



Protocol

Global Think Tank – 1st Meeting - 15. November 2023

14:00 – 16:00

-- 14:10 pm --

Participants: 19

NOTE: The next meeting will take place on the 31st of January 2024. We will send an official invitation with the full programme and time for this day.

-- Powerpoint Presentation about the Afrika Medien Zentrum e.V. & What is the Global Think Tank? +
Program for today & goals --

Main topics during the presentation:

What could the African cities' partners contribute to fighting climate change? And what can we as Europeans learn from them? It's about developing concrete solutions and there is the German Innovation Award for Climate and Environment, for which you can apply with your projects.

What climate protection projects do already exist? The cities that already have such projects, e.g. climate city partnerships, can talk about them. And those that don't have climate partnerships yet can talk about them and say what role city partnerships can play in the fight against climate change.

Then it's about what the priorities are, e.g. what aspects of climate change are urgent both in Germany and in Africa and what can the city partnerships do to tackle these problems? How can city partnerships help to develop methods and strategies to combat climate change and implement them at the municipal level?

Introduction round

-- Name, where you're from, what city partnership you are from and in which specific field does the partnership work

Hérve Tchemeleu (director of AMZ):

- Climate change is a really an important topic and there are a lot of activities taking place already around this it but we can see that there are not a lot of activities taking place on the communal level. So, today, we want to talk about how we can implement solutions and activities on the communal level. We think partnerships between cities are very important for that.

Anton Stephan → anton.t.stephan@gmail.com

- Chairman of the **city partnership between Vaterstetten** (village near Munich) & **Alem Katema** (town north of Addis Ababa) **in Ethiopia**
- The main target is to support education & to fill the partnership with life.

Edda Brandes (Ethnomusicologist) → edda@brandes-kraatz.de

- **City partnership between Rheinsberg - Fangasso (Mali)**
- President of the Benkadi association;
- It is dedicated to show the origins of African cultures outside of Africa;
- Main topic → Working in different countries to document and save music, dance and languages; But there are other projects focused on youth education, unemployment in Mali, among others;
- At the moment, this partnership is not active.

Anne-Marie Blüm → anne-sophie.wilmanowski@stadt.wolfsburg.de

- **City Partnership between Lahnstein - Ouahigouya (Burkina Faso)**
- There are several projects, for example, construction projects → schools, hospitals, among others. All these projects have been welcomed with a lot of enthusiasm.

Karola Liebrich → vorsitz@garangoverein.de

- **City partnership between Ladenburg - Garango (Burkina Faso)**
- President of the Friendship Association Ladenburg - Garango;
- City partnership has existed for 40 years now;
- Takes care of 1700 godchildren who have godparents in Germany → they support their education;
- Construction projects → around 24 primary schools were built;
- Management of a big dam;
- One project focuses on the independence of women;

Silvia Hesse → info@freundeskreis-malawi.de

- **City Partnership between Hannover - Blantyre (Malawi)**
- Chairwoman of the Freundeskreis Malawi e.V.;
- The association has existed for 60 years;
- Different projects concerning the SDGs (UN Sustainable Development Goals);
- There are school partnerships → for example regarding the school gardening;
- Other projects focus on cultural exchange.

Rüdiger Winkler → info@ruediger-winkler.de

- **City partnership between Hürth - Kabarnet (Kenya, around 300 km west of Nairobi)**
- It has existed since 1988;
- Main focus is education;
- Construction projects → a secondary school was established;
- Projects of water supply and support of women in self-help groups;
- During the last visit in April, discussions about costs of energy → ideas for a new project with solar power and water power were developed → these are part of the plans for the next years.

Anna Raupach → partner.chemnitz-timbuktu@web.de

- **City partnership between Chemnitz - Timbuktu in Mali**
- Exists since 1968;
- Association was founded in 2000;
- A lot of actions took place but the partnership hardly active at the moment.

Herbert Hörfer → Herbert.Hoefer@online.de

- **City Partnership between Kernen in Stuttgart and Masvingo in Zimbabwe.**
- Kernen-Masvingo-Gesellschaft e.V;
- Existed for 32 years;
- Support schools close to Masvingo and support students in need;
- Provide financial support and materials for hospitals and schools;
- Now there are some initiatives for climate change.

Elisabeth Meyer → E.Meier@ludwigsburg.de

- **City partnership between Ludwigsburg-Kongoussi in Burkina Faso**
- Works for the city of Ludwigsburg in Baden-Württemberg.
- Project coordinator for the climate partnership;
- Focus on solar energy: solar-home-systems, solar panels for schools and hospitals, wells with solar-powered pumps;

Sakina Ramharak → Sakina.Ramharak@stuttgart.de

- **City partnership between Stuttgart and Menzel Bourguiba in Tunisia**
- Coordinator for climate mitigation projects with partner cities of the City of Stuttgart;
- Since last year, there is a climate partnership with Menzel Bourguiba;
- Focus → water and waste management as well as renewable energies.

Christopher Blüm →

- **City partnership between Tübingen and Moshi (Tanzania)**
- Head of the department of arts, culture and international relations;
- Partnership started in 2014;
- Main focus → climate change mitigation;
- One of the 1st cities to join the climate network, a climate partnership network funded by the German service agency for municipalities, SKEW;
- Project → implemented a compost plan in Moshi together with the partners → mainly founded by GIZ. The compost plan uses organic waste from the markets in Moshi;
- Now developing follow up projects using solar power together with further developing waste systems in Moshi.

Emmanuel Frimpong (Ghana) → efrimpong1@gmail.com

- Not from a city partnership yet → Princesstown;
- Founder of the Africa Tourism Research Network (ATRN);
- Also the director of a community development NGO in Ghana which focuses on women and youth.

Christiana Biesinger → cbiesinger@gersthofen.de

- **City partnership Gersthofen (Bavaria) - Baringo County (Kenya)**
- Association called Initiative Prokapsogo e.V.;
- Focus → project about drinking water for schools → Sponsored by the SKEW;
- Exists for about 10 years.

Louis Zulu (Malawi) → macleelouis@yahoo.com

- **City partnership between Blantyre & Hannover**
- Teacher of a secondary school in Blantyre;
- Long experience in working with partnerships between Germany, Uganda, Tunisia, and Israel;
- Working with young people and inspired by the SDG;
- Main focus → climate change, gender equality, how to eliminate poverty among young people, and the rest of the SDGs.

Anthony Thompson → athompson647@gmail.com

- **City partnership between Bonn and Cape Coast (Ghana)**
- Association was founded in 2008;
- Main focus → support what is being done between the city of Bonn and Cape Coast.

-- end of presentation round --

Discussion

1. Do you have, in your partnerships, projects that deal already with climate change?

Vaterstetten & Alem Katema, Ethiopia

- City partnership is more focused on education but there is work being done by other associations
- **Ofenmacher.org** → started to built smokeless ovens in Nepal and now in Ethiopia → already built around 8000 ovens → CO2 emissions and wood / charcoal consumption reduced up to 50%

City partnership Ladenburh - Garango (Burkina Faso)

- There is a small project going on → to recycle plastic bottles.
- In Garango Town they would put all the plastic waste in one place and burn everything.
- There is now a women's group who is collecting all the plastic waste → they got a place from the partnership to store it, sort it and sell it → that way the burning in the city is getting less
- Earlier in Garango there was not that much plastic. It came from the western population → before they were much more sustainable because there was not a lot of plastic being used.
- Raise awareness of the plastic waste in Garango.

Question: Do they make a bit of money by returning the bottles?

Answer: Very little, but that is how these women's group get their money so that they can survive, somehow. Collect it and sell it.

City partnership between Bonn and Cape Coast (Ghana)

- Climate change programme in 2014 with 4 schools --> awareness programme between the cities of Bonn and Cape Coast

City partnership between Vaterstetten & Alem Katema, Ethiopia

- Raise awareness for what can be done in Ethiopia, for example → like NGO Menschen für Menschen → reforestation projects → In Ethiopia it would cost only 1000€ to reforest one hectare.

City partnership between Hannover & Blantyre (Malawi)

- In Malawi they try to work in different fields → even in fair trade you can talk about climate change.
- One of the biggest challenges in Malawi is that the majority of the population comes from a very poor background → normally they depend on nature to survive → government legislation regarding environmental protection does not work because it does not offer alternatives to the people who find their resources in nature
- Involvement of young people in mitigation of climate change as a key → revival of the culture of planting trees and climate restoration
- Climate Change tour in Malawi in 2019 → bike tour during 10 days → every day a different village → raise awareness among schools of the climate change issues in that area and which solutions are possible

City partnership between Stuttgart - Menzel Bourguiba (Tunesien)

- Climate partnership → trying to reduce the dependence of Menzel Bourguiba on fossil fuels by installing the first solar energy system as well as LED-solar energy street lamps.
- Building a compost waste plant and to make people use it
- Working on a communication strategy → interesting because maybe we can find a strategy together to decrease and eventually stop the contamination of organic waste with plastic.

2. In your opinion which specific climate problem should be handled first? And could city partnerships help mitigate it?

Main issues brought up by the participants:

- **Clean water** (to drink and to wash)
- **Sustainable agriculture & environmental-friendly agricultural practices** (agricultural practices still use chemical fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, etc.) → How to use the natural resources that are already there?
- **Plastic waste management**
- **Deforestation & bushfires** (common events and practices in Africa) → which alternatives are there for the people to generate clean energy? Which alternatives are there for people to cook their food in a more sustainable way?
- **How to produce our own food?** → Hunger → Every year people starve in rural areas in Malawi
- **Lack of alternatives** → similar cases in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Burundi and Burkina Faso → A lot of people still go back to nature, where they find their income and resources to survive

→ It is important to offer an alternative to these people. → it is hard to get people to protect the environment if they do not have alternatives to make a living

- **Solar cooking** (cooking with solar energy) as a good alternative? → although good, they are expensive → Cultural aspects come into the picture, for example, in Ethiopia people usually cook in the evening → so, alternatives must fit into the culture of the country.

- **Solar cooking ovens life span** → how to maintain and recycle them → experience from Bamako: the partner's house uses solar panels on the rooftop and they trained a number of young people to maintain them.

3. Does anybody have ideas or experiences on how city partnerships can help make this change to a more sustainable economy?

- Bonn has been supporting waste management & administrative management in Cape Coast; a diversity center was built in Cape Coast where there is an exhibition going on about educating young people on diversity & effects of climate change; Cultural exchange programs. *"City partnerships could help a lot in communal development"*

- Promotion of traditional cooking in clay ovens in Malawi → even though they still use charcoal, they use much less → the goal is that people use electricity but this could be promoted as a way of transition of people using charcoal and firewood to use electricity. Modern clay ovens don't produce smoke which is harmful to health.

- Cultural aspects are still important → instead of expecting people to completely change their means of cooking, try to make the use of wood more environmentally friendly, for example, which trees should be cutted off to make firewood? (trees which grow faster)

4. Which topics should we prioritize for the next meetings?

- Invite other actors which are not from city partnerships but are working in the climate change area

- Who actually is the city partnership? Is it the two city administrations? Or is it necessary to include NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, etc. Who puts it into practice? How to do this in a more sustainable way?

- Which people are needed to make a partnership live? → How to transfer that partnership to the next generation? → discuss how to make young people interested in carrying on the work of city partnerships.

- To fight climate change effectively → fight its causes in the Global North because it is there that most of the emissions are generated.

- Help fighting the effects of climate change in Africa (which contributed much less to it but suffers most from climate change)

- Emphasizing the point that city partnerships need to include people from the civil society, those who really can make a change.

Conclusions: We want to work on concrete suggestions for policy makers, on the municipal, regional, national and international level. We hand over these recommendations to policy makers at the KeNako Festival in July 2024.

Next Meeting: January 31st 2024