



NEWSLETTER



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KAS Hauptabteilung
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Welcome to the KAS Ghana Newsletter

KAS Ghana welcomed the former German Federal President Prof. Dr. Horst Köhler

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A Word of Greeting from the German Ambassador

Dear readers,

The launch of John A. Kufuor foundation brought an audience of over 800 came to the Great Hall of the University of Ghana, Legon.

The dignitaries present included Jerry John Rawlings former president of Ghana, Thabo Mbeki former president of South Africa and former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Prof. Köhler. With all of them John A. Kufuor, former president of Ghana launched his foundation for democracy, social market economy and development (www.johnakufuorfoundation.org). Instead of a sod cutting ceremony, some trees had already been planted before-hand on the future premises of the Foundation as a lasting sign of the launching.

"It should be a foundation that extends beyond the boundaries of political parties and which works for Ghana", as the former President of Ghana put it in his opening remarks, which from time to time was interrupted by applause and songs. Prof. Köhler, former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, addressed the audience, on the topic "Walking the Tight rope: Balancing State, Market and Society" offers Africa and Ghana great opportunities for development of a social market economy. The speech can be read on the website of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, (www.kas.de/Ghana). The Foundation or-



ganized the visit of the former President of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ghana.

Prior to the opening ceremony, the three former Presidents paid a curtesy call on the vice-president of the Republic of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama, who emphatically expressed personal joy on his behalf and that of the Government concerning the John A. Kufuor Foundation.

The majority of the audience were students which shows how the Ghanaian youth is interested in acquiring knowledge. As Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany it is a great pleasure to encourage this young generation through such events, to have the courage to make use of the political experience of experienced and respected senior Ghanaian politicians like John Kufuor, Jerry Rawlings or Kofi Annan, in leading the Nation to the future. Into a future in which all Ghanaians will be able to participate in an economic boom. The Social Market Economy System could be helpful. The Social Market Economy, originally designed by the German Minister for Economic Affairs, Ludwig Erhard, who was inspired by Walter Eucken and Adolf Müller-Armack, contributed enormously to the flourishing development of the Federal Republic of Germany.

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While currently, we in Europe admittedly (must) intensively tackle home-made problems, people in Africa are increasingly taking the development of their nations into their own hands – an important condition for a lasting and sustainable development of the continent. Moreover, this is an essential contribution towards the emancipation of the continent. With regards to this, do allow me a brief reference to the three Nobel Peace Prize winners this year from Africa.

The German political foundations, in this case, the Konrad-Adenauer- Foundation, have been supporting the people's own initiative right here locally for over 40 years. Ghana and the Federal Republic of Germany have over the many years, become very close partners, which I am happy about. With the John A. Kufuor Foundation an institution, which is also

committed to basic concepts of the Social Market Economy regulatives has found its place in Ghana: It will function in an important intersection between politics and economy. It is therefore a competent partner. Already last year, during his visit to the Foundation in Berlin, John Kufour outlined the guiding principles. He emphasized prosperity, social justice and sustainable economic activities, as the working guidelines for his foundation. I would like to cordially congratulate the John A. Kufuor Foundation and the Konrad – Adenauer – Foundation for a successful launch. According to the competent former President of the Federal German Republic, the importance of this work has become evident. I wish both Foundations a successful cooperation.

German Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ghana

Visit of the Bundespräsident a.D. Horst Köhler in Ghana

Following the invitation of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation H.E. Horst Köhler visited Ghana and participated as a guest of honour in the opening celebrations of the John A. Kufuor Foundation from the 19th till the 21st of September 2011.

As part of the launch ceremony of the John A. Kufuor Foundation (JAK) Prof. Dr. Köhler delivered a speech on social market economy at the University of Ghana, Legon in Accra, and inaugurated the future resi-

dences of the John A. Kufuor Foundation in Accra as well as in Kumasi.

The ground-breaking ceremony in Accra was celebrated by planting a tree at the future location of the foundation on the campus of the University of Ghana in Legon. High-ranking people from national and international politics were taking part in the ceremony such as the former President of Ghana and founder of the JAK, John A. Kufuor, the former President of Ghana, John Jerry Rawlings, the former president of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki and as mentioned the former president of Germany, Horst Köhler.

H.E. Horst Köhler was not only attending



Horst Köhler, John A. Kufuor and Thabo Mbeki attending the Founder's Day Ceremony at the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum

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the opening celebrations of the John A. Kufuor Foundation as a guest of honour but was as well holding a speech at the University of Ghana as part of the launch ceremony. A 1000 guests were present at the public lecture where Prof. Dr. Horst Köhler delivered a speech on the topic "Walking the Tightrope: Balancing State, Market and Society" at the University of Ghana, Legon in Accra.

guration of the secondary location of the John A. Kufuor Foundation. In presence of H.E. Horst Köhler, H.E. John A. Kufuor and H.E. Thabo Mbeki the future building of the JAK was symbolically inaugurated by immuring a brick into the wall.



John A. Kufuor, Horst Köhler, Eberhard Schanze with his wife and Thabo Mbeki at the residence of the German ambassador.

Köhler elaborated upon the basic principles of the social market economy as an important orientation guide for the economical, social and political development in Ghana and Africa at large. The former German Federal President pointed out the great success which Ghana achieved in particular under the leadership of the former President John A. Kufuor and also the on-going challenges. Köhler described the basics of the market economy as the inspiring principles to create a sustainable development.



Reception with students of the German Swiss International School in Accra

During his visit in Ghana Prof. Dr. Köhler paid a courtesy call on the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama, on the NPP flagbearer, Nana Akufo-Addo, and on Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the Ashanti King.

Furthermore, representatives of the German political foundations and other German organizations informed H.E. Horst Köhler during a working breakfast at the residence of the head of the KAS Ghana, Dr. Gregor Rysse, about their projects and activities in Ghana.

The day after the ceremony in Accra the delegation travelled to Kumasi for the inau-



The KAS Office team with the NPP Chairman (left), Horst Köhler and Nana Akufo-Addo (in the middle).

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Before the visit of H.E. Horst Köhler the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation has been involved in the planning and implementation of workshops on different topics.

As a political foundation it is our wish to be part of a larger chain of interconnectedness. For this reason we pursue the idea of equal partners. Furthermore we strengthen the collaboration in politics on the local and on the national level regardless to gender and ethnicity. The Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation is committed to participatory governance from all spheres of society. Hence, KAS supports any groups of individuals who are committed to expanding the frontiers of democracy in Ghana. For this reason KAS has been giving regular support to different projects in different regions of the country. We are proud to be a part of the international community of stakeholders who are working to strengthen the country's political infrastructure.

Further progresses in Good Governance – A successful workshop in Kintampo

Good Governance is a key factor and a basic requirement for development. In mid July the Workshop on Good Governance was held in Kintampo (Brong-Ahafo Region) in close cooperation with our development partner organization Ghana Union of Traders Association (GUTA).

The members of the District Assemblies are playing an important role as representatives of the people. The workshop was designed to bring together all members of the District Assemblies in order to create the opportunity to discuss the importance of their position. The workshop aimed to broaden the understanding and the appreciation of the District Assembly concept.

The District Assemblies in Ghana are facing major challenges; it's capacity and the efficiency is restricted by the political interference from the ruling party on the one hand, and on the other hand by the interference from the traditional authorities. Before the District Assembly system was introduced in Ghana the traditional chieftaincy system exercised the entire social and economical control within the local communities. Hence the traditional authorities still have a strong influence on the shaping of public opinion and of course a pretension

to power. The harmonization and the generation of a good and stable partnership which can provide the basis on political cooperation between the District Assemblies and the traditional stakeholders in the interest of the community is of major importance.

Furthermore, there is a severe lack of knowledge about the basic laws of the assembly system on behalf of the members of the District Assembly which hinders the effectiveness and the capacity to act. Additionally this gap is increased by the lack of resources. This has negative repercussions on processes such as the monitoring of projects and the interaction among the elected members



The workshop took place at the Bafkent Hotel in Kintampo.

The importance of the District Assemblies in the current political situation, especially but not only on the local level, and in particular their influence on the overall economic development process of the nation is often wrongly undervalued.

For these reasons the workshop created a platform for the members of the District Assembly in the Brong-Ahafo Region to understand and appreciate the priorities of communities.



A large number of participants attended the workshop.

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KAS supports economic growth and stability – Retreat on 2012 Budget for the private Sector

The recent conference in close cooperation of KAS and the Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF) was held with the objective to implement the individual ideas of enterprises into the 2012 budget statement.

More than 50 members of trade and business associations and the private sector community attended the conference which took place the 21st July 2011 in Accra.



The entrepreneurs looked at the challenges from different point of views.

The private sector is the engine of economic growth and wealth creation as well as backbone in the process of job generation. Taxes are important resources used to develop the country. As the private sector is the hub of the majority of tax payers, the entrepreneurs must be interested in the allocation and disbursement of these resources.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation seeks to promote the ideals of good governance including good corporative governance across the globe. The association with the business community through the Private Enterprise Foundation aims to obtain this objective. In particular in making inputs into the 2012 national budgetary the KAS took the opportunity to support the private sector and to play a lively role in the national budgetary process.

Though Ghana's economic development records major progresses within the last decade, in particular the private sector faces challenges in relation to access to

capital. Therefore to improve the economic environment with regard to the private entrepreneurs the government has to focus on policy programmes that will address the cost of doing business in Ghana.

During the workshop the representatives of the private sector engaged themselves actively within working groups, each tasked to come up with inputs that could be presented to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.



Mr. Philip Abayori, the President of the National Framers and Fishermen Award Winners Association (left hand side) highlighted the needs of the agricultural sector.

At the end of the workshop the participants came up with a set of significant inputs and valuable contributions to the 2012 national budget. Nana Osei-Bonsu, the Director-General of PEF thanked the participants for their efforts: "Today we were able to collect contributions aligned with the needs of the entrepreneurs. The submitted inputs will be examined by the PEF governing council before we submit them to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning."

The workshop has been successful in providing future-orientated steps to be taken with the aim of promoting the economic development. Strengthening environmental, producer and consumer protection will provide the bases for sustainable development.

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The cooperation in northern Ghana continues - Further progresses in strengthening the traditional leadership in Upper West

The regional stakeholders' workshop on gold mining in the Upper West Region in close cooperation with our longstanding partner organization Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD) took place in Wa.

pected roles of necessary sensitization and awareness among communities.

During the workshop the traditional authorities, District Assemblies, security services, civil society groups, heads of institutions and the media, who sent their delegates to participate in the programme, set the bases to develop a comprehensive plan of engagement with the aim to ensure benefits from the mining for all parties involved: the environment, the people of the Upper West Region and the mining company.



The traditional authorities of Upper West are key actors with regard to sustainable development.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation has been supporting the traditional chieftaincy for some time now. With the objective to ensure the promotion of regional and political decentralisation, KAS has established a strong working relationship with CIKOD and the traditional leadership in Upper West. Besides strengthening the traditional leaders within their ability to act the collaboration is focussed on the establishment of a good relationship between the government and the chieftaincy and in particular on the empowerment of women.

The contribution of the local and traditional leadership to development processes in northern Ghana is of major importance. Recent gold discoveries entailed new challenges on the region and the inhabitants. The recent workshop was held to emerge several cases of injustice and threats to further ecological degradations in the region. The main severities facing the region are illegal mining, interventions by the foreign mining company into the work and the life of local farmers, information gaps and non-transparent information about the work of the foreign firms. Another problem is the lack of knowledge of the District Assemblies who are not performing their ex-

The Upper West Regional Coordinator of CIKOD stressed: "Let us remember that the resources today belong to the dead, the living and the unborn, and posterity will not forgive us if we fail to secure a safe future for all."

The communities expressed their fears that the gold mining will cause negative effects on the food security and nutrition, social amenities, the quality of water and air as well as on the natural environment as a whole. Furthermore they expressed their concern about an increment of crime levels, incidents of diseases, alcohol and drug abuse and arbitration which are expected negative side effects of the gold mining business in the region.

Nonetheless the upcoming mining industry is likely to improve the road network and transport, the health infrastructure, employment opportunities, incomes, and the market infrastructure as well as educational facilities. Therefore the participants and the organizers agreed on the importance to establish a stable cooperation between the community and the mining industry which will be mutually beneficial.

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The traditional authorities elaborated a framework of a sustainable environmental development in the region. They agreed that it would be more economically and ecologically beneficial and a major contribution to the Millennium Development Goals to invest into the conservation of the Shea nut resource, which grows naturally and is widely spread in the region, than in gold mining. Therefore any investor interested in mining must agree to foster the establishment of Shea plantations.

With regard to ensure a transparent flow of information the Director of the Minerals Commission intimated: "The commission sees it necessary to open an office in Wa to address the problems connected to both, small and large scale mining activities. We will take steps to enhance the knowledge within the communities on the legal instruments governing mining in the country."

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