

# EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

## TANZANIA

STEFANIE BRINKEL  
CORINNA GRABOWSKI  
JULIE GOUDET

OCTOBER 2017

## Symposium on Employment and Natural Resources in Tanzania

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH

**On Friday, October 6th and Saturday, October 7th 2017, the Civic Education Teachers' Association (CETA) organized together with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) a two-day symposium on the topic of "Employment and Natural Resources in Tanzania – Opportunities and Challenges for Youth". The event took place at Teofilo Kisanji University (TEKU) in Mbeya, a city surrounded by a vast amount of natural resources. It targeted secondary school students and their teachers as well as college and university students.**

After the participants started the symposium by singing a joint patriotic song, a representative of teachers gave a welcome note and thanked CETA and KAS for organizing this event at TEKU.



*Augustino Mligo (UDSM) presenting the high table: Richard Shaba (KAS), the Guest of Honor Dr. John P. Msindai (TEKU), and Justine Goodluck (CETA)*

His remarks were followed by a word from CETA by its program coordinator Justine Goodluck. He pointed out, that the NGO was founded in 2003 and that its core values include civility, equality, transparency and

accountability. He thanked KAS for the long-lasting and committed partnership to promote civic education in Tanzania. Mr. Goodluck encouraged the students to actively participate during the event by sharing experiences and asking questions. He reminded the audience that the symposium is a place for discussions aiming at finding joint solutions to support development in the country. He concluded by asking the audience to repeat his slogan "our resources, our future".

Afterwards, Richard Shaba, KAS program coordinator, delivered greetings from KAS. He stressed the importance of civic education to foster a democratic and an open mindset and pointed out that "Democrats are not born, they are made". He added, actively finding a purpose and long-term goal in live would allow students to lay ground for their own mission and growth today.

Subsequently, the Guest of Honor, Dr. John P. Msindai, Vice-Chancellor of TEKU, addressed the audience in the symposium's official opening speech, reflecting on the long way that Tanzania has gone so far. He indicated that today more students than ever before have the opportunity to go to school; yet still many of them remain unemployed. He encouraged the students to take into account a career related to the vast amount of natural resources that the Mbeya region has to offer; e. g. forests, fertile soil, wildlife and water bodies.

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Elisha Nkweij from St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) in Mbeya elaborated on opportunities and challenges related to natural resources in Mbeya region and presented potential contributions to employment. These include agricultural activities such as the production of maize, beans, potatoes, bananas, coffee and rice as well as activities with regard to forest resources and minerals, which all additionally imply options related to local and international trade. Furthermore, he mentioned a variety of natural features in the region that provide options for tourism, including mountains and crater lakes, hot springs and water falls, beaches at the shores of Lake Nyasa and game reserves, among others. He also informed the students about companies currently investing in the region.

Following the presentation and speeches, the participants had the opportunity to ask questions and to jointly discuss the topic. This session was moderated by Mr. Augustino Mligo from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).



*a student actively participating in the discussion*

Among others, one student encouraged her fellow students that challenges shall be seen more of an opportunity than an obstacle. Another student urged the audience to protect the environment and take climate change seriously. While one student pointed out a lack of experiences with regard to comprehensively using natural resources, his fellow student suggested that current educational policies shall be adapted to changing needs. To strengthen the spirit among her peers, a young girl with previous entrepreneurial experiences encouraged the audience to believe in their dreams and adapt a behavior of saving to support their own entrepreneurial activities. She also illustrated the benefits of self-employment

over being employed by others, from her perspective.



*students asking questions to the speakers*

During the question-and-answer-part, a student asked how one can responsibly utilize natural resources while preserving them for future generations. Others wanted to know how to get capital funding and how to actually start an own business. The speakers answered with sound guidance and much encouragement, and especially stressed the importance of planning effectively step-by-step, understanding investment as a process and not as a one-time event. In order to deepen the business perspective, two entrepreneurs in the field of natural resources from the region Mbeya, Mr. Mahenge and Mr. Mgina, have been invited to present their experiences. Both of them encouraged the young generation to take initiative and to fulfill their dreams.

Msafiri Mahenge, who owns a tree farm (Mahenge and Family Timber Industry), elaborated on timber as a natural resource which is utilized in many fields and opens several outlets. His success in business was very impressive for the students. Msafiri Mahenge advised the students to begin with small goals, which they are able to achieve, before they can grow, and he highlighted that hard work, commitment and perseverance are required to succeed. He also underlined the need of solidarity in the Tanzanian society. Msafiri Mahenge advocated for working together and creating joint networks. Additionally, he insisted on the importance of sustainable development. He encouraged the students to work for their wealth, but above all for the construction of a better living standard for the whole society in the future. According to him, this can

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be realized through investments and a responsible behavior. In this regard, he pointed out the need to protect the environment in order to benefit from natural resources not only today but also in the future. On his terrain for example, Msafiri Mahenge plants new trees according to a certain regrowth-schedule to make good the trees that are cut.

Frank Mgina farms, among others, chicken and bees (Mgina Animal Industry). As well as his predecessor, he suggested to use resources available in the surroundings to open an own business. Explaining his way and presenting respective calculations, he showed that even with limited financial means a career is possible, if it was started in well planned steps.



*Msafiri Mahenge delivering a message of hope, solidarity and responsibility to the youth*

The presentations from the two entrepreneurs arose a great deal of interest among the audience and were followed by an in-depth question and answer session and joint discussion. In order to strengthen the student's capacities and foster involvement, the benefits and opportunities of joining existing networks and creating new networks were also discussed. In this regard, the moderator, Mr. Augustino Mligo (UDSM), presented different organizations in Mbeya region pertaining to employment and natural resources, such as environmental and entrepreneur clubs at schools, NGOs like the National Youth Information Centre (NICE), and associations such as UKIU (Umoja wa kilimo na ufugaji) for agriculture and pastoralists and VIBIMBE (Vijiji Biashara Mbeya) in Mbeya. As financial institutions he also pointed out at Community Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs).

Concluding the symposium, CETA Secretary General, Safari Minja, thanked the audience for their vivid participation and once again encouraged the students to be active and responsible citizens with regard to natural resources and respective employment options in Mbeya.



*Group picture with the Guest of Honor, CETA and KAS representatives and students in front of the Teofilo Kisanji University (TEKU)*



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