

# EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

TANZANIA

DANIEL EL-NOSHOKATY  
LEA HELMS

JULY 2016

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## Symposium "Sustainable Development and Natural Resources"

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTHS

On 20th July, the Civic Education Teachers' Association (CETA) and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Tanzania convened a jointly organized symposium on "Sustainable Development and Natural Resources – Challenges and Opportunities for Youths" in Iringa. Around 150 secondary school students and their teachers participated in the event.

Goodluck Justine, Program Manager at CETA, opened the symposium with a welcome note. Afterwards, Daniel El-Noshokaty, Resident Representative of KAS Tanzania, gave introductory remarks. He emphasized that the symposium was about the students and their future. Tanzania is very rich in natural resources but that alone is not enough to build up a country. It is necessary to have people with the right skills, who know how to use these resources in a good and sustainable way. Lastly, he concluded by saying that he wants them to actively participate in the discussions following the two presentations.

In his speech, the guest of honor, Hon. Richard Kasesera, District Commissioner of Iringa, commended KAS on the fantastic work they have been doing in Tanzania since 1964. He underlined the importance of the subject and made clear that not only theory but implementation has to be in the foreground. He considers the education of the young and the old as the key to building the necessary capacity and brain power to

use the existing resources in a way that creates wealth but is also sustainable.



*Hon. Richard Kasesera, District Commissioner of Iringa, gives the opening speech.*

The first presentation entitled "Sustainable Development and Natural Resources" was held by Karl Milinga from Ruaha Catholic University. He first defined the different sorts of resources that exist, e.g. natural resources and human resources, and what the actual meaning of sustainability is. The sustainable use of natural resources, according to Mr. Milinga, means to not exploit them completely today but to treat them in a way that future generations will also be able to use them and the environment will not be damaged. He then went on to explain some of the negative effects that the exploitation of natural resources in Iringa region has led to. Streams are disappearing because the natural vegetation around them has been destroyed and for the same rea-

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son the soil is becoming poorer and poorer. His recommendations included the introduction of cash crop as well as food crop cultivation; family planning policies to prevent poverty from increasing; every family should have an acre of land where it plants its own trees; good governance and democracy down to the grassroots level and others.



*Students listen attentively to the presentation.*

In the following discussion, the students were eager to participate actively and confidently asked questions. To Daniel El-Noshokaty's inquiry of what specifically the students can do to contribute to sustainable development, he answered that the students should convince their families to plant trees, not have more than ten cows as they are very destructive and not to cut down the vegetation around the streams.

Afterwards, Faraya Sanga from Ruaha Catholic University gave a comment on climate change and its impacts for Iringa. He began with explaining that climate change is a global challenge and that the focus of his presentation will be anthropogenic factors contributing to climate change. The misuse of natural resources leads to climate change and vegetation as well as species have disappeared because of it. Furthermore, he explained that the decreasing icecap on Mount Kilimanjaro will not only affect the tourism industry but also the water supply in the region since many rivers depend on the mountain's melting water. At the end he emphatically told the students that for every tree they cut, they should try to plant five new ones.

In the following discussion, the students were again very engaged with the topic. One question was how it is possible to balance the need for wood to build settlements with the need to use the existing resources sustainably. Mr. Sanga answered that the most important thing in this regard is to decrease the population growth and introduce family planning. Much of the misuse of natural resources is due to overpopulation, he says, and as such it should be one of the major areas of concern.

Goodluck Justine in his vote of thanks quoted President Obama ("We are the change we want") to show the students that they have to be and are the change makers of today and tomorrow. He emphasized the necessity of changing peoples' attitudes and taking advantage of the existing opportunities. He concluded by saying that the students should not wait for other people to do things and to make change happen for them but to take matters into their own hands.



*Group picture. F.l.t.r.: Richard Shaba, Project Coordinator at KAS Tanzania, Hon. Richard Kasesera, DC Iringa, Daniel El-Noshokaty, Resident Representative for KAS Tanzania, Justine Goodluck, Project Coordinator at CETA.*



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