



# NEWSLETTER



EDITION 1 11/13  
November 2013

KAS Hauptabteilung  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit

Welcome to the KAS Ghana Newsletter

## Promoting conflict mediation, private sector development and environmental protection – KAS activities in October and November 2013

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### Workshop - Promoting Peaceful Community Development: 07.10. – 11.10. in Garu and Sirigu

From 7th till 11th of October the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in collaboration with its partner the Tamale Ecclesiastical Province Pastoral Conference (TEPPCON) conducted two workshops in Garu und Sirigu in the Upper East Region. The workshops covered the topic 'Promoting Peaceful Community Development'.



*Participants at the workshop in Garu*

Especially in northern Ghana tensions between different ethnicities still persist. The opposing parties are mostly settlers and indigenous fighting over land rights and the succession of local Traditional Authorities (TAs). In the past, ethnic tensions have been instrumentalised for party politics or

personal interests. Though violent conflicts are not the norm and have not flamed up after 2010, the issue needs to be addressed in order to prevent an escalation of ethnic tensions.



*Participants discussing mediation strategies in small groups*

Against this background KAS and TEPPCON have organised workshops on conflict prevention and mediation for five years in Upper East, Upper West and Northern Region. TEPPCON can draw on very experienced resource persons like Father Thaddeus Kuusah, chairman of the Northern Region Peace Advisory Council (NORPAC) and staff member of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Ghana. Thus it can be expected, that the interventions will have a significant impact. With a total of about 160 participants the two workshops were well-attended. The presentations of



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the resource persons covered topics like the concepts of conflict and peace, conflict analysis and mediation strategies. Furthermore the participants had the chance to exert the content of the presentations in role-play situations. In order to reach more people, participants were encouraged to spread their knowledge among their communities.

**Workshop - Alternative Dispute Resolution in Sunyani and Tamale**



President of the Regional House of Chiefs in Brong-Ahafo Region, Nana Pemampem Yaw Kagbbrese V. (left) and his Vice

In addition to the above mentioned workshops on conflict resolution which were conducted with the rural population, KAS also organised two workshops in collaboration with the Regional House of Chiefs of the Brong-Ahafo and Northern Regions. They took place in Sunyani and Tamale respectively. The topic was 'Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms' with the aim to empower the Chiefs to engage in peaceful dispute resolution and to train them in mediation strategies.

Like many developing countries, Ghana is exposed to rapid social change. Although traditional values and institutions are still of high relevance in Ghanaian life, they permanently have to assert in an increasingly modernised and globalised society. This cleavage

between traditional and "modern" values and institutions oftentimes leads to tensions. Thus it is very important to handle these tensions in a proactive manner to prevent an escalation into violent conflicts. Traditional Authorities (TAs) are the major representatives of traditional life in Ghana. They are highly respected among the population and have a strong influence on social and political issues. Thus TAs are key actors in mediating these tensions which mostly cover disputes about land rights and family issues.



Chiefs of the Regional House of Chiefs of the Northern Region with their assistants

**Workshop – Forum on the State of the Private Sector in Ghana, in Kumasi, Tamale, Takoradi and Accra**

In October and November the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) organized several workshops on the topic 'Forum on the State of the Private Sector in Ghana'. The workshops were sponsored by KAS and conducted by the Private Enterprise Federation (PEF). PEF is an umbrella organisation for members of the private sector and represents their interests against the state. The private sector plays an essential role for the development of the Ghanaian economy and society. Especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) build the basis for development and a stable economy. Unfortunately the link

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between the private sector and the state has been neglected in the past. Therefore KAS tries to foster dialog between both entities.



*Participants and facilitators at the workshop in Tamale*

The main aim of the workshops was to create room for such a dialogue. PEF as an advocacy organisation acts as a middleman between entrepreneurs and state institutions. The participants had the chance to explain obstacles and difficulties in their businesses. Some of the problems that were discussed among others include; the incapacity of schools and polytechnics to respond to the demands of the labour market and as a result the lack of skilled labour, as well as the lack of professionalism and business mentality in the agricultural sector. Though the major share of the labour force works in this sector only few operate their production according to economic principles. This is one of the reasons why the Ghanaian agricultural sector remains far behind its high potential. Information about the everyday-difficulties for Ghanaian businesses helps PEF in representing the private sector and developing a conducive policy framework.

Another aim of the workshops was the professionalisation of private businesses and the improvement of their structures. In this regard different inputs were offered e.g. on SME financing or the availability and

access to financial products other than credit.

In order to reach businesses from most parts of Ghana, the workshops were held in Kumasi, Tamale, Takoradi and Accra and were very well-attended with averagely around sixty participants.



*Presentation by Mr. Stephen Antwi Asimeng on availability and access to financial products*

**Sensitisation Workshop on the Charter for Natural Resource Management**

Environmental protection and sustainability is an important issue for Ghana in several ways. Firstly, since a proper waste management and sanitation system is non-existent in many parts of Ghana, environmental pollution highly contributes to diseases and a problematic health situation. Secondly, the increasing destruction of the environment as a natural resource poses a threat to development and the livelihoods of Millions of Ghanaians, especially in rural areas. Causes are among others unsustainable agricultural methods, overgrazing, fuelwood-logging.

Also in the field of environmental protection and natural resource management TAs are relevant players. Since they enjoy a high degree of legitimacy and respect among the population, they can act

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positively in two ways. Firstly, TAs can use their influence and decision-making power to promote legislative processes in the field of natural resource management. Secondly, as opinion leaders they can act as facilitators for sensitisation and behavioral change among the population.



*Participants of the workshop in Hwidiem*

Against this background, KAS organised two workshops in collaboration with the Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Organisational Development (CIKOD) and the Regional House of Chiefs (RHC) of the Brong-Ahafo Region. The workshops took place in Hwidiem and Goaso. The main objective was to promote a stronger commitment of TAs in environmental protection and the use of natural resources. The basis for such a commitment forms the Traditional Authority and Accountability Charter, which also covers environmental issues and was launched in September 2012. Though the Charter was developed by the RHC, many members of the Traditional Councils – sub-bodies of the RHC – are not aware of the content of the Charter. During the workshops the Charter was introduced to the participants. Furthermore TAs had the opportunity to discuss environmental issues and find strategies to address them in the future.



**Impressum**

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Hauptabteilung  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit

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