a consistently high demand for meat. If farmers were able to meet this demand on a continuous basis under economically viable conditions, there would be no need for them to convert more forest into farmland in order to safeguard their livelihoods,' Ronald Siegmund-Stuckenberg explains. He adopts a dual approach. Firstly, various fodder crops are grown in order to address supply bottlenecks and to ensure that livestock can be fattened for market. And secondly, chickens are regularly vaccinated in order to improve standards of husbandry and make breeding more profitable. 'We apply these methods on best-practice farms and then hold training sessions for the entire village so that there is broad public awareness of the benefits.'

Ronald Siegmund-Stuckenberg is one of around 860 development workers deployed with GIZ's partner organisations in 56 countries. GIZ is one of seven development services recognised by the German Government, and can draw on more than 50 years of experience in selecting, preparing and deploying development workers. 'GIZ provides the largest contingent of development workers in Germany. Our development workers are mainly deployed on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development,' says



STEFANIA DEL TORSO, TAJIKISTAN, worked as a marketing expert until 2013, promoting sustainable tourism.



Petra Mutlu. However, development workers may also be deployed in projects commissioned by other German ministries and international institutions and organisations. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the Government of Botswana already make use of the service.

Handpicked and trained

GIZ's development workers all have one thing in common: they are handpicked and trained for a specific task, which they then undertake via their deployment with one of GIZ's partner organisations overseas. GIZ therefore recruits experienced professionals from Germany and other European countries who are keen to share their skills and expertise. They are deployed for a specific period, the majority as technical, process and organisational advisors. 'The deployment of development workers comes into its own wherever change processes require continuous professional support and can only be achieved over the medium to long term,' explains Petra Mutlu. In this way, GIZ promotes dialogue and networking between governments, civil society and the business community, and ensures that a comprehensive transfer of knowledge and experience takes place.

Development workers often stay engaged even after their deployment in a partner country has ended: once they return home, many of them continue to support change processes from Germany and Europe and motivate others to take action. Compared with the rest of the German population, they are also much more likely to commit to volunteering. In autumn 2013, GIZ surveyed around 750 former development workers about their activities. Two thirds of this group said that they had un-

dertaken voluntary work since returning home, with 50% of them volunteering for five or more hours a week. They share the experience gained from their deployment with the Development Service in development education, partnership associations and other initiatives – as staunch advocates for a cosmopolitan European society and more justice in the globalised world. ■

CONTACT

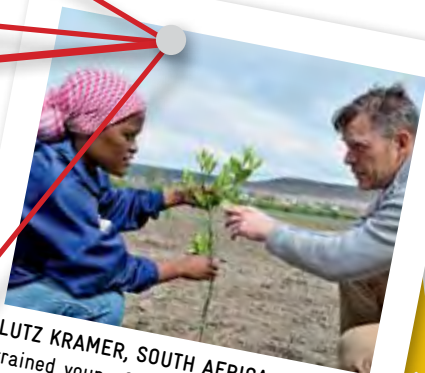
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GIZ'S DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

GIZ's Development Service deploys committed and experienced experts to German development cooperation programmes around the globe. Its development workers work directly with governmental and civil society organisations. They use their professionalism, experience and intercultural sensitivity to support and build the capacities of the local population.

GIZ is the largest organisation – and the only state body – of the seven development services recognised in Germany by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Anyone can apply to become a development worker for GIZ Development Service, regardless of their religious beliefs or affiliations, provided they are a citizen of an EU country or Switzerland.



LUTZ KRAMER, SOUTH AFRICA, trained young South Africans in horticulture, including lemon tree cultivation.

SOUTH AFRICA



A paper frieze from the 'East-West' series by artist Sylvia Faragó



> EXHIBITION

Atelier Europa

This year's art exhibition at GIZ's Head Office in Eschborn focuses on Europe. 'Atelier Europa' brings together paintings, graphic art, wood sculptures and pottery by around half a dozen artists from Poland, Hungary, Greece, Romania and Bulgaria. The exhibition features some 80 works in which the artists explore themes relating to their home countries and the wider world through these various media.

One of the artists is Sylvia Faragó from Budapest, who trained at Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design and elsewhere. She creates friezes from hand-made paper, sometimes woven through with other natural materials. The irregular surface of her works creates a strongly tactile and sculptural effect. Faragó's friezes in the 'East-West' series are

reminiscent of ritual symbols and the Far Eastern art of calligraphy.

It has become something of a tradition at GIZ to hold an annual exhibition of modern art from around the world; the first took place in 1996 and 'Atelier Europa' is the latest in the series. The works on display will be available for purchase by GIZ staff and visitors.

'Atelier Europa' will be formally opened by Tanja Gönner, the Chair of GIZ's Management Board, on Wednesday, 3 December 2014, at 6.30 p.m.

When? 4 December 2014 to 28 February 2015

Where? GIZ, Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5, Eschborn; Building 1, foyer and first floor

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

> RECOMMENDED READING*

The Sound of Things Falling

Juan Gabriel Vásquez, Colombia

Translated from Spanish by Anne McLean
Riverhead; 288 pages

ISBN: 1594487480

Bogotá, 2009: the story opens with the death of a hippopotamus that had escaped from what was once Pablo Escobar's private zoo. The news reminds narrator Antonio of the murder of an acquaintance, which he himself had inadvertently witnessed. His investigations into the murder clearly reveal how drug trafficking and violence have shaped the lives of an entire generation. Brilliantly composed.

Anita Djafari, Chief Executive, Litprom

GIZ-PUBLICATIONS

These publications can be downloaded or ordered free of charge from www.giz.de/publications.



Improving the Image of Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Available in German and English
Ute Clement, Ewald Gold, Klaus Rütters,
Klaus Schneider

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is perceived in developing, emerging and even in industrialised countries as 'second-

best' compared with general or academic education. This has a range of critical implications for society. This study explores ways of improving the vocational training's image and bridges a major empirical gap.



Assessing development impacts: lessons from a case study in Ghana

Available in English
Lachlan Cameron, James Falzon,
Michiel Hekkenberg, Deborah Murphy

The authors present 'Development Impact Assessment (DIA)' - a new tool to analyse the sustainable impacts of climate projects on

development - with reference to Ghana, which aims to meet 10% of its electricity supply from renewable sources by 2020.



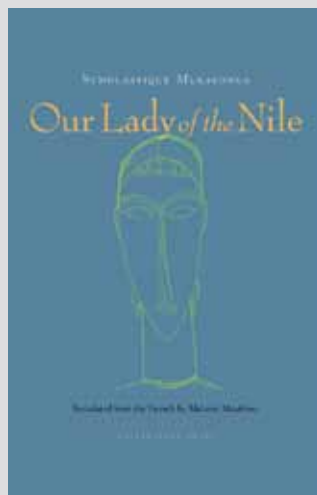
> RECOMMENDED READING*

Dogs at the Perimeter

Madeleine Thien, Canada/Malaysia/China
 Granta Books; 272 pages
 ISBN: 1847084915

As a child, Janie escaped from the Khmer Rouge and was adopted by a Canadian family. But the past catches up with her when a colleague disappears in Montreal. An in-depth psychological study, the complex and poetic narrative interweaves the past with the present and asks: am I really anything more than a collection of memories?

Katharina Borchardt, literary critic and editor



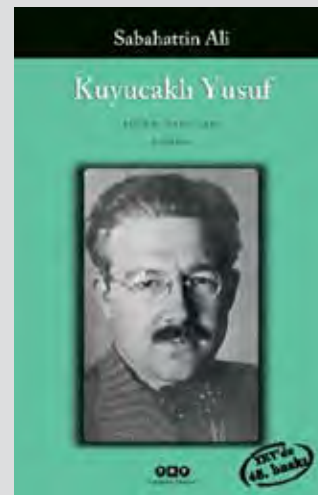
> RECOMMENDED READING*

Our Lady of the Nile

Scholastique Mukasonga, Rwanda
 Translated from French by Melanie Mauthner
 Archipelago; 240 pages
 ISBN: 0914671030

Rwanda in the early 1970s: new pupils arrive at an all girls' boarding school 'Our Lady of the Nile', and it's not long before conflicts emerge between the Hutus and the Tutsis. With skill and subtlety, the author describes the mechanisms of hatred and violence – and reveals the fatal legacy of colonialism that made genocide in Rwanda possible.

Claudia Kramatschek, literary critic and arts journalist



> RECOMMENDED READING*

Kuyucaklı Yusuf

Sabahattin Ali, Turkey
 Available in Turkish, German and French
 YKY; 220 pages; ISBN 9789750800016

A quiet tragedy of archaic power. Set in 1903, this is the moving story, told without a trace of pathos, of Yusuf, a traumatised orphan in Anatolia. After the murder of his parents, Yusuf is taken in by a district official. But Yusuf is different and 'other', and too naïve for his new and devious surroundings. A subdued but absorbing tale.

Cornelia Zetzsche, literary editor, critic and broadcaster

* 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 list of best new novels. www.litprom.de



Faszination Verkehr
 Available in German
 Jörn Breiholz, Michael Netzhammer,
 Dominik Schmid

This publication describes our fascination with transport, which poses a dilemma for the international community. It must mitigate climate change without restricting mobility and

its development, as mobility enables people to earn a living and send their children to secondary school. GIZ is working on sustainable transport strategies and solutions in around 20 countries.



Guidelines for an Employment and Labour Market Analysis (ELMA)
 Available in English
 Annette Mummert

Promoting productive and decent employment is a complex task. ELMA provides a methodological tool based on GIZ's integrated approach for employment promotion and enables a range of stakeholders involved in development cooperation to undertake a comprehensive analysis of labour markets.

JASMIN FREISCHLAD,

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM EXPERT

JASMIN FREISCHLAD has seen for herself what it means to lose everything. In early 2004, soon after the devastating tsunami, she went to the Indonesian province of Aceh to help rebuild its administration and organise the first free elections. A cultural studies graduate specialising in good governance and human rights, Jasmin stayed in Indonesia until 2011. After the disaster, the challenge was not only to help survivors rebuild their homes. The entire public governance system had to be rebuilt, including well-functioning municipal administrations to issue birth certificates, provide a reliable water and electricity supply, and set up health and education infrastructures. 'Being able to carry on doing a job that makes you happy – that's my most important experience at GIZ,' says Jasmin. And that's what she's doing in her present post: as an expert in administrative reform in the Good Governance and Human Rights division, she is staying true to her roots. Her responsibilities include supporting her colleagues around the world in planning and evaluating projects. Her workplace is Eschborn. And the world.

Photo: Dirk Ostermeier

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AUTHORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



DIETRICH ALEXANDER is Deputy Head of Foreign Affairs at the Welt Group. His article, starting on page 12, explores European issues.



PHILIPP HEDEMANN is an author, specialising in humanitarian aid and development cooperation. He wrote the article about food security (page 34).



TONI KEPPELER is an author specialising in Latin America. In this issue of *akzente*, he showcases a project in Chile (page 28).



DIRK OSTERMEIER is a photographer. For this issue of *akzente*, he visited and profiled GIZ staffer Jasmin Freischlad in Eschborn (page 46).



DETLEV TENZER is responsible for public relations at GIZ's Development Service. In this issue, he explains the role of development workers (page 42).



BEATE WÖRNER is an author specialising in development cooperation. For this issue of *akzente*, she met Malaysian students in Swabia (page 8).



JÖRG BÖHLING is a photographer. He took the photos of cotton workers in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh (page 26).



DIETER HERRMANN, Australia correspondent for Deutsche Welle, visited reconstruction projects in Afghanistan on behalf of *akzente* (page 36).



VAKHTANG KUNTSEV-GABASHVILI is a photographer. In this issue of *akzente*, he profiles the Georgian human rights expert Nino Elbakidze (page 40).



GABRIELE RZEPKA specialises in development policy and technology. She describes how regions devastated by the tsunami are coping today (page 31).



GRAEME WILLIAMS is a photographer. For this issue of *akzente*, he profiles political scientist Gilbert Khadiagala in Johannesburg, South Africa (page 24).



JOHANNES WOSILAT is a photographer. He took the photos of young Malaysian engineering students in Baden-Württemberg (page 8).

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akzente was honoured with a Gold and a Silver Fox Award in 2014.

PREVIEW

akzente issue 01-15

YOUTH Achieving their dreams, or simply surviving? Where should they start, and how should they move forward? When it comes to national development, young people are a vast store of untapped potential. How can it be unlocked, consolidated and utilised? Young people are cre-

ative and form new social, political and economic structures. But they also need employment prospects and opportunities to participate in future-oriented societies – and this poses major challenges for emerging economies, industrialised nations and developing countries alike.





A construction site is perhaps one of the most fitting metaphors for the European project. Like a good building, the community of European states has solid foundations on which it can build and continue to grow.

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