

TANZANIA
DANIEL EL-NOSHOKATY
MAGDALENA GEBERT

JUNE 2017

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INTERFAITH DIALOGUE IN TANZANIA

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE WAY FORWARD AFTER SIGNING THE JOINT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND FAREWELL OF THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR

On the 13th of June 2017 representatives met after the official launch of the “NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS” in Tanzania and the signing of a joint MOU by heads of religious institutions in November 2016 to discuss the way forward. In regards to this event, the German Ambassador H.E. Egon Kochanke was appreciated for his contribution to the interfaith dialogue, at the end of his term in Tanzania. The meeting was organized by the Interreligious Council for Peace Tanzania (IRCPT) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Dar es Salaam.

After joint prayers and words of welcome by Rev. Canon Thomas Godda (IRCPT) and Richard Shaba (KAS) as well as a round of introduction by the participants, the “Memorandum of Understanding” (MoU) as foundation for the joint interreligious commitment was at the center of this event. This pioneering declaration with the aim of peace-building by religious institutions in Tanzania was signed, after several years of negotiations, a few months ago. The religious dignitaries identified and discussed strategies for the implementation of joint decisions, which were taken before, with regard to the declaration. After that, all participants had the opportunity to make suggestions in front of the executive board of the IRCPT, the joint head organization. Many concerns were made and represented by selected representatives of the women’s and youth

association of the interfaith community, which had prepared their positions before.



Richard Shaba (KAS Tanzania) welcomes the participants of the interfaith dialogue.

With regard to the joint Fast-Breaking, a solemn farewell of the German Ambassador H.E. Egon Kochanke with the appreciation of his contribution for the interfaith dialogue in Tanzania took place. Ten years ago, the German Federal Foreign office of the federal republic of Germany provided subsidy funds for the interfaith dialogue in Tanzania. Therefore, the KAS started its work with the IRCPT. The executive director of the IRCPT, Rev. Canon Thomas Godda, thanked the German Ambassador for his constant support and handed a certificate of the “Interfaith Champion” for the recognition of his merits to him. H.E. Egon Kochanke thanked all attendees and their representative organizations during his farewell speech. He explained that he ever will keep his time in Tanzania as a special memory, not only because of the kind people, but especially because of the high religious tolerance among each other. Many other regions in this world can learn from this cooperation among the

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IRCPT, which builds the foundation for further development. The Ambassador thanked the representatives of their organizations present for the cooperation and assured that further deepening will be in safe hands.



The German Ambassador H.E. Egon Kochanke receives a certificate for his contribution to the interfaith dialogue in Tanzania.

Daniel El-Noshokaty, representative for KAS Tanzania remarked that, many years ago, the German Embassy had the idea of supporting a loose interfaith dialogue in Tanzania. Today, the German Ambassador could see the positive outcomes of this commitment. Addressed to the participants, he said, that the ratification of the MoU in November was an important step towards the institutionalization of the IRCPT. However, the journey of the interfaith dialogue is still not finished. It would be now up to them, to take the next steps towards a peaceful co-existence in Tanzania in the future.

Towards the end of this event, small groups of participants took group pictures before they started their journey home.



A group picture with some members of IRCPT, the German Ambassador H.E. Egon Kochanke and Daniel El-Noshokaty (KAS representative for Tanzania)



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