

akzente

The GIZ Magazine

Climate – there are
hot times ahead

Other topics:

German bankers advise farmers in Thailand
Trainee nurses from Viet Nam in Germany



WE MAKE READY-TO-EAT MEALS FOR
PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

BHAGWANTI PORTAY
ENTREPRENEUR IN INDIA

TOGETHER WITH 11 other women, Portay seized the initiative and started a business. She now has her own income for the first time. Ever since her village has been provided with electricity from renewable sources, Portay has been able to increase production.

You can find more 'Faces and Stories' at
www.giz.de/stories.



Scan the code with your smartphone to watch the video.

GOOD NEGOTIATING CLIMATE

The challenges of climate change mitigation and GIZ's contribution

DEAR READER, we know about the 'Inconvenient Truth' (Al Gore). And we know that 'the debate is settled' (Barack Obama) and that 'the science is clear' (Kofi Annan). We are talking about climate change, a phenomenon that policy-makers and leading public figures now almost all agree 'represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day' (Pope Francis). This is not simply a political nightmare that we will wake up from at some point, as some people might have hoped a few years ago. This is very real. At the end of 2015, the world's leaders will come together once again in Paris at what may well be the defining conference. Will they find the strength to conclude a new, effective agreement on climate change? The rhetoric in the run-up to the summit is certainly positive, and the negotiating climate seems favourable. Everyone is looking expectantly at Paris, as are we.

OUR AUTHOR Joachim Müller-Jung considers in his essay why not all of the grim climate predictions made over the last few years have come true. He also examines climatic changes that are already evident today and explores how people and countries are preparing for the negative impacts. Mary Robinson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Change, explains in

her guest article why all countries – both developing and industrialised nations – must now step up to the plate, albeit in different ways.

OUR REPORTS from abroad focus on financial experts from Deutsche Bank who are supporting rice farmers in Thailand, young geriatric nurses from Viet Nam who are building a professional future in Germany, where they are badly needed, and strong female entrepreneurs from Mali.

OUR APP for tablets now offers lots of additional interesting information on our akzente topics. For example, you can use the app to watch a video related to the report from Nicaragua. It shows how the arrival of electricity completely changed people's lives in the village of Ocote Tuma.

I hope you enjoy reading, clicking through and watching the videos from this issue,



DOROTHEE HUTTER,
Director of Corporate Communications

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www.giz.de/akzenteapp

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The economist and banker heads a programme in Nigeria that supports small and medium-sized enterprises.

AUTHORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS



JOACHIM MÜLLER-JUNG (1), who heads the Nature and Science desk at the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, wrote the cover story on climate change. Thailand expert **SASCHA ZASTIRAL (2)** accompanied financial experts from Deutsche Bank during their assignment in the country. The impressive 'Through the lens' picture of end-of-life motor scooters was taken by **LI JIANGANG (3)**. Author **CHRISTINE MATTAUCH (4)** and photographer **STEPHANIE FÜSSENICH (5)** visited Thi Thuy Ngan Kieu from Viet Nam at the care home in Munich where she is completing her training. **KLAUS EHRINGFELD (6)**, who writes for the Handelsblatt, travelled to the Nicaraguan village Ocote Tuma with photographer **ESTEBAN FELIX (7)** to report on the changes brought about by the arrival of electricity. **ANTONIE RIETZSCHEL (8)** wrote the article on female entrepreneurs in Mali.

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.

www.giz.de/en

IN FIGURES

10 years ago, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions entered into force and will therefore celebrate its 10th anniversary in October 2015. Some 137 states are now party to the Convention, which is a legally binding international agreement which ensures that all states have the right to an independent cultural policy. The Convention was ratified by Germany in 2007.

100,000 young people in developing countries and emerging economies received support from GIZ in 2014 in their efforts to gain a vocational qualification. Good education and training are key factors in the battle against youth unemployment.

33 per cent of soil worldwide is moderately to severely damaged as a result of, among other things, erosion, pollution, salinisation and the loss of nutrients. Because soil is not a renewable resource, any deterioration in its condition poses a risk to food and nutrition security and the sustainable future of the world's population.

100,000,000 people benefited from health insurance for the first time between 2011 and 2013 thanks to support from GIZ. In many countries, people do not have adequate or affordable access to medical services. The sick often have to pay for treatment directly themselves. Without health insurance, whole families can get into debt.

Expert dialogue



Bonn Conference: panels of international experts, issues of international relevance

SUSTAINABLE ACTION 700 participants from 70 countries took part in the first Bonn Conference for Global Transformation, where experts on sustainability such as Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals, discussed approaches and ideas. 'In times of climate disaster, famine and war, taking sustainable action is the only viable option. There is an urgent need for international dialogue,' said Sachs.

Claudia Roth, Vice-President of the German Bundestag, highlighted the key role that Germany has to play in this pro-

cess: 'So many countries look to us to see whether and how sustainability can be achieved, and not only in the energy and business sectors.'

The Bonn Conference is a series of conferences organised by the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia and GIZ in conjunction with their partners, the United Nations University, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Deutsche Welle. The conference, which is held every two years, explores topics relating to the United Nations' post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Crises: every day counts

RAPID RESPONSE Civil crisis prevention and crisis management are two cornerstones of German activity at the United Nations. The German Government also wants to contribute to better international crisis management in the area of health and has therefore launched an initiative which builds on lessons learned from fighting the Ebola epidemic in western Africa. Federal Development Minister Gerd Müller plans

to create a permanent contingent of doctors and medical staff that can be deployed in crisis areas within just a few days.

To this end, there are plans to assemble a crisis response team within GIZ which will work closely with scientific institutions and non-governmental organisations. The purpose of this team is to ensure and support rapid deployment in the event of future health crises.

Textiles partnership grows

FAIR STANDARDS The strong growth in membership of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles, which includes numerous leading companies and associations, has laid the groundwork for improving social, economic and ecological conditions along the entire textile supply chain. This is precisely what the Partnership aims to do. Founded in 2014 by Federal Development Minister Gerd Müller, it consists of representatives of the textile and clothing industry, retailers, trade unions and

civil society. In mid-2015, Germany's leading textile associations joined the Partnership along with big international companies such as Adidas, Aldi, H&M, Lidl and Tchibo. The group now has more than 120 members. 'This is an important sign,' said Müller of the influx of new members. 'It makes Germany a frontrunner with regard to the international efforts towards fair standards in the global supply chain,' he added. The Partnership is coordinated by GIZ.

'WE COMMIT TO DOING
OUR PART TO ACHIEVE
A LOW-CARBON
GLOBAL ECONOMY IN
THE LONG-TERM.'

G7 summit at Schloss Elmau in June 2015.
Excerpt from the G7 Leaders' Declaration.



Committed to Bonn

NEW ARCHITECTURE GIZ's new office building in Bonn, which was inaugurated in mid-2015, offers space for around 500 workstations. Known as the 'Meander Building', the new building is carbon-neutral and has solar panels on the roof to generate additional electricity. 'We have built our office complex in Bonn, in a city that to all intents and purposes is the German capital of sustainability and international cooperation,' said Tanja Gönner, Chair of the GIZ Management Board.

ILLUSTRATION: ELLIOT BEAUMONT

THREE QUESTIONS FOR



PATRICK LANGENHORST,

a Master's student in agricultural science in Göttingen, Germany. In 2014, he completed an internship on a farm in the United States. He is one of around 500 interns so far who have received support from GIZ in planning and organising their internships.

Why did you decide to do an internship in the United States?

It was my first internship abroad. As well as gaining professional experience, there were other reasons: I wanted to experience a different culture and way of life, and I also wanted to improve my English.

What did you learn?

I worked on a huge dairy farm in Illinois with more than 700 cows. I hadn't experienced anything of that magnitude before in Germany. I performed the everyday tasks of a dairy farmer, which include things like examining cows that have just calved.

How important is the internship for your future?

Once I've graduated, I plan to find a management position on a dairy farm. The internship has definitely helped me in that regard – not only because English is used a lot in this field, but also because I was able to gain experience in the exact field I'm interested in.

www.giz.de/dap (German only)

World in transition



CLIMATE AND DIGITISATION TV journalist Claus Kleber was among the speakers at the Bonn lecture series 'A Changing World. Climate. Global. Digital.', which invited participants to think about the interaction and relationships between climate-related issues and digital change. The lecture series was organised by the Forum Internationale Wissenschaft of the University of Bonn, the Liaison Office Internationale Wissenschaft of the City of Bonn, the Deutsche Welle Akademie and GIZ. Topics addressed by the high-level speakers included whether the digital advances made in recent decades have encouraged international commitments to climate change mitigation, and what additional data and findings are now used in climate change discussions and negotiations.

www.fiw.uni-bonn.de/digital-society/projects-and-events/die-welt-im-wandel-en

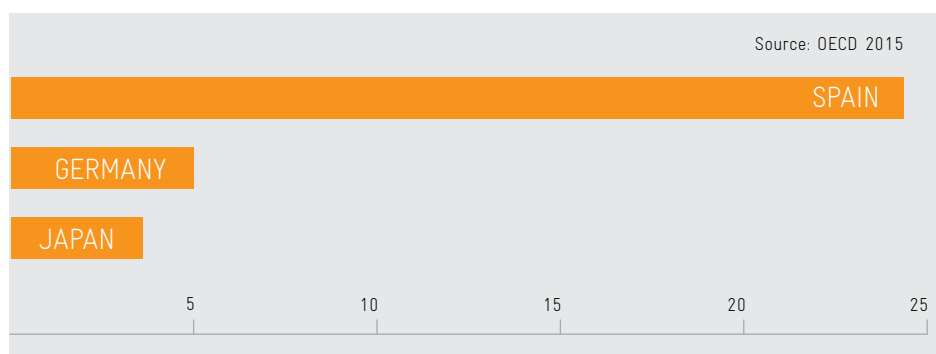
Impetus for the future

POST-2015 AGENDA The motto of the European Development Days 2015 was 'Our world, our dignity, our future'. This year's forum was the key event in the European Year for Development. Around 5,000 experts and decision-makers from the fields of politics, business, academia and civil society gathered in Brussels to discuss numerous topics related to the post-2015 development agenda. These included questions such as: What are the requirements for sustainable growth? How can we promote universal human rights?

GIZ was represented at a dozen events on a variety of topics, including urban development, gender equality, social cohesion, employment, health, climate change and energy. The Development Days also resulted in a number of specific agreements. For instance, Neven Mimica, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, signed a regional financing agreement for Southern and Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean worth more than EUR 1.3 billion between now and 2020.

www.eudevdays.eu

IN COMPARISON



Out of work

High unemployment continues to be a problem for many countries around the world in 2015. An excerpt from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) employment statistics for 2015 reveals the marked differences between countries. The figure shows unemployment as a percentage of the total working population in each country.

Votes cast for best mayor – by text message

TANZANIA In a competition to find Tanzania's best mayor, around 26,000 Tanzanian citizens cast their vote – by text message. In the end, the title went to Yussuf Mwenda from Dar es Salaam. The award ceremony was broadcast live on Tanzanian TV, with President Jakaya Kikwete insistent on presenting the awards in person. The competition marked the 30th anniversary of the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT), which organised the event. It was supported and coordinated by an expert sent to Tanzania by the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM).

The purpose of the competition was to give citizens the opportunity to help shape the way in which mayors fulfil their mandate, for example by delivering high-quality services for their municipalities and promoting local development. Of Tanzania's 168 mayors, 50 applied to take part in the competition based on projects they themselves had initiated in their municipalities. After the preselection process, 39 mayors were shortlisted for the title.



TANZANIA WIKI

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE SWAHILI / CAPITAL CITY DODOMA / FORM OF GOVERNMENT PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM: UNION GOVERNMENT FOR TANZANIA, OWN GOVERNMENT FOR THE ISLAND OF ZANZIBAR / HEAD OF STATE GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE / SIZE 883,749 KM² / POPULATION 50.7 MILLION [1] / POPULATION DENSITY 50.4 INHABITANTS PER KM² [2] / GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT USD 49.1 BILLION [3] / CURRENCY TANZANIAN SHILLING (TZS)

Sources: [1] [3] World Bank 2014, [2] UN Data 2012

NEW PROJECTS

Professional success

TURKEY GIZ International Services advises the Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen (TESK) on behalf of the European Union with the aim of strengthening the capacities of employees and employers in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). With this in mind, GIZ supports the Confederation in training and advising employers and craftsmen – for instance, through in-house training. GIZ International Services is part of the consortium carrying out the project, which also includes the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts.

Trade routes

SOMALIA A project which provides support for road traffic authorities is set to boost the Somalian economy. Somalia lacks transport routes which are suitable for domestic trade and exporting. GIZ is therefore supporting the country in its efforts to rebuild its infrastructure, not only from a technical and institutional viewpoint, but also from a legal perspective. The project is funded by the European Union (EUR 17.8 million) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (EUR 3 million).

Marine biodiversity

ANGOLA, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA Protecting the Benguela Current Marine Ecoregion is the key objective of a project being implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. The coastal region in southern Africa is known worldwide for its immense biodiversity. Although all three countries are heavily dependent on the sea's natural resources, there are major shortcomings with regard to conservation. The project therefore aims to strengthen the sustainable management of the marine region.



SHARING KNOWLEDGE IN THAILAND

Brought together by an international volunteer programme, financial experts from Deutsche Bank are supporting rice farmers.

TEXT AND PHOTOS SASCHA ZASTIRAL

On a normal working day, Sven Sievers would be sitting in his office in Hamburg around this time. He would be on a conference call with colleagues or perhaps meeting representatives of his key accounts in his role as an account manager at Deutsche Bank.

Instead, he is sitting in an air-conditioned minibus driving through the province of Ubon Ratchathani in north-eastern Thailand. The view from the window in the early morning light is dominated by the dry and dusty landscape of harvested rice fields. The region, which is situated in the triangle between Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, is one of the country's poorest. The contrast between it and Thailand's ultramodern capital city Bangkok, with its giant shopping centres and skyscrapers, could not be greater: most people in the villages here are rice farmers who live in simple wooden huts. The majority of vehicles on the roads are mopeds or pick-up trucks.

Sven Sievers (55) has short, greying hair and is wearing a black jacket despite the heat. He has all the qualities of a good customer advisor: he is calm, unassuming and has an aura of expertise. He is accompanied by Karolis Verseckas, a 26-year-old analyst from

Lithuania. Verseckas normally works in credit financing for the Spanish market at Deutsche Bank in London. He exudes a youthful enthusiasm when he talks about his specialist area.

Sievers and Verseckas are in Thailand for four weeks to offer advice in a voluntary capacity on a supraregional rice initiative launched at the start of 2015. Here in Ubon Ratchathani, they plan to meet rice farmers and representatives of local authorities.

Just one bad harvest can put livelihoods at risk

The initiative aims to improve the livelihoods of rice farmers. It therefore teaches farmers in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam about topics such as better cultivation methods and marketing opportunities. For most farmers in Thailand, the rice harvest generates less than the country's minimum wage of around EUR 8 per day. Just one bad harvest can easily see them slip below the poverty line.

The supraregional rice initiative is part of the German Food Partnership, which was founded in 2012 under the auspices of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Partnership consists of German companies and associations wishing to combine their own interests with development objectives. Working with local actors, they are looking to create stable processes in developing countries and emerging economies, from cultivation and process-

ing to trade and consumption. The Partnership is coordinated by GIZ.

The minibus arrives in Mueang Det and stops in front of the municipal rice centre, a state institution which offers advice and support for rice farmers, of which there are thousands throughout Thailand. Mueang Det could also be one of the centres of the supraregional rice initiative, which will offer farmers training in a number of areas in future, including irrigation methods, plant protection, bookkeeping and market theory.

Around three dozen farmers have turned up to talk to Sievers and Verseckas. The proceedings are formal, as is typical in Thailand. The farmers – mostly men in their fifties – are already sitting in four rows when the visitors arrive. Sievers, Verseckas and the GIZ employees take their seats at a long table. The group also includes representatives of the rice wholesaler Olam, a group headquartered in Singapore which could become a partner of the new initiative and buy an agreed quantity of rice from participating farmers.

Sievers stands up, takes the microphone and asks: 'How does financing work here? Where do you get your loans? And do you usually get what you need?' The group speaker answers Sievers' questions on behalf of the farmers. Normally, he explains, farmers borrow money from the agricultural bank or from their cooperative bank. However, he says, the interest on these loans is quite high and the farmers often do not receive the full amount. He hopes to get better access to credit. Sievers nods. »

Theory and practice: Sven Sievers (left) and Karolis Verseckas gain an insight into the work of rice farmers. In the office in Bangkok, they are striving to develop a financing model for farmers.

> INTERVIEW

'Social responsibility'

Suzana Schäfer is corporate volunteering project manager at Deutsche Bank.

Deutsche Bank encourages its employees to take part in volunteer work. Why is that? What does the company gain?

Our social commitment enables us to address pressing social challenges. We place particular emphasis on supporting the personal development of young people and contributing to a fairer education system. By encouraging our employees to take part in social projects, we also strengthen the impact of our initiatives. Almost one quarter of Deutsche Bank employees worldwide demonstrated their social commitment at a personal level last year.

How does Deutsche Bank's international voluntary programme work?

As part of our Corporate Community Partnership Programme, specialists from a wide variety of areas within the bank take part in project placements lasting around four weeks, where they put their expertise to good use in charitable organisations in developing countries and emerging economies. They are released from their normal work on full pay for the duration of the placement and advise groups such as local social enterprises or training establishments. They develop marketing strategies and financing models or evaluate business plans. Our employees learn new skills and broaden their horizons by gaining experience outside their usual work

environment. This also helps to improve identification and satisfaction with Deutsche Bank as an employer.

We therefore strive not only to improve the socio-economic conditions in these countries, but also – and above all – to create a win-win situation at all levels.

What feedback have you received from employees so far?

There has been a very high level of satisfaction on both sides. Employees are motivated by the fact that they can achieve a great deal in a short time. We have noticed that, even after the project has ended, they stay in touch with our partners or members of the social organisations.

Deutsche Bank works with GIZ on its international volunteer programme. Why is that?

GIZ has a direct, local presence in the countries in which our projects are implemented. We therefore know that our employees will receive both the professional and personal support they need during their voluntary placements. We are currently planning a follow-up project for the supranational rice initiative in Thailand, with another team of two specialists set to provide additional support and impetus for the project.

The farmers provide further examples of the difficulties they face. For example, one farmer explains their current problems in accessing markets. He says that more rice is now being produced in the region than distributors are buying. Farmers are therefore often left with surplus produce. To make matters worse, production costs are high: because many young people are leaving the region to work in Bangkok or in other cities, he adds, farmers have to hire additional day labourers. Something has to be done to rekindle young people's interest in agriculture, asserts one man. Another says that he hopes to lower his production costs – which are simply too high – by using machines. Sievers and Verseckas listen attentively.

New approaches to financing

'For me, the meeting showed that there are extremely dedicated people out there who are interested in improving the quality of their products,' says Sievers after meeting the rice farmers. Sievers and Verseckas want to support the farmers' willingness to explore new avenues to improve their livelihoods by devising a financing model specifically for Thai farmers. 'We plan to look at how much rice a farmer produces, what he gets for it, what his costs are, and what he needs to support his household,' explains Sievers. 'We also plan to look at the other side of the coin: the lending options available to farmers, the costs incurred by them, and whether these are appropriate.'

Sievers and Verseckas are in Thailand as part of an international volunteer programme organised and coordinated by GIZ. German companies release their employees for one week to help charitable causes around the world. 'This allows them to gain experience in a sector which is new to them, but still closely related to their day-to-day work,' explains Matthias Bickel, from GIZ in Bangkok. Employees from Deutsche Bank have already

travelled to Myanmar, Uganda and Uzbekistan to participate in the programme.

Immediate interest in the programme

Sievers and Verseckas spend most of their time in Thailand working at the initiative headquarters in the Sukhumvit area of Bangkok. When they are not working out the details of the financing model for farmers, they hold background discussions with experts and representatives of authorities.

At first glance, rice cultivation in Thailand appears to be a big success story. After all, Thailand has been one of the world's largest exporters of rice for decades. 'But when I look at productivity, it seems that many farmers are struggling to earn a living,' says Sievers. The initiative therefore aims to increase yields by around 20 per cent. That may be too ambitious, he adds. 'But you have to aim high to get results.'

Sievers first heard about the volunteer programme through an email sent by his bank's Corporate Social Responsibility department. He wasted no time in registering his interest and was invited for an initial interview soon afterwards. He has been interested in volunteer work for some time: 'I've also offered to mentor younger colleagues. After all, I've been with the bank for 30 years.' His department head supported his decision to take part in the volunteer programme.

Verseckas also jumped at the opportunity when he heard that the programme was looking for volunteers. 'I've worked as a volunteer before and found it very rewarding,' he explains. Because his fiancée is from Thailand, he knew the country well before taking part in the rice initiative. 'I've been here a few times and am aware of the problems facing rice farmers – for example, the fact that young people no longer want to work in the

rice industry.' He was therefore delighted to be accepted into the programme. Education is key, and that is something Verseckas says has become abundantly clear for him during his time in Thailand.

For example, he has learned of individual farmers who have studied and incorporated their knowledge into their business. They are now in a far better financial position than most of their colleagues. 'And that's precisely what the farmers are telling us: show us what we can do, and we'll do it ourselves. They're not asking to be spoon-fed.'

With his typical reserve, Sievers describes his experience so far. 'What we're doing here isn't astrophysics, it's about business expertise. But it also gives me the opportunity to broaden my horizons. And to learn and see things which I can incorporate and use elsewhere in future.' He admits that



Direct dialogue: At the municipal rice centre in Mueang Det, Sievers and Verseckas meet farmers and learn about their plans and problems.

Thailand has been a steep learning curve for him. This is the first time he has worked in the field of agricultural produce. And in a city like Bangkok: 'I always thought that Hamburg was a big city, but since being in Bangkok, I've realised that I actually come from a small village.'

> CONTACT

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> AT A GLANCE

Reaping the rewards of volunteer work

The International Corporate Volunteering programme offers employees of companies the opportunity to put their skills to good use for a few weeks in a developing country or emerging economy. GIZ arranges project placements which enable participants to use their expertise and contribute to solving specific local problems. It prepares them for the trip and assigns contacts to support them in the relevant country. For many companies, voluntary placements are an integral part of both their social commitment and their personnel development measures. They also provide an insight into new markets and innovations.







CLIMATE

THEMES

TIME FOR CHANGE: 2015 is an important year for the climate. The Paris conference at the end of the year will show whether the international community has the will to curb global warming.

OVERVIEW: Examples of work at GIZ

IN FIGURES: A key role for cities

'WE'RE TALKING MILLIONS': Interview with Walter Kälin, Swiss professor of international law, on climate-induced displacement

DIFFERENT CALLS FOR ACTION: Guest article by Mary Robinson



Time for change

Global warming was long regarded as an abstract issue and a problem for future generations. But there are many signs that climate change is already happening: its impacts are being felt in more and more regions of the world. That's why all eyes are on Paris.

TEXT JOACHIM MÜLLER-JUNG

We've turned the corner – just in time. All being well, these words will sum up the outcome of climate year 2015 and the Paris conference. The aim is to reach a political agreement with ambitious targets – progress, finally, after the failed Copenhagen conference six years ago. That was typical of the UN climate process and its efforts to secure commitments on paper: it's complex and laborious and progresses in fits and starts. That seems to be the tradition.

Not that it matters – for failure was always a calculated risk in this diplomatic poker game, which began at the Rio Summit in 1992. There was too much at stake for the players who were committed to economic success, and there also appeared to be too much scope for diplomatic chicanery. The climate crisis? Surely that was an issue for future generations? That was the maxim

which guided policy-making at the time. And then there are the scientific uncertainties: why has the global average temperature stabilised over the last 15 years when atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations have been rising ever more rapidly since the start of industrialisation?

In short, for many years there was little sign that, in their relentless quest for economic prowess, the world's countries were taking global warming seriously as a genuine threat and not just as an abstract statistic. Instead, climate politics seemed to evoke the words of evolutionary biologist Edward O. Wilson: it is the tragedy of our time, he said, that humankind has 'Stone Age emotions, medieval institutions and godlike technology'.

But now – in the last four months of 2015, as the United Nations also finalises the new Sustainable Development Goals – this is supposed to change. The closer we get to the Paris conference, the more policy-makers shift into therapy mode. But as with any chronic disease, there is no quick fix to heal the suffering of our planet. What is needed is a well-crafted treatment plan – one which provides faster relief as the suffering increases. »

Many migratory birds are already reacting to higher temperatures by changing their flyways – with devastating impacts on some populations.



①

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

PROJECT:

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMISSIONED BY:

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCIES:

ENERGY MINISTRIES AND ENERGY AGENCIES
IN VARIOUS MENA COUNTRIES

TERM:

2006 TO 2016

MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

GIZ is supporting Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian territories and Tunisia in their efforts to create a more enabling environment for energy efficiency in the construction sector. It is also working with partners to identify potential for more intensive renewable energy use.

www.giz.de/international-services/en/html/1749.html

②

FOREST CONSERVATION

PROJECT:

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION
FROM DEFORESTATION

COMMISSIONED BY:

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY:

INDONESIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

TERM:

2009 TO 2020

INDONESIA

Indonesia has some of the world's most extensive and biologically diverse tropical rainforests. This project aims to protect the forests and provide adequate income-generating opportunities for their users. Forests sequester carbon dioxide, so their conservation helps to protect the climate.

www.giz.de/en/worldwide/16728.html

Perhaps it's no bad thing that the patient's temperature has suddenly soared again, with 2015 on track to be a new record year for global warming.

The supposed global warming hiatus may well end this year, at least unofficially, along with the stalemate in the climate process. The reason is not hard to find. El Niño (the name means 'Christ Child' in Spanish) – a weather phenomenon recurring every few years and characterised by a rush of unusually warm water in the central and eastern Pacific – is creating more warm air masses, sending global average temperatures soaring. This is causing more extreme weather across the globe, with flooding in the western regions of South America and droughts already starting across much of Australia. Although not entirely unconnected to climate change, El Niño is undoubtedly an anomaly – one of many cyclical natural phenomena that have been occurring over millennia.

Global warming has paused – or has it?

So is greenhouse gas-induced global warming still in hiatus? There is little evidence of that at present. Recent studies have revealed that the unexpected pause is temporary – or even illusory, for researchers have discovered discrepancies between older ship-based measurements of sea temperatures and more recent buoy-based measurements. It seems that much of the surplus energy that drives atmospheric warming via the greenhouse effect is sequestered in the deep sea. In other words, the heat is simply stored there for the time being. Scientists predict that, sooner or later, the ocean's biological pump will transport this heat back to the surface, where it will warm up the atmosphere.

But these new findings make no difference to climate researchers' projections. Global average temperature has increased by about 0.85°C since the late 19th century, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) anticipates a further temperature rise of between 1.5°C and 4°C by 2100. The primary driver is the unabated emission of greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide (CO₂), from the burning of fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas. This year, the global concentration of the trace gas CO₂ in the atmosphere reached 400 parts per million (ppm) for an extended period for the first time since records began – an increase of more than 40 per cent since the start of industrialisation, and, it is thought, higher than at any time in the previous 800,000 years.



In many cities, air pollution is a visible and tangible presence; Santiago de Chile is regularly affected by smog.

‘Climate change (...) represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.’

POPE FRANCIS IN HIS NEW ENCYCLICAL LETTER
‘ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME’

Nowadays, only a small and marginalised group of climate sceptics question whether this process will impact on the planet’s energy balance. Of around 14,000 scientific articles published between 1991 and the end of 2012 and listed in the Web of Science online database, just 581 cast doubt on the concept of human-induced climate change, and only a tiny fraction – 0.17 per cent – reject it completely. Global warming is ‘beyond doubt’ and there is no longer anything abstract about it: its impacts are being felt in ever more regions of the world. US atmospheric scientist Katharine Hayhoe recently counted 26,500 independent indicators of a warming planet all around us, showing that climate change is already happening. For example, coral growth rates in Australia’s Great Barrier Reef have decreased by 40 per cent since the mid-1970s due to ocean acidification driven by rising levels of atmospheric CO₂, which affects the chemistry of seawater and causes it to become more acidic. This in turn impairs calcification and threatens reef-builders. It’s the same scenario off the coast of Thailand and in the Red Sea. »

15,000

extreme weather events occurred between 1994 and 2013, mostly in developing countries – and the figure is rising.

Source: Germanwatch



Climate zones are shifting, causing palpable and permanent changes to habitats. This has a dramatic impact on bird populations in particular. Due to higher temperatures, some species are no longer migrating to warmer climes and are now starting to dominate certain habitats. This alters the local species composition and accelerates population decline. Flyways are also changing, increasing birds' exposure to parasites. What's more, pathogens such as certain strains of the flu virus are spreading to more northerly regions with the migration of waterfowl and have already caused outbreaks of disease – known collectively as 'avian flu' – in a number of countries.

Crops such as coffee at risk in many regions

An even greater concern for scientists is the collapse of entire habitats and the associated ecological risks. Many flora and fauna currently face a rapidly growing threat of extinction. According to a recent meta-analysis, even if global warming is held down to 2°C, at least 5 per cent of species will still face extinction, and with a temperature rise of more than 4°C, 16 per cent of today's species, both flora and fauna, will be at risk. Indeed, the figure may be very much higher. Warming is already threatening the food sources of Adélie penguins in the Antarctic, for example. They mainly eat krill – tiny organisms that live under the ice. As the ice melts, the penguins are forced to travel long distances to find food, but young birds in particular often lack the reserves of energy that this requires. This is causing a sharp population decline in a number of colonies.

Warming affects not only wild species, but also many commercial crops. According to a recent study, climate change poses a threat to the production of Arabica coffee, which accounts for approximately 75 per cent of the world market, in the main coffee-growing regions in Brazil, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Colombia and Central America. Warming of 2°C or more and changing hydrologic cycles are detrimental to plant growth and make crops more vulnerable to pests. The coffee output of Brazil alone could well decrease by 25 per cent within the next 15 years. As coffee is the second most traded

commodity after oil, this will threaten the livelihoods and survival of many of the world's 25 million coffee farmers. Wheat production will also be adversely affected by higher temperatures. Many cereals do not thrive in heat, and this applies particularly to wheat, an important element of the 'green revolution'. Studies show that global wheat production will suffer losses of 6 per cent for each degree centigrade of global warming. Even without drought and lack of nutrients, it seems that warmer temperatures will cause massive falls in output, potentially wiping out the higher yields that humankind has worked so hard over many decades to achieve.

But human communities also face immediate threats, including more frequent extreme weather events, droughts and floods. Climate change also exposes human communities to new indirect threats, for example by expanding the range of the subtropical Asian tiger mosquito and now the Bush mosquito to Europe. Many medical experts consider that the spread of these mosquitoes, which transmit dengue fever, West Nile virus and the viral disease Chikungunya, creates a serious risk of infection in Europe. In 2007, researchers found larvae laid by these mosquitoes at a motorway service station in Baden-Württemberg in Germany. Since then, mosquitoes at all developmental stages have been found further afield, not only along motorways. So far, no confirmed cases of mosquito-borne diseases have originated in Germany, but the risk is increasing.

The Tiger mosquito is by no means exceptional: hundreds of studies conducted in recent years on the spread of diseases – from malaria to crop infestations – have confirmed the close link between climate change and health risks. Studies in South-East Asia, Peru and Colombia have shown that malaria cases increase dramatically during and after El Niño years. The World Health Organization (WHO) predicts a further spread of heat-loving parasites and vectors of diseases such as Leishmaniasis in South America and along the Mediterranean coast. This particular disease affects both humans and animals and can be fatal.

But nowhere is climate change more obvious than around the polar ice caps and in mountain glacier regions. In the Arctic, average temperatures are currently rising twice as fast as in more temperate climes, and the average sea ice thickness per year in the central region of the Arctic basin has decreased by 65 per cent since 1975. In February 2015, the Arctic sea ice maximum extended for just 14 million square kilometres – an all-time low for >



The IPCC's latest report leaves little room for doubt that global warming is human-induced. It can only be avoided with a radical transformation of energy systems. www.ipcc.ch

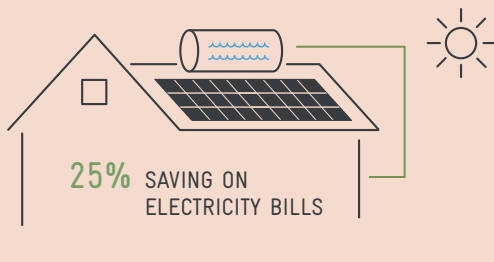
Smokestacks: atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases are still increasing, partly due to the burning of fossil fuels.

A KEY ROLE FOR CITIES

Climate and cities are inseparably linked. Today, most of the world's population lives in urban areas. Cities are responsible for the major share of total global energy consumption and account for most of the world's buildings. They thus offer great potential for low-carbon transport, energy-efficient buildings and reduced electricity consumption. A great deal can be achieved here across a small area, for high levels of consumption offer major opportunities. Cities will thus play a key role in determining whether the global temperature rise can be kept below 2°C. Many are already committed to climate action.

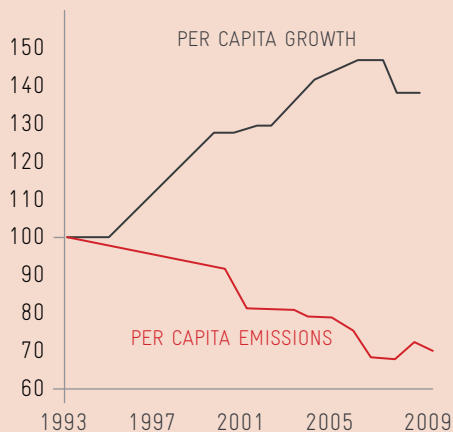
Cape Town – solar water heater programme

The South African city is promoting the installation of solar water heaters. It aims to have 200,000 in operation by 2017, greatly reducing costs to the consumer.



Stockholm – low-carbon growth

Sweden's capital shows that economic growth does not necessarily mean higher emissions. Stockholm cut its CO₂ emissions by 35 per cent between 1993 and 2010, while the economy grew by 41 per cent.



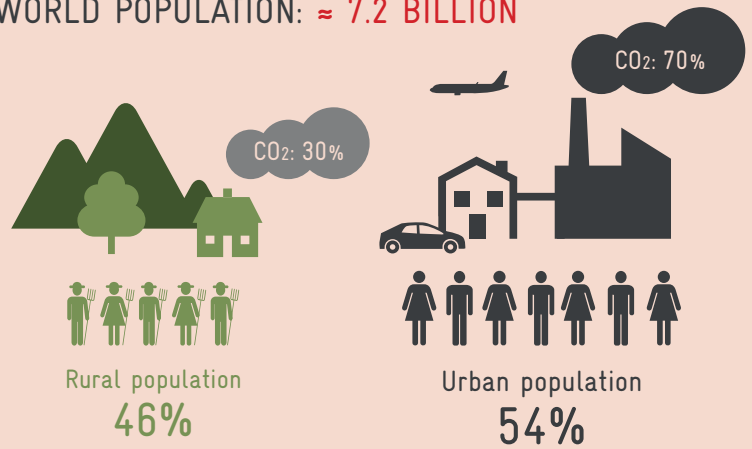
Hangzhou – pedal power

The Chinese city of Hangzhou, which has a population of more than three million, has launched a large-scale bicycle hire scheme: 78,000 bikes are available at 2,000 hire stations and new ones are being added all the time. 400,000 people use the scheme every day. No charge is made if the bicycle is borrowed for less than an hour.



2014

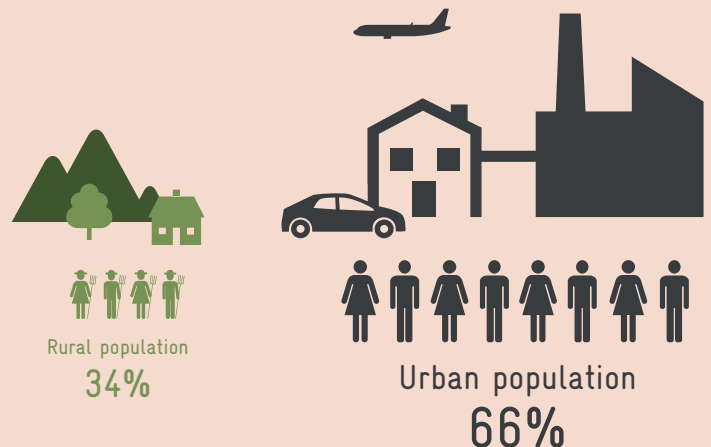
WORLD POPULATION: ≈ 7.2 BILLION



The urban population is growing, while the rural population is shrinking in relative terms. This trend is likely to drive up energy-related CO₂ emissions: urban areas are already responsible for 70 per cent of these emissions.

2050

WORLD POPULATION: ≈ 9.2 BILLION



Curitiba – Brazil’s green metropolis

This city switched to sustainability early on. As a result, its CO₂ emissions are 25 per cent lower than in other Brazilian cities.

52 m² GREEN SPACE PER PERSON



60% OF RESIDENTS USE
LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT



1,100 BUSES, 12,500 JOURNEYS A DAY,
MORE THAN 1.3 MILLION PASSENGERS

70% OF WASTE IS RECYCLED



Major goal: green cities

Many cities have set themselves specific and, in some cases, very ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. They include a number of cities in developing countries.



DA NANG

This major port in Viet Nam aims to cut its CO₂ emissions by 14 per cent by 2020.



BOGOTÁ

The Colombian capital aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by around 16 per cent by 2019.



FRANKFURT

This German city on the River Main aims to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050.



ASPEN

This US city aims to switch to 100 per cent renewable energy by the end of 2015.

the winter months. The Northwest and Northeast Passages are now almost ice-free for much of the year. Similar record-breaking levels of melting have been observed on the Antarctic Peninsula for many years.

A fourfold increase in heat waves

One of the consequences of the melting of glaciers is sea level rise. The IPCC now expects sea levels to rise between a quarter metre and almost one metre by 2100. It is certain that the current rate of sea level rise – 2.6 mm per year – will increase. There are also signs that weather conditions are worsening in many parts of the world. With regard to heat waves, the situation is clear-cut: they have increased fourfold since the start of the Industrial Revolution, and if the planet warms by more than 4° C, this would lead to a 62-fold increase in heat extremes.

So the key question, which was already preoccupying policy-makers at the 2009 climate conference in Copenhagen, is this: how realistic is a temperature rise of no more than 2° C? And even if this is achieved, will it be enough to meet the international community’s goal of avoiding ‘dangerous climate change’? Anticipating that it may in fact be unavoidable, various private, regional and local adaptation initiatives have been launched in a number of countries. But this costs money – large sums of money. According to the World Bank, adaptation to climate change is likely to cost EUR 70 to 100 billion per year by 2050 even if warming is held at 2° C.

New York, one of the world’s most densely populated cities, already faces the probability of a ‘hundred year flood’ once every 80 years; from mid-century, this is likely to increase to once every 19 years. In a process in which New Yorkers themselves were engaged, the city has therefore drawn up the ‘One New York’ plan, which lists numerous innovations, from the construction of new dams and dikes to the planting of 950,000 trees as the city’s green infrastructure and as another line of defence against flooding.

The city of Cusco, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Peruvian Andes, is currently implementing an »



The video ‘The History of Climate Change Negotiations in 83 seconds’ is an amusing and entertaining – although inevitably brief and somewhat simplified – retelling of the story of the climate process. www.youtube.com/watch?v=B11kASPFYxY



3

TRANSPORT

PROJECT:

TOWARDS CLIMATE-FRIENDLY TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGIES

COMMISSIONED BY:

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
NATURE CONSERVATION, BUILDING AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCIES:

TRANSPORT MINISTRIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

TERM:

2013 TO 2016

GLOBAL

The transport sector produces 27 per cent, and is thus the second-largest source, of all energy-based CO₂ emissions. In order to counteract this trend, GIZ is advising various countries, including China, Peru and Indonesia, on ways of making their transport systems more climate-friendly.

www.transport-namas.org

4

WATER SUPPLY

PROJECT:

ADAPTATION OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN URBAN AREAS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

COMMISSIONED BY:

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY:

NATIONAL WATER AUTHORITY, PERU

TERM:

2014 TO 2019

PERU

Climate change is impacting on Peru's water resources, causing more frequent flooding in some regions and water scarcity in others.

GIZ is assisting Peru to adapt to these changed conditions, for example by reusing treated wastewater.

www.giz.de/en/worldwide/28610.html

ambitious adaptation programme. Peru – which, in 2014, took the radical step of enshrining its National Plan for Disaster Risk Management in law – must protect its cities from the growing threat of landslides and floods, which are affecting the Cusco region ever more frequently. Almost every year, meltwater from the Andean glaciers and floodwater from swollen rivers during the rainy season destroy homes and paralyse the local economy. Severe melting of the Andean glaciers has already occurred, and with warming of 2°C, up to 90 per cent of the glacier mass will be lost very quickly. Cusco is therefore reengineering its urban landscape: the plan sets out dozens of measures, from resettlement of residents and the construction of a new drainage system to erosion protection on slopes and flood defences in the historic old city.

Radical transformation: still a long way off

In light of these and other examples, the question is how climate change can be decelerated. The targets set in the Kyoto Protocol – currently the only legally binding mechanism to limit greenhouse gas emissions and due to expire in 2020 – have been exceeded: the 36 countries concerned have collectively reduced their carbon dioxide emissions by 24 per cent instead of the agreed four per cent. However, most of these reductions were achieved as a consequence of economic collapse in the former Eastern bloc countries. Viewed globally, a very different picture emerges: emissions have actually increased by one to two per cent annually.

A genuine strategic restructuring of energy systems is only gradually beginning. This year's G7 summit at Schloss Elmau offered some hope: the leading industrialised countries, which are responsible for around a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions, pledged to phase out fossil fuel use by the end of the century. There is talk of a 'fundamental transformation' – an energy revolution in favour of renewables. And according to the IPCC, this can be achieved at minimal cost – just 0.06 per cent of global GDP growth. But in reality, this transformation is still a long way off. The world's 1,800 or so energy companies are investing colossal sums – more than USD 200 billion in 2014 – in solar and wind power, but they are also still investing in oil, gas and coal. As a result, global warming – driven by greenhouse gases – continues unabated.

That's why so many hopes rest on the climate conference in Paris. The aim is a new global climate »

'We're talking millions'

Climate-induced displacement is a neglected issue, says international lawyer Walter Kälin. As a member of the Nansen Initiative, he is campaigning for protection of climate refugees.

Extreme weather events are occurring more frequently, depriving people of their livelihoods and displacing them in growing numbers. Can you estimate how many are likely to be displaced by climate change in future?

That's not something we can predict, but we do know that the numbers are increasing. Much will depend on how well countries adapt to the impacts of climate change and whether they take timely action to resettle communities at risk, for example. Prompt action can do much to reduce the number of people affected. If we take no action, we must expect large numbers of refugees. We already have an average of 27 million people a year being displaced by natural disasters, although not always as a result of climate change: the figure includes people displaced by earthquakes, for example, and of course floods occurred in the past as well. Nonetheless, there is a clear upward trend. Climate-induced displacement is increasing. We're talking millions of people.

So this is already happening?

Yes, it's already happening. In my view, the international community has yet to sit up and take notice, probably because most people are displaced within their own country and the problem mainly affects the poorer countries.

Where is climate-induced displacement most apparent?

In Africa, mainly in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region. During the drought in Somalia in 2010 and 2011, for example, almost 300,000 people left their homes in order to avoid death by starvation. And in Central America, people often seek refuge in neighbouring countries after being displaced by disasters. In Asia, floods are increasing, and storms are becoming more frequent and more devastating, causing the displacement of large numbers of people. At present, most of these dis-

placed persons remain in their home country or region, but that may change.

Are these the world regions where we must expect the largest increase in the number of climate refugees in future?

In principle, yes, but the actual extent and regional distribution will very much depend on whether the international community reaches agreement at the climate summit, whether it manages to significantly reduce emissions of harmful greenhouse gases, and whether it provides enough funds to mitigate the impacts. If it does so, the numbers will fall and migration flows will be easier to manage. If not, we must expect this to become a major problem. That's why all eyes are on Paris.

How can and must we help the affected countries?

We must invest in three areas. Firstly, we must identify all the regions at risk and launch appropriate adaptation programmes. That can include measures such as dike construction and targeted resettlement, but it can also mean restructuring agricultural systems, for example by switching to salt-resistant crops. Secondly, we must facilitate legal out-migration, both temporary and permanent, from these regions. And thirdly, we must offer adequate protection to people who are displaced from their homes while also providing support to host communities, whose resources will otherwise quickly become overstretched.

All this costs money. What role can the Green Climate Fund play here?

It will cost billions. No one can say for sure, at this stage, exactly how much, but it's money well spent. The Green Climate Fund has a key role to play because it provides



'The international community has yet to sit up and take notice.'

funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation in poorer countries. However, the issue of climate-induced displacement has not yet been adequately incorporated into the Fund's mandate. In the Nansen Initiative's view, that has to change.

At present, climate refugees find themselves in legal limbo. They are not protected by the 1951 Refugee Convention. Do we need an international agreement?

Yes, ideally, because these refugees genuinely have no rights whatsoever. But I think there is little chance of that at present. The problem would have to be recognised at the international level, and that is not happening at the moment.

Interview: Friederike Bauer



The full transcript of this interview with Walter Kälin can be accessed using the [akzente app](http://www.giz.de/akzenteapp).
www.giz.de/akzenteapp



Many steps have been taken in the right direction to combat climate change, but obstacles sometimes arise.



'Der Klimawandel: Diagnose, Prognose, Therapie' by Stefan Rahmstorf and Hans-Joachim Schellnhuber is a seminal work in the field of climate change and is now in its 7th edition. Published by C.H. Beck (only available in German).

agreement, to enter into force in 2020. It will be based on national climate action plans and voluntary commitments by all signatory states to limit global annual carbon emissions to a maximum of 32 to 44 billion tonnes in future. The IPCC wants a 70 per cent reduction by 2050 compared with current levels, meaning that by the second half of this century, energy generation will have to be entirely fossil-free. If that happens, the climate policy balance sheet will actually be in credit, at least in theory, and the 2°C target will be within reach. In practice, the planet is still heating up. The legacy we are likely to leave for our great-grandchildren is an atmosphere around 4°C warmer than it is today – with catastrophic planetary impacts. That's why the Paris conference needs to deliver a clear message: it's time for change.

www.giz.de/climate
www.giz.de/climate-finance
www.giz.de/urban-climate-environment

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

The global transition to a low-carbon energy system requires high levels of investment. The international community has therefore set up a Green Climate Fund as its main climate financing mechanism. The Fund – currently being established, with headquarters in South Korea – will assist poorer countries to adapt to the new conditions and restructure their economies. The international community has pledged USD 100 billion annually for climate action from 2020, much of which will be channelled through the Fund. Its current value, however, is just USD 10 billion, so more commitment is needed.

news.gcfund.org



DIFFERENT CALLS FOR ACTION

Guest article by Mary Robinson

The obligation to act on climate change is clearer than ever: too many people are suffering in far too many places around the world, and decades of development progress are at risk. The scientific imperative to act has long been settled, and we have known for many years the economic reality that the costs of inaction greatly outweigh the costs of action. Yet, despite these clear reasons to act, sufficiently urgent climate action has been held up for years.

One of the main reasons for insufficient action is the difficulties in working out how to share the efforts needed to stabilise our planet's climate – or in the dry words of climate negotiations: how to act in recognition of 'common but differentiated responsibilities'.

Yet, achieving a fair and effective climate agreement in Paris will not be possible without finding a way for all countries to carry their fair share of climate action – both to stabilise the planet's climate, and to increase the resilience of societies everywhere to deal with the impacts for which it is now too late to act. Those involved in negotiations for the Paris agreement must focus in detail on a complex negotiating text. This important work will create the foundation for climate action for decades to come.

PROFILE

MARY ROBINSON is the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Change. She is a former President of Ireland and a former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

But there is a risk that burden sharing becomes merely a negotiating red line. Instead, the notion of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' should be seen as a catalyst for transformative leadership for all countries which recognises that there are different calls to action for different groups of countries.

Today's rich countries need to urgently decarbonise national economies. But for emerging economies and developing countries, what they are being asked to do is something that has never been done before – to develop prosperous, resilient societies, without relying on the fossil fuels or land use methods that have been the basis of prosperity for well over a century.

This is one of the biggest challenges ever posed to a group of countries – and it is made more pronounced by the fact that these countries contain most of the world's population,

and are where most of the world's development needs to occur in the decades ahead.

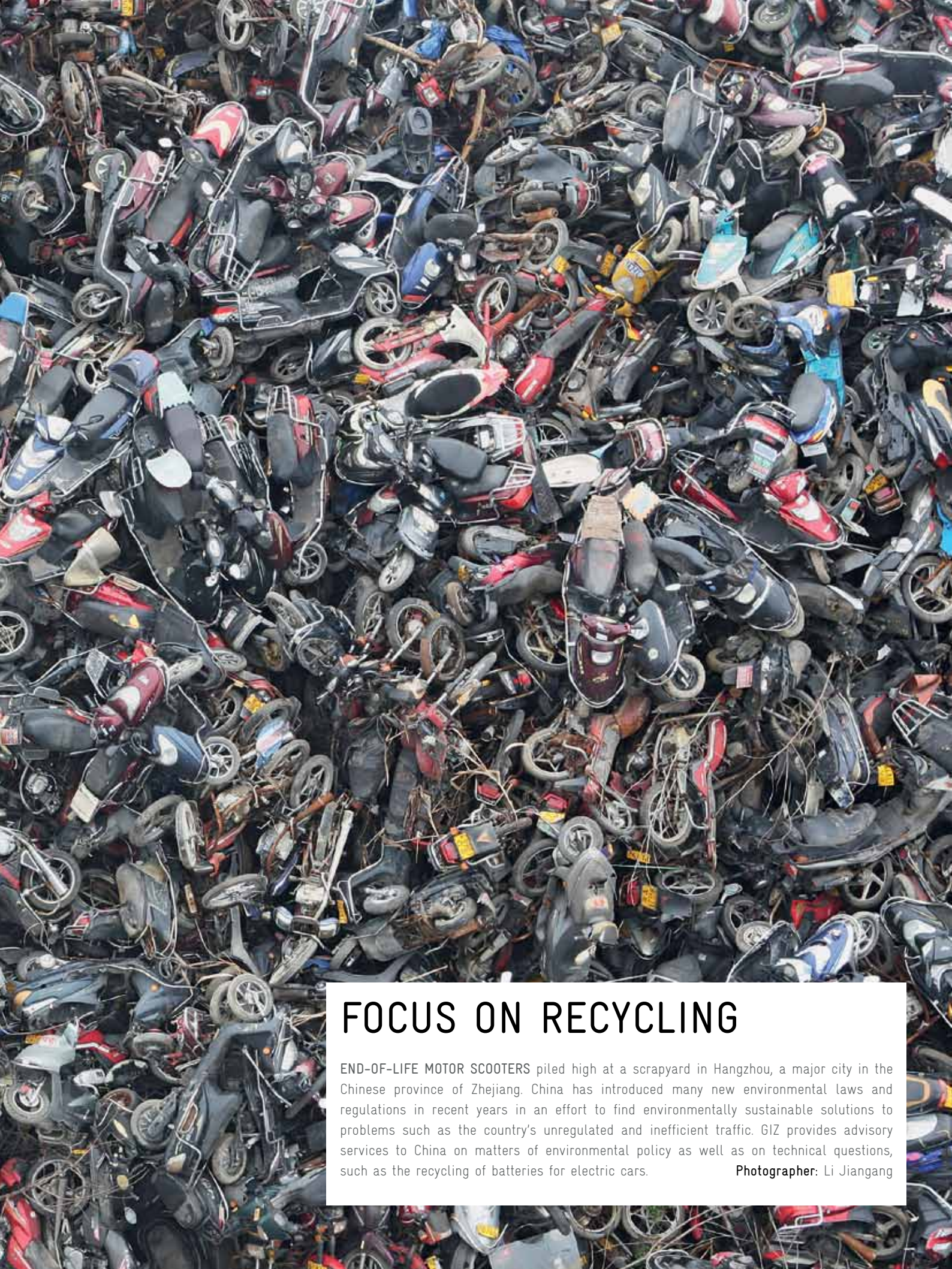
Whether they are able to deploy the transformative leadership required will in part depend on how the international community translates the concept of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' into the final Paris agreement.

In particular, it means that the role of climate finance – which is an enormous part of that discussion – and the related area of technology transfer need to be properly understood. These are frequently mischaracterised as an expectation of charity from those too poor to act. But if we share a collective need to avert catastrophic climate change, then climate finance is a practical manifestation, not of aid or charity, but of self-interest.

In this paradigm, climate action happens in both the developed and the developing world, with the necessary financial and technological support coming from developed countries to developing countries, in recognition of the additional leadership required.

Future generations will judge us on how we dealt with climate change – a problem that we know how to solve and can afford to solve. If we fail because we could not get past a debate on our different responsibilities, what will they think of us?





FOCUS ON RECYCLING

END-OF-LIFE MOTOR SCOOTERS piled high at a scrapyard in Hangzhou, a major city in the Chinese province of Zhejiang. China has introduced many new environmental laws and regulations in recent years in an effort to find environmentally sustainable solutions to problems such as the country's unregulated and inefficient traffic. GIZ provides advisory services to China on matters of environmental policy as well as on technical questions, such as the recycling of batteries for electric cars.

Photographer: Li Jianguang

WORKING IN CRISIS COUNTRIES

Threat of attack, a high prevalence of street crime, poor health care and a traumatised population – these are just some of the difficult circumstances in which GIZ is increasingly being called upon to work. Stefan Opitz explains how it operates.

The names are never out of the headlines: Somalia, South Sudan, Guatemala, Liberia, Afghanistan. I could add many more to the list. Today over half the countries in which GIZ operates are considered states that no longer meet their basic functions – they are known as fragile states. And the number is rising. When we get involved in these countries, our first job is to stabilise the situation and achieve visible successes, perhaps by building a small bridge, for example, or a community centre. In this way, the state re-establishes a presence – and prevents the creation of a vacuum which could otherwise be filled by extremists or criminal gangs. The second step is to generate prospects for people in the medium to long term.

The establishment of the state of South Sudan was a case in point. Just two years later, in December 2013, fighting broke out between the government and rebels that virtually engulfed the entire country. After the temporary evacuation of GIZ experts, a team was rapidly dispatched to provide the country with support. 1.9 million people had been made homeless. As a short-term measure, we supplied food to these people – and to the inhabitants of communities where they found shelter. Over 6.5 million people were suffering from starvation. To add to the woes, there was then an outbreak of cholera.

To speed up the task and cover as large an area as possible, we cooperated with local non-governmental organisations. In the southern parts of the country we were able to carry on with what we had already achieved, for example by providing seed and tools to small farmers we had already trained, to enable them to grow more food. Organisations

such as the UN World Food Programme bought the food and distributed it among the refugee camps. Schools were set up in the host communities and camps, and sanitary facilities



STEFAN OPITZ chairs the GIZ 'Working in fragile states' working group.

were built to prevent the spread of disease. We brought drinking water in tanks and jerry cans. Once the security situation had calmed down, we were able to focus once again on intensifying our long-term activities.

Our experts are the key to effective operations in crisis countries. The process begins with the careful selection of staff – even if that often has to be done at speed. And the same goes for the local GIZ workforce. They all have to be experts in their field and capa-

ble of dealing with pressure and heavy workloads. Before departure, our experts are prepared on an individual basis: this may involve receiving background information on the country and security training, and even learning relaxation techniques. And once in the field, they are not simply left to fend for themselves. In locations like Afghanistan they are integrated into a close-knit security network. Since our employees in crisis countries have little free time and are exposed to high levels of psychological stress, they leave the country for a few days at regular intervals.

If we are unable to send personnel into a country for security reasons, we work with well-trained local staff, who receive guidance from our experts from a neighbouring country. We refer to this as remote project management. This is currently the situation in Yemen, where operations are coordinated from Germany. There are also other locations where, for security reasons, it is not possible for GIZ staff to be accompanied by family members. Dangerous parts of the country are off-limits for our colleagues. In spite of the restrictions, our staff in crisis countries are highly motivated. Most have greater scope for input and results are evident more quickly. Moreover, such situations enable GIZ employees to gather a great deal of experience in project management and leadership. Working under difficult conditions is part of GIZ routine. It is a challenge we take very seriously.

Previous 'Background' articles on GIZ's work can be found on: www.giz.de/magazine-akzente

COMMITMENT

Where GIZ is active, how it approaches new challenges, what its projects achieve: three examples of GIZ's current work – in Nicaragua, Mali and Germany/Viet Nam.



POWER TO THE PEOPLE

NICARAGUA A hydropower plant now supplies Ocote Tuma with electricity for the first time. Life in the village has changed for good. **Page 36**



THE NEW BOSSES

MALI Thanks to successful business development, many small enterprises in the country are today run by women. **Page 40**



PIONEERS WITH PROSPECTS

GERMANY/VIET NAM There are too few geriatric nurses in Germany, and not enough jobs in Viet Nam. A project generates benefits for both sides. **Page 32**

PIONEERS WITH PROSPECTS

There is already a shortage of geriatric nurses in Germany. And in Viet Nam many young people cannot find work. A pioneering project generates benefits for both sides.

TEXT CHRISTINE MATTAUCH PHOTOS STEPHANIE FÜSSENICH



She arrives every morning at 6:30 am wearing black leggings, a red anorak and a small rucksack slung across her shoulder. At just 1.60 m tall, you might easily mistake her for a schoolgirl, though in some ways that is exactly what she is. For Thi Thuy Ngan Kieu has come from Viet Nam to learn. The 25-year-old is training to become a geriatric nurse at Leonhard Henninger Haus, a residential nursing home in the Munich suburb of Schwanthalerhöhe.

She is one of 100 young men and women taking part in a pilot project geared to securing skilled workers. The project is organised by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) in cooperation with the International Placement Services (ZAV) of the German Federal Employment Agency. Germany already has a shortage of geriatric nurses: in 2014 there were just 39 unemployed nurses for every 100 vacant positions. By 2030, there could be as many as half a million unfilled posts. The southern and eastern EU member states are experiencing a similar demographic trend to Germany. At the same time, however, many people in Viet Nam have no jobs. So one obvious solution is to provide training and offer rights of residency in Germany. In September 2013, Ngan and her colleagues – mostly women, but also a few men – began their new lives in Germany. Training courses were held in Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg, Berlin and Lower Saxony. A second group arrived in Germany in summer 2015. In future it is anticipated that the nursing homes themselves will play an active role.

Ever since the first generation of ‘guest workers’ arrived in Germany in the 1960s and 1970s, however, the country has grappled with the problems of migration. So those responsible for the project – including the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

(MOLISA) in Hanoi – are paying close attention to ensure that all stakeholders benefit, both now and in the long term.

‘What excites me most is that they have the same starting conditions as Germans in professional terms,’ says Reinhild Renée Ernst from GIZ. The Vietnamese taking part in the project are not engaged as cheap auxiliary workers. They learn the job from scratch and earn in line with the going rate. And contrary to popular perception, the pay is not at all bad: on completion of training, a qualified nurse can expect to take home around EUR 1,800 per month. The Vietnamese also have the same opportunities for promotion. Furthermore, after five years’ work – including the training period – they will be eligible for permanent residency status.

Direct entry into the second year of training

Ngan quickly takes the lift to the third floor of the Leonhard Henninger Haus care home and disappears into the changing room. She reappears wearing the uniform of a nursing assistant: a purple smock and trousers with white pumps. Her long straight hair is tied back in a ponytail. Her first task: the wake-up call. ‘Good morning, ready to get up?’ she calls softly into the first dimly lit room. She helps her charge get out of bed, puts her feet into her slippers, brings over the walking frame, accompanies her first to the bathroom and then to the breakfast room. Then it’s off to the next bedroom.

She has grown used to the routine now. Nevertheless, ‘Nani’, as she is known to the residents and colleagues, will never forget the difficult first few months. Her biggest problem was the language. ‘It’s so complicated,’ she says, ‘a different melody.’ Like all participants in the project, she was required to complete a six-month German course before her arrival in the country – but that was nowhere near enough to prepare her for everyday life. Especially as the Vietnamese go straight into the second year of the course on account of the professional experience they already have. Applications are accepted only from trained

nurses and care assistants. The purpose of this is to ensure that participants have a clear idea of what lies ahead. For in Viet Nam, where grandparents and great-grandparents are traditionally looked after in the family, the career of geriatric nursing is not yet fully established.

As the youngest of six children, Ngan grew up in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon and Viet Nam’s largest city. She read about the project ‘on the internet’, she says. By that time she had already completed her training as a nurse. But she knew little about Germany: ‘Somewhere in Europe, possibilities for travel, and, well, famous for beer.’

She tells how she was invited to a Bavarian restaurant when she first arrived and there was roast pork on the menu: ‘This big’ is how she remembers it, her hands making a circle the size of a waggon wheel, and it tasted salty. ‘I didn’t like it.’ That sentence alone shows how well she has adapted to her new life. In Viet Nam it would be considered impolite to say such a thing, but not in Germany, she has learned. ‘Germans are always very direct.’

‘At the beginning, whenever we met in the corridor she would look down and walk by nervously,’ says care home manager Frank Chylek. Respect for superiors is much stronger in Asia than in Germany. On the other hand, there is also a greater sense of community in the workplace. Ngan was lucky to have Zuhra Iljkic as her ward manager. Like many of the nurses, Iljkic comes from Bosnia, and she leads her team of 14 nurses with maternal affection. ‘I just integrated Nani into the team,’ she says simply. Part of her approach was to insist that everyone communicated only in German – to ensure no one felt excluded.

Everyone says how friendly the Vietnamese are

The Vietnamese nurses also had to adapt to European customs in terms of greetings and personal space. Physical contact in Viet Nam is only common between family members and very close friends. Ngan has adjusted well. ‘She greets us all with a kiss, just like the Bosnian girls,’ says Iljkic. »

‘A wonderful nurse’: 91-year-old Liselotte K. is full of praise for Ngan’s friendly and caring nature.



Also available on the akzente app for tablets: the video features trainees talking about their day-to-day routines. (only in German) www.giz.de/akzenteapp

Top: Playing games with the residents (left) is as important as providing care – from personal hygiene to help with hearing aids (right).

Below: Just one of the many day-to-day responsibilities of the Vietnamese nurse is to prepare and administer residents' medicines (left) and take blood pressures (centre). In the evenings, Ngan goes shopping so she can cook with her friends (right).

It is breakfast time for the nursing staff. Ngan puts bread and yoghurt on the tablecloth with the pink tulips. 'N' Guadn,' ('enjoy!') she says to her colleagues in perfect Bavarian and asks them to pass the jar of nutella. A nurse from Angola chuckles: 'You trying to put on weight?' It has been an issue with Ngan since the outset: some of the residents didn't want to have her as their carer because they thought the tiny Vietnamese wasn't strong enough to lift them out of the wheelchair. 'But there are techniques you can learn,' says Ngan self-confidently. Liselotte K., a cheerful 91-year-old with immaculate white hair and a neat neck scarf agrees unreservedly – she was Ngan's model for the nursing exams. 'Nani just uses a bit of momentum,' she says, 'she is a wonderful nurse.'

Everyone at the home says how friendly the Vietnamese nurses are. And for her part,

Ngan says she has never experienced any hostility towards foreigners. In any case, 60 per cent of the nursing staff at the home are from a migrant background. Any minor irritations have largely been to do with language or because they were new to the job: unfamiliar faces can be unsettling. The oldest resident on Ngan's ward is 105 years old; and quite a few of her charges suffer from dementia.

A sense of fun despite rigid routines

Ngan pauses when she finds Hildegard S. sitting in her wheelchair in the recreation room, her head slumped on her chest. She carefully helps the 79-year-old to sit up straight, pulling her shoulders back: 'It's better for you to sit up straight,' she chides gen-

tly. Then she kneels down to be at eye level with the elderly lady. When she starts to sing, Hildegard S. immediately joins in: 'Kein schöner Land in dieser Zeit...' It's a song Ngan learned at her vocational training college. Along with an assortment of idioms and expressions for memory training. 'At night...' the Vietnamese begins, '...all cats are grey,' responds Hildegard S.

Ngan loves combing the ladies' hair, painting their nails and helping them put on eye makeup and lipstick. Then they giggle like best friends. But there is little time for more than that, since the working day is structured with metronomic precision. Once breakfast is served, her first task is to feed and wash the bedridden residents and change their bed pads with the help of a colleague. Next, she sorts out the pills and medicines. Then it's time to prepare lunch. Ngan ties a bow in her white plastic apron and serves up the soup: soup spoons to the left, mugs to the right. She looks tired.

Almost all participants are keen to stay in Germany

So how does she spend her time when she gets home around 3:30 pm? 'I put my feet up,' she says without hesitation. She shares a three-room apartment with the three other Vietnamese nurses undergoing training at the Leonhard Henninger Haus care home. There they listen to music, play games on their mobile phones and skype with their families back in Viet Nam. And in the evening they cook together: rice dishes and 'pho', the traditional Vietnamese noodle soup. Last year they all travelled to Paris to visit a Vietnamese friend. It was a rare luxury, since otherwise the young women save up what they can to support their families back home.

'Their families have high expectations of them,' explains care home manager Chylek. So the trainees have a good sense of discipline and hard work. 'They even wanted to discuss the basics of palliative care with me during our Christmas party.' So far, none of the 100 participants has returned home early, almost all of them are keen to

GOOD PROSPECTS FOR EMPLOYMENT

PROJECT:
TRAINING NURSES FROM VIET NAM
TO BECOME GERIATRIC NURSES IN GERMANY

COMMISSIONED BY:
GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY (BMWi)

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY:
VIETNAMESE MINISTRY OF LABOUR,
INVALIDS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

TERM:
2012 TO 2016

As part of a pilot project initiated in autumn 2013, a group of 100 young people from Viet Nam are training to be care assistants for the elderly. After completing a state-funded language course at the Goethe-Institut in Hanoi, participants receive training at care homes in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin and Lower Saxony. Additional language courses and intercultural programmes help them adjust to their new lives. Regional coordinators working in the same field and Vietnamese-speaking mentors provide support to the trainees and their practice partners.

This successful pilot project continued in August 2015, when 100 new trainees started their training in Germany, having completed a one-year German course. Viet Nam has a very young population and falls a long way short of employing its entire potential workforce in its labour market. For this reason, Viet Nam officially promotes foreign employment for its citizens. Many young people are keen to take up training and a subsequent period of employment in Germany. This project uses existing connections with Vietnamese administrations. Furthermore, it creates attractive openings for investment and cooperation for German businesses. Trainees are selected in collaboration with the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour and the International Placement Services (ZAV) of the German Federal Employment Agency.

www.giz.de/en/worldwide/18715.html

stay. Ngan too. Like the others, if she passes her exams she is assured of a job. Looking to the future, she says: 'If I start a family here, my children will have better opportunities.' And for that, she is prepared to put up with the occasional feeling of homesickness.

By the time the second group of participants from Viet Nam arrived in August, weaknesses in the first training course had been addressed. The newcomers now bene-

fited from a whole year of German tuition. Chylek is enthusiastic about the continuation of the project: 'I'm taking another four trainees.' He hopes to set up tandem training, pairing new arrivals with the pioneers from the first group. For Ngan it will be an acknowledgment of how far she has come.

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POWER TO THE PEOPLE

A hydropower plant now supplies electricity to a Nicaraguan village for the first time. It has changed the lives of people there for good.

TEXT KLAUS EHRINGFELD PHOTOS ESTEBAN FELIX



The people of Ocote Tuma now divide their lives into two distinct eras: the dark ages and the age of enlightenment, the period of monotony and that of opportunity. The eras before and after the advent of 'la micro-turbina', as they call their mini hydropower plant. As Freddy Orozco puts it: 'They are two different worlds.' Orozco chairs the committee in Ocote Tuma which manages the power plant that has fundamentally changed the lives of local people.

Electric light first arrived in the little village in the north of Nicaragua eight years ago. In those days, 17 families inhabited the village that nestles amid the landscape's tropical rainforests and rolling green hills. Today there are 70, and the number is rising. 'We have population growth of 25 per cent per year,' Orozco says.

And yet Ocote Tuma is not exactly the centre of the universe. It takes about six hours by car to the capital Managua, three of them on adventurous, bumpy, winding dirt tracks. The route takes us past simple wooden huts, mango trees and small cocoa and banana plantations. After Haiti, Nicaragua is the second-poorest country on the American continent. Well over a million people here have no electricity.

And that is how it was in Ocote Tuma, until in 2007 the community collaborated with the central government to build a small power station. They were supported by GIZ on behalf of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Above the village is an idyllic waterfall that tumbles down from a great height. So the inhabitants created a reservoir to store the water, laid a pipeline to the village and connected it to a hydroelectric generator. In total, the hydropower plant cost USD 40,000.

The project is part of an international initiative with the goal of providing remote communities in Latin America, Africa and

Asia with sustainable electricity. It is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in cooperation with the Dutch Directorate-General and other donors from Norway, Australia, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. Seven hydropower plants have been built in Nicaragua alone. But none are as successful as the one in Ocote Tuma.

For the village has reinvented itself. Every day people are moving here from the surrounding area to enjoy the wonders of electricity. Suddenly the villagers are discovering opportunities they never had before.

Tales of improvements wherever you go

Victoria Jarquín knows all about that. Thanks to the new electricity supply, she was able to quit her job as a domestic worker and set up a business of her own. She now owns a 'pulpería', a sort of general store. Her business has no name, the sign above the door says simply: 'Bienvenido' – welcome! It is Tuesday morning and the cheerful shop owner has plenty of trade. An elderly lady is buying a cold drink, a boy wants a kilo of malanga, a root vegetable typical of the region. Jarquín weighs it out, puts the vegetable in a bag and hands it to the boy. 'Nine córdobas,' she says, around EUR 0.30.

Jarquín's store sells everything from scrubbing brushes and blouses to cuts of meat. 'My bestsellers are cold drinks and chicken,' she explains. She keeps both of these in the chiller cabinet, which her store now can run thanks to the electricity supply.

Jarquín was born 35 years ago on a farm near Ocote Tuma. People used to get up at sunrise and go to bed at sunset. So as a teenager Jarquín looked for an escape and headed to the district's main town Waslala, where she took a job as a domestic worker. She was away for twelve years. But when she heard about her village getting electricity, she decided to return home immediately: 'I just had to take advantage of such a great opportunity,' she explains. Her father raised a micro-loan from the bank, enough to procure the

ACCESS FOR MILLIONS

The Energising Development (EnDev) initiative creates access to renewable energy for people who are living without electricity. Since 2005 it has reached 13.9 million people in 24 developing countries. Its many positive outcomes include improvements in health, for example through replacing coal-fired stoves. In addition to private households, electricity has been supplied to 16,000 social institutions, including many schools and health centres.

www.endev.info

building and her first items of stock. That was four years ago.

As a domestic worker she earned the equivalent of around EUR 100; these days she has roughly three times that in her cash register at the end of the month. Sometimes more. 'And I'm my own boss, so I can make my own decisions. It's wonderful,' she says with an infectious laugh. 'I'm so proud of my business.'

On every street corner in Ocote Tuma, people have stories like Jarquín's to tell, stories of improvements and new opportunities. The school principal describes how he can now hold lessons in the evenings thanks to electric light; the village joiner can make beds for the villagers and desks for the school because he has access to powerful electric tools; and in Ocote Tuma they are particularly proud of their health centre – this too would not exist without electricity. Every day a doctor and nurse provide health care for 80 patients, many of them travelling long distances on foot or on horseback to attend the clinics. 'Ocote Tuma is a good example of how crucial energy provision can be for the social and economic development of a community,' says Javier Gutiérrez from GIZ in Nicaragua.

All issues concerning the 'micro-turbina' are discussed by the village's hydropower »

Light at last: in Ocote Tuma children can now learn for longer and businesses can remain open later.

plant committee. Made up of six men and three women, the committee decides on matters such as the price of electricity or how many household appliances and televisions each subscriber can connect. One-time connection to the electricity grid costs 3,500 córdobas (around EUR 117), thereafter the basic tariff is EUR 2.65 per month. That includes four energy-efficient light bulbs and electricity to power one television set.

But the committee also sets the level of fines for anyone who breaks the rules. 'Electricity is precious and in short supply,' says Orozco, the chair of the committee. The turbine generates just 13 kilowatt-hours of energy. To put that into context, one kilowatt-hour is not even enough for an hour of vacuum cleaning. The villagers therefore accepted the committee's proposal to switch off refrigerators and freezers every day from 5 pm to 8 pm. The onset of darkness is the peak period for energy use, when people come home from work and turn on the television to watch their 'telenovelas' and the news. 'So we have to economise,' insists com-



Also available on the akzente app:
a shopkeeper from Ocote Tuma explains on video
how life in the village has changed.
www.giz.de/akzenteapp

Top: Thanks to electricity, Victoria Jarquín was able to quit her job as a domestic worker and become an entrepreneur.

Centre: The 'micro-turbina' at Ocote Tuma (right) has brought a huge economic upturn. Its power source is a waterfall above the village (left).

Bottom: People come from near and far to attend the new health centre.



mittee chairman Orozco. But many of the villagers complain: after all, in tropical temperatures food such as milk and meat spoil rapidly without refrigeration.

New objective: more electricity for more people

That is not a problem for Macial Borges and his small family. 'Four light bulbs and a radio,' is all he has – but it's enough. 'I pay the minimum,' says Borges, a muscular, 35-year-old construction worker in a pristine white shirt. Borges lives with his wife and young son in a spacious but simply furnished wooden hut on the edge of Ocote Tuma. Newly hatched chicks run about beneath their feet.

A small transistor radio is the focal point of the house. It sits on a table right opposite the entrance, like a modern altarpiece. Above it hang the family portraits, a mirror and the blue-and-white flag of Nicaragua.

'Our six-year-old can now do his homework after dark,' says Borges, 'and I'm planning to buy an electric sewing machine for my wife.' The couple hope that will bring them some additional income.

Freddy Orozco and the committee are currently deliberating on developing and optimising the electricity supply so that it remains stable and sufficient to meet everyone's needs. They do not want to restrict the ongoing influx of new families. Options include a more powerful generator, a second turbine, or further restrictions on electricity consumption. For the time being, however, the capacity of the power plant will be increased thanks to the technical assistance of a Nicaraguan non-governmental organisation that specialises in renewable energies. 'We can tease a few more kilowatts out of the plant yet,' says Orozco. But one thing is for sure: no one in Ocote Tuma will ever want to go without electricity again.

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NICARAGUA



CAPITAL:	Managua
POPULATION:	6.1 million ¹
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT:	USD 11.2 BILLION ²
ECONOMIC GROWTH:	4.6 per cent ³
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANKING:	132 (out of 187)

Source: ^{1,2} World Bank 2013

THE POWER OF RENEWABLES

PROJECT:

ENERGISING DEVELOPMENT (ENDEV) NICARAGUA

COMMISSIONED BY:

MEMBERS OF THE ENDEV ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERS:

NICARAGUAN MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES,
RURAL COMMUNITIES

TERM:

2006 TO 2018

EnDev Nicaragua is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the UK Department for International Development, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The programme provides support to more than one million people without access to a modern electricity supply with developing renewable energy sources. It provides electricity to private households, schools, health centres and businesses using photovoltaic systems and micro hydropower plants. 2,700 solar systems had been installed in Nicaragua by late 2014, resulting in benefits for 15,660 people. 10 hydropower plants supply energy to 5,519 inhabitants in rural areas. 245 educational and social institutions now have electricity for the first time.

www.giz.de/en/worldwide/396.html



THE NEW BOSSES

They are still the exception rather than the rule. But many successful small businesses in the West African country of Mali are now run by women. Two examples of successful business development

TEXT AND PHOTO ANTONIE RIETZSCHEL

Clack-clack-clack – the little wooden shuttle flies back and forth to the rhythmic clatter of the loom. ‘Coordination is the most difficult part,’ says Colette Traoré. As she steps on a pedal with her right foot, the taut warp threads separate to create a gap. Her right hand pulls a cord and the shuttle shoots through. A spool pays out the thread, Traoré pulls it tight with her left arm. She is 42 years old and has spent half her life as a weaver.

In Ségou, northeast of the capital Bamako, she now has her own business. Her 10

employees call her ‘Tanti’. This afternoon Traoré has put on her best clothes. Her elaborately embroidered blue robe and the gold around her neck contrast starkly with the grey walls. There is pride in her appearance – pride born of success. ‘I’m the boss here,’ she says.

In Mali, 66 per cent of the population live in poverty, and women are particularly vulnerable. They are prepared for their role as housewives from a young age. Instead of going to school, girls are often required to

help out at home. 69 per cent of women aged between 15 and 24 are unable to read or write. Entrepreneurs like Colette Traoré are an exception. That is why her story is one of triumph over a society in which men have the say.

Having grown up with five brothers and a sister, Colette Traoré started work when she was just 12, picking stones out of the cotton

Top: Colette Traoré pulls all the strings – even when her employee is operating the loom.

her mother would spin into fine thread. Even today, Traoré cannot write. ‘I had to learn a skill of some sort in order to survive,’ she explains. At 17 she applied to a textile factory to train as a weaver. The trainer rejected her: ‘You’ll never do it. You’re a woman.’

The other apprentices in her group gave up

Traoré eventually found a mentor to support her application, a village elder whom the trainer respected. And so she took up her apprenticeship, surrounded by men who kept telling her she was not suited to the job. When the six months were up, she was the only one out of the group of apprentices who had not dropped out. Despite the pain in her arms and shoulders. ‘Today my foreman says I was his best pupil,’ says Traoré, laughing and clapping. There is a hint of satisfaction at her male colleagues’ expense.

On completing her training, Traoré rented a loom and sold her textile products at the market. In 2004 she joined forces with other female artisans to form the cooperative Affat. Together they bought their first loom. They used this to make fabrics which local sewing shops would turn into clothes and bed linen. Business was good. Affat was the place to go if you needed a wedding dowry. And it was popular among tourists too.

Then, suddenly, in 2012 war broke out in Mali. It was a major setback for the country’s economic development. Affat survived, although the tourists stayed away. Today Traoré even sells her fabrics to buyers outside Mali, in Sierra Leone for example.

She has received support from GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Union. Its activities seek to stimulate business at the local level, with a key focus on strengthening the efforts and creativity of women in particular. Funding is therefore provided to small and medium-sized enterprises run by women – including

Colette Traoré’s weaving business. Special courses are organised to teach participants how to register a business, do the bookkeeping or apply for a micro loan. Marketing is also an important element of the course, since it helps the women to widen their customer base in the long term.

As a result of these measures, Traoré has had the opportunity to take part in trade fairs in Bamako and neighbouring Senegal. Furthermore, her weaving business has received financial support. This means she has also been able to buy a new handloom to process a greater volume of textiles.

Thanks to this support, her weaving business has doubled annual profits from around EUR 1,500 to EUR 3,000. Traoré now takes home up to EUR 75 per month. That is well above the country’s legal minimum wage of EUR 61 per month. There have been times when she has earned more than her husband, a teacher. ‘He is now the school principal and we earn around the same,’ she says.

The couple’s two daughters never have to help out in the weaving shop. The older girl attends the grammar school and has hopes of becoming a lawyer. Her younger sister wants to work in health care.

‘Our family is saved,’ says the entrepreneur

The circumstances of women receiving support in Mali are varied. On the one hand, there are women like Colette Traoré, who have already built a successful business and want to take it a stage further. And on the other, there are women who need initial support with finding and developing their potential. Women like Néné Bakadji, who was so poor that her eldest son had to leave school in order to support his mother. At around the same time, her husband turned his back on her and left.

The 45-year-old sits in the yard of her house, dips a square of white cotton into a tub and pulls out a dripping black mass. She

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Since 2002, GIZ has been supporting regional economic development in Mali in the regions of Ségou, Mopti and Kayes. Part of this work involves promoting women as entrepreneurs. 200 women from the textiles, dairy and fisheries industries have so far received advanced training. Partners include the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation and a network that supports businesswomen in Mali.

www.pact-mali.org

wrings it and wrings it until the cloth gives up no more black water. One of the three employees watches closely.

Bakadji has been dying cotton and printing it with traditional patterns since her adolescence. In the past, she used to sell perhaps six of her fabrics on market day. Today it is not unusual for her to receive a bulk order for 40 of them. For having taken part in a training course organised by GIZ, the entrepreneur now distributes business cards and advertises on local radio stations. She also travels to trade fairs to get her products more widely known. She has her own shop in Mopti and even ships her products to Burkina Faso.

For Néné Bakadji, life is good. Her dye business brings in enough income to support the whole family. That has grown in the meantime to four children and two grandchildren – and her unemployed husband, who came back to her. ‘Our family is saved,’ she says. But unlike Colette Traoré and other women, she does not see herself as a boss. ‘That’s still a role for the man.’

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LOTS OF RESPECT, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

New research shows how Germany is perceived around the world – and the areas where the rest of the world thinks Germany should be playing a greater part in future.

Many people outside Germany now accept that it plays a leading role around the world – so say the findings of a new study, 'Germany in the Eyes of the World'. In particular, the research shows that nobody questions Germany's leading role within Europe – but that this entails not only expectations but also areas of criticism.

GIZ first conducted a study of this kind three years ago, interviewing people around the world to discover how they saw Germany and the Germans. The key message to emerge then was that Germany needed to assume more international responsibility. One interviewee in the USA at the time put it this way: 'Go ahead, try on the larger shoes – you'll find they fit!' The second study, which has just been published, demonstrates that Germany has indeed tried on larger shoes – but that it's still not entirely comfortable walking in them.

The example of Ukraine illustrates the point. Many people acknowledge and appreciate Germany's role as an international intermediary that makes adroit use of its 'soft power', thereby putting distance between its approach and that of other countries, such as the USA. Germany's diplomacy in the search for peaceful solutions is something that observers around the world appreciate. Nevertheless, they think that Germany should do more to involve other nations as it forges ahead.

The same applies to Germany's role in the European economic and financial crisis. Interviewees believed that, on the basis of its clear economic dominance within Europe, the country has also taken responsi-

bility here and pointed the way out of the crisis with 'discipline and a no-nonsense approach'. 'Things aren't going to happen in Europe unless Germany is involved,' as one interviewee put it. These high levels of appreciation and respect, though, go hand in hand with criticism: interviewees felt that Germany was not yet making enough use of its ability to shape events and called for a greater vision for Europe that goes beyond economic issues. They also felt that Germany should communicate better what it does so that it can win over other countries to its policies.

Some participants felt that Germany could be a role model on issues of migration and integration. A substantial number of interviewees saw Germany as a liberal country of immigration with a pluralistic society and a substantial acceptance of diversity. On the other hand, they were critical of some of the obstacles to integration, such as visa requirements and language skills, and called urgently on Germany to play its part in the European refugee question. As a central player within Europe, the interviewees said, Germany should formulate convincing concepts for action and be more decisive.

The study also captures views on many other issues, providing valuable indicators for political debate. Interviewees spoke of Germany's energy transition, its ability to innovate, the role of women in Germany, and how the country presents itself to the rest of the world. Here, too, it is clear that countries far and wide have particularly high expectations of Germany – but also particularly high levels of respect.

'Get used to the idea of failure, because it is a precondition for innovation. Innovation is something you can learn – just like you learn to play the piano.'

USA

'Germans are not very spontaneous. If you want to try out a new move in your dance class, the Germans will always complain, "But we haven't learned that yet!"'

COLOMBIA

'The world needs an enlightened global power. Germany is enlightened, but it isn't energetic enough to win others over to its views.'

UNITED KINGDOM

'The energy shift is extremely ambitious, but Germany is on the right track. You lead the EU in this field.'

NORWAY

'The Germans respect themselves, and that makes them strong, so I have confidence in them.'

CHINA

'What German foreign policy comes down to is reliability, loyalty to its allies, and predictability. But right now, Germany's standpoint is not predictable.'

NETHERLANDS

'You need to market yourselves to the broad mass of the population. You need to win minds but you have to win hearts as well.'

INDIA

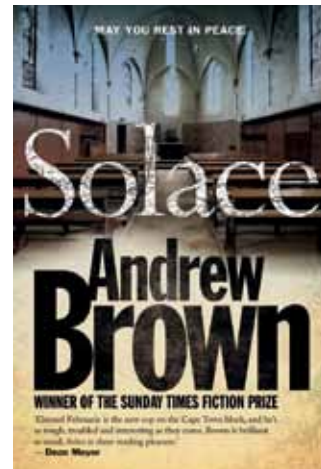
'The Germans try to resolve problems and crises through dialogue rather than through violence.'

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO

GERMANY IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD

If you want to shape the future, you need to know how other people view you. For its qualitative study 'Germany in the Eyes of the World', GIZ interviewed 179 people from 26 countries between August 2014 and January 2015. The interviewees ranged from students to prime ministers, and their face-to-face interviews offer in-depth insights that provide food for thought and reflection. And this is what makes the GIZ study different from other, mostly standardised, national perception surveys. 'Germany in the Eyes of the World' is available in English and German and is the second in what is intended to be a time series; the first survey appeared in 2011.

www.giz.de/eyes-of-others



> FORUM

Open Days – European Week of Regions and Cities

Since starting in 2003, the Open Days in Brussels have become one of the most important events on the calendar for European regional policy. In October 2015, approximately 6,000 international delegates will travel to the annual conference to discuss the challenges that different regions in Europe are facing. Youth unemployment, demographic change, a lack of skilled workers and migration are just some of the issues on the agenda.

Regional labour markets also have a growing influence on the economic strength and competitiveness of the European regions. How can the different regions make their labour markets more attractive and encourage employment? What will enable them to recognise trends and developments as early as

possible, and adapt their labour-market policies accordingly? What management tools and methods look promising? These are the questions that will be examined at an event on employment policy that GIZ will be hosting during the Open Days. Politicians, researchers and businesspeople will present and discuss examples from Veneto in Italy, North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany and the cross-border Saar-Lor-Lux region covering Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg.

.....
Open Days – European Week of Regions and Cities 2015 (entrance free, please register)
12 to 15 October, Brussels
www.opendays.europa.eu

> RECOMMENDED READING*

Solace

Andrew Brown, South Africa
 Zebra Press, 272 pages
 ISBN: 978-1770223776

Relations between the Jewish and Muslim communities in Cape Town deteriorate after the desecrated corpse of a clearly Muslim child is discovered in a synagogue. Global conflicts in South Africa or special interest politics? Andrew Brown's thriller reflects the current state of a democratic country under threat from an intricate web of corruption and organised crime. Precise, cool, but at the same time empathetic.

Thomas Wörtche, freelance cultural journalist

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



Full, Productive Employment and Decent Work for All (PDF)
 Available in German
 Maria Backhouse, Holger Bär, Hanka Boldemann et al.

Over 200 million people are unemployed. This figure includes around 75 million young people under the age of 25. This manual

examines the crucial importance of employment for individual well-being as well as for many social goals such as social cohesion and overall economic growth.



The Sustainable Shopping Cart
 Available in German
 Anne Gerlach, Lena Hohfeld, Sonja Scharnhorst et al.

This publication from the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) provides some specific tips for sustainable consumption. www.nachhaltiger-warenkorb.de is a new,

mobile website that gives consumers additional help in finding their way around the different areas of consumption, including food and drink, textiles, cosmetics, mobility, living and toys.



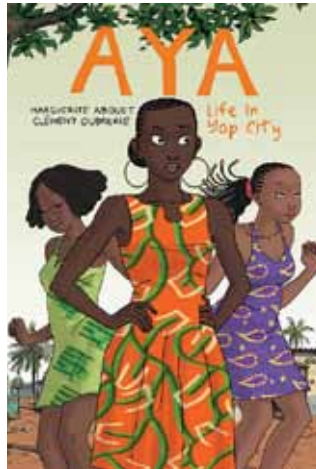
> RECOMMENDED READING*

Every Day is for the Thief

Teju Cole, Nigeria/USA
Random House, 192 pages
ISBN: 978-0812985856

Personal views of a returnee, in episodes. Having grown up in Nigeria, Cole has now made his home in the USA. At the age of 30 he visits Lagos and observes the daily life of 'his' compatriots with an equal share of affection and detachment. Through writing he grapples with the burning question: to stay or to go? And then he realises what it means to be a foreigner – not to leave behind a gap if you decide to go.

Anita Djafari, Chief Executive, Litprom



> RECOMMENDED READING*

Aya: Life in Yop City

Marguerite Abouet/Clément Oubrerie
(Illustration), Côte d'Ivoire
Drawn and Quarterly, 382 pages
ISBN: 978-1770460829

Brightly coloured and full of zest for life, this is the second omnibus of the Aya comics. Aya is now studying in Abidjan, her friend Bintou opens a consultancy for 'boy issues', and Innocent moves abroad. An omnibus exploding with cornrow hairstyles and large print dresses, as fast-paced as a TV series. Engaging, funny, turbulent.

Ruthard Stäblein, literary critic and editor



> RECOMMENDED READING*

Geistertanz

Humberto Ak'abal, Guatemala
Translated from Spanish by Erich Hackl
Waldgut, 96 pages
ISBN: 978-3037402474

Left-handed people as reincarnated beings and omnipresent spirits, the sea so distant but the divine present in all things: Ak'abal, the internationally celebrated Mayan poet and singer, writes about people, animals, plants and stones in his poems. He surprises us with ironic capers and allows us to glimpse the familiar within the foreign. Poetry for the world from the mountains of Guatemala!

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

PHOTO: OPEN DAYS – EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES (PAGE 44 TOP LEFT)



GIZ: Integrated Company Report 2014
Available in English and German

In 2014, the business volume of GIZ, which has over 16,000 employees worldwide, exceeded the EUR 2 billion mark for the second time. However, this year's company report does not simply record our financial results; this time round we are proud to present an integrated report. This annual publication now also includes a report on GIZ's activities regarding sustainability – a key component of our work.



Governance in the wood energy sector
Available in English
Marion Mundhenk

The practice of generating energy from wood has a bad reputation, but this is not always justified. So long as the energy is generated sustainably, and the rules for protecting the forests and relevant actors are adhered to, it possesses enormous potential. Based on case studies from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal and Madagascar, this analysis highlights promising methods for utilising wood energy.

A full-page photograph of Christian Widmann, a man in a dark suit and tie, standing on a paved street. In the background, there is a large, modern building with a glass facade and a central tower featuring a crest. The sky is overcast.

CHRISTIAN WIDMANN,

BUSINESS PROMOTER

'I FEEL AT HOME in Abuja,' says Christian Widmann, who has been living in Nigeria's capital city with his wife for over four years. Widmann, who has a background in economics and banking, oversees a programme for sustainable economic development that supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The objective is to diversify the economy, as although the country has large oil and gas reserves, not many people are benefiting from them. 'We want to support income and employment generation for a considerably larger number of people,' he says. This task attracted him from the start. 'The programme is large and complex, which makes it very challenging.' In Abuja, he works with national governmental authorities and business associations. He and his team also coordinate the work at local level in three of the 36 federal states and the business metropolis of Lagos. 'I deal with people from all walks of life, from the Minister of Trade and Investment down to microbusiness owners.' The leisure activities on offer are equally diverse, with opportunities to take part in sports such as football, volleyball, tennis, golf and swimming, and chances to eat out at both international restaurants and Nigerian beer gardens, which offer fresh, grilled fish. Widmann deliberately chose a house near his office, and takes the 15 minute walk to and from work every day, even in the dark. 'In the four years that I've been here, I've never been in a situation that was even mildly dangerous,' he says in response to concerns that he often hears from outsiders.

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SUSTAINABILITY

A LOOK BACK AT A PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS

PROJECT:
 POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN THE RURAL PROVINCES OF VIET NAM

COMMISSIONED BY:
 GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION
 AND DEVELOPMENT

TERM:
 2007 TO 2013

THEN

Until well into the 1980s, life in Viet Nam was overshadowed by war and destruction. Then the introduction of the 'Doi Moi' (renewal) reform programme in 1986 sparked a mini economic boom, and between 1995 and 2005 the country's growth rates shot up to about 7.5 per cent. Viet Nam even came out of the financial crisis of 2008/2009 relatively unscathed. Yet this new-found prosperity is distributed exceedingly unevenly. For example, in 2006 the poverty rates in the Ha Tinh and Tra Vinh provinces were still above 30 per cent. The 2.3 million people living in these provinces were struggling to acquire land and capital, while the majority of farmers were unable to sell their produce at the major markets.

NOW

Civic participation in the economy and society in Ha Tinh and Tra Vinh provinces has increased significantly. Thanks to measures such as supporting farmers in making the change from subsistence farming to market-oriented agriculture, poverty rates in the project's 80 communes almost halved between the years 2006 and 2011. Over 60 per cent of those who were given training had attained permanent employment six months after the end of the courses. In cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the successful project has also led to the greater inclusion of women. Women who participated in training have boosted their income by up to 50 per cent.

giz.de/de/downloads/giz2013-en-vietnam-kurzbericht-laendliche-entwicklung-schlusseval.pdf

AKZENTE

Publisher: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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English translation: Laura Ball, Hillary Crowe, Janet Fraser, Gill Lester, Jodie McGilvary, Alan Seaton, Karl Stellrecht (GIZ Language Services)

Proofreading: textschriftmacher, Lübeck, Germany

Graphic design/lithography: Frankfurter Societäts-Medien GmbH, Frankfurt, Germany

Printed by: Druckerei Lokay e. K., Reinheim, Germany

Printed on: Arctic Volume, certified to FSC standards

Maps: GIZ/Ira Olaleye

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Cover: Plainpicture/Onimage/L. B. Jeffries

All images: GIZ unless otherwise stated

Copy deadline: July 2015

Published: quarterly

Current issue: September 2015

ISSN: 0945-4497

Articles by individual authors do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher.

akzente has received several awards for its high-quality journalism and design. In 2015 it won a silver medal at the Best of Corporate Publishing Award.



PHOTOS: INGUHER ZAKI (PAGE 46), GETTY IMAGES/LUIS DAVILLA (PAGE 47)

PREVIEW

akzente issue 4/15

REFUGEES The number of refugees has reached an all-time high, as more than 50 million people worldwide have fled their homes to seek a better life elsewhere. This is the first time that the figures have reached these levels since the Second World War. What makes the refugees willing to

face the hardships of leaving their homes? Where do they go? How do the host countries deal with them? And what strategies is the international community using to handle this crisis? Answers to these and other questions will be provided in akzente 4/15.



Those involved in the climate negotiations in Paris at the end of 2015 will need to keep a cool head, for expectations for the conference are high: the world is hoping for nothing less than the definitive turning point.

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