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**Change of perspective in agriculture - EDP in Uganda**

A „change of perspective in agriculture: Potentials of entrepreneurial activities in rural zones“. This was the subject matter of the exposure and dialogue programme (EDP) carried out in Uganda from 16 to 24 July 2011 by which JP continued its dialogue with agriculture. As during the agrarian EDP held in 2009, Caritas Kasanaensis of the diocese of Kasana Luweero was a partner organization, and the Ugandan Coffee Farmers' Association with the main office being in Mityana and which is supported by the Hanns Neumann Foundation took part for the first time. A warm and cordial welcome was given by the bishop of Kasana-Luweero, bishop Paul Ssemogerere, and the partner organizations were highly motivated and professional.

The value chain development in agriculture was examined and the dialogue with the farmers' association, KLB and KLJB (Catholic Rural Youth Movement) was continued. During their stay in eight host families the 16 participants gained impressive experiences on a personal and technical level. In all families it was possible to experience the entrepreneurial potentials of rural zones and of agriculture. In the dialogue workshop the roles of government, the private sector, the churches and other partners of development cooperation were thoroughly discussed with representatives of the Ugandan Farmers' Association, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Hanns Neumann Foundation, Kolping Uganda and Justice and Peace Uganda. The dialogue workshop also extended the discussion to current challenges as the climate change and the maintenance of food sovereignty.

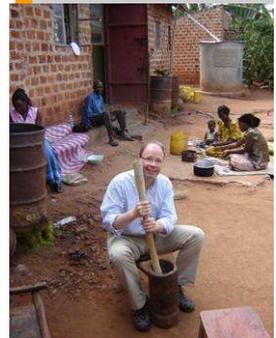
After the EDP, the representative of the German Farmers' Association Willi Kampmann, invited the member of Caritas Kasanaensis and Facilitator Denis Kabiito to take part in an „Agriculture Exchange Programme“ which will take place from 19 to 27 August 2011 in Germany and Brussels (Belgium).

**Decent work – Country strategy in Uganda**

The ILO wants to support the implementation of central policy concepts in its member states with country strategies on decent work. The implementation of decent work does not only require the commitment of the social partners, the governments, trade unions and the private sector but also the involvement of civil society forces. From 14 to 16 July 2011, as the EDP was approaching, Mrs Hagemann talked about the social dialogue on decent work and the decent work country strategy Uganda with partners in Kampala. The coordinator of the national Justice and Peace work, Dr Emmanuel Aliba Kiiza, the representatives of the Kolping Society Uganda, Noeline Kisembo and Boniface Tikwasibwe as well as the Secretary General of the Uganda Mines, Metal, Oil, Gas & Allied Workers' Union (UMMOGAWU), Vincent Ojiambo, other representatives of UMMOGAWU and of the National Organisation of Trade Unions Uganda (NOTU) took part in the discussions. In addition, Dr Emmanuel and Mrs Hagemann met a representative of ILO and of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES). Everybody was interested in a dialogue conference which is planned for July 2012 and where members of parliament, governments, social partners, churches and informal economy organizations will talk about the new decent work country programme for decent work in Uganda.



Bishop Paul Ssemogerere, his Caritas Team, members of the Uganda Coffee Farmers Alliance from Mityana and the EDP guests from Germany (source: Jörg Hilgers)



Bishop Dr. Stephan Ackermann grinding peanuts (source: Maren Kneller)



Dr. Emmanuel Aliba Kiiza with his wife Maria, JP Uganda, Noeline Kisembo, Boniface Tikwasibwe, Uganda Kolping

### **Decent work for domestic workers, ILO convention was passed**

On 16 June 2011 the International Labour Conference (ILC) adopted the Convention 189 on Domestic Workers after two years of negotiations. Justice and Peace had accompanied the negotiations on UN level in cooperation with trade unions and the International Domestic Workers' Network as well as with the catholic-inspired organizations. During this year's ILC, Kolping held a two-day workshop on the development of strategies for the ratification processes together with the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (CCIG), Caritas Internationalis, the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) and others. A documentation will be published in the near future. Also this year the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva, Archbishop Tomasi, supported this initiative and he explicitly praised Kolping International's commitment in his press release. Kolping International possesses a consultative status with the UN and has been represented at the ILC by Justice and Peace since 2008.



*Domestic workers celebrate the convention*



*Strategy workshop of the catholic-inspired organizations on 3/4 June 2011*

### **DGB and JP invited by Member of the Bundestag Schiewerling: Commitment for ratification**

As an answer to the joint declaration of the DGB and Justice and Peace on the termination of the European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion 2010, the JP discussion group trade unions received an invitation to exchange information with MdB Karl Schiewerling, Labour Market Policy Spokesman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Faction. As regards the issue of domestic workers Mr Schiewerling promised to support the ratification of the new ILO convention in his talks with Federal Minister von der Leyen. In addition, it was agreed for the discussion group to document further cases of unfair competition to the detriment of workers and to inform Mr Schiewerling about these cases.

### **ILO: Interreligious dialogue on decent work/Digital network „globethics“**

Invited by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Ecumenical Council of the Churches (ÖRK) and the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), and as a representative of the Catholic Church, Dr Hildegard Hagemann took part in an interreligious dialogue on the significance of social justice and decent work in the various religions. This dialogue took place in Geneva from 26 to 29 April 2011 and 20 representatives of Buddhism, Judaism, Islam and the Christian Churches met there.

In cooperation with the ILO the ÖRK operates a digital network and a global digital ethics library [www.globethics.net](http://www.globethics.net). The digital library is still being worked on and will contain many documents on ethical issues in many different languages.

### **International Ecumenical Peace Convocation, Observed by JP**

From 18 to 24 May 2011 the ÖRK held a peace convocation „Glory to God and Peace on Earth“ in Kingston (Jamaica) to terminate the Decade to Overcome Violence which began in 2001. About 1000 representatives of the member churches and representatives of church groups working for peace from more than 100 countries came together on this occasion. The German Commission for Justice and Peace was represented by Christine Hoffmann (pax christi) and Dr Daniel Legutke, Justice and Peace office who observed the convocation. The representatives of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) noticed and appreciated the presence of the catholic delegation.

The Vatican was represented by a five-member delegation.

The days of the convocation, when the four main topics were discussed, were framed by spiritual offers: Bible studies in the morning and a church service in the evening. On the last day, a final message was discussed and passed.



*Peace activist Dr. Paul Oestreicher, Coventry, presented one of the introductory statements.*

The introductory statements of the convention were presented by Prof. Margot Käßmann, Dr. Paul Oestreicher, Canon Emeritus, Coventry Cathedral, GB, and Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations. In the final statement of the convention a fundamental agreement on the basic orientation towards a just peace was noted and a further necessity to talk among the Ecumenical Council of the Churches.

[www.gewaltueberwinden.org](http://www.gewaltueberwinden.org)



*Studies of the Bible took place every day in international small groups. This group is headed by Margret Mwaura from Kenya (seated, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right).*

### **Maximilian Kolbe Foundation-Workshop in Auschwitz/Oswiecim**

From 9 to 14 August 2011 the foundation carried out a workshop on dealing with a past burdened by violence at the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer. 30 representatives from 10 European countries participated in the workshop. The project is a concrete contribution of the Catholic Church to a constructive dealing with history. The aim of the workshop with the motto „invitation to broadening of perspective“ was to jointly approach the events at Auschwitz and to stress the continuous significance of these events for the present time. It was considered important to make the different approaches of the participants discernible and understandable. The respective tensions could be settled in a respectful and constructive way. This year it was very valuable to learn something about experiences made in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Ukraine and Russia. On the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Father Kolbe's assassination the workshop dealt with his person and his work in detail. The project is meant to be a contribution to the qualification and consolidation of reconciliation and remembrance work of the church. In this context the establishment of a European network promoting the exchange of experiences, mutual inspiration and support gains much importance.



*An ordinary weekday in Oswiecim. Participants of the workshop at Oswiecim market*



*Dialogue requires the ability to listen. Guided tour through the head camp Auschwitz I*

### **„Leopard“ battle tanks to Saudi Arabia**

When it was announced on 4 July 2011 that the German Security Council had agreed on the export of 200 „leopard“ battle tanks to Saudi Arabia many public discussions were held on the radio, on TV in the print media and by politicians in the Bundestag and the parliamentary parties. The lack of transparency and co-determination and the non-compliance with political guidelines were realized and criticized by the public to an extent that had not been known before and the issue became the number one topic on the news. Shortly before this the Bundestag had rejected motions on more parliamentary co-determination presented by the opposition by a majority of votes by the government parties. On behalf of the Church comments were presented by both GKKE presidents, by Bishop Dr Ackermann, Archbishop Dr Schick and by the President of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) Dr Schneider and others. For more than two weeks interviews and background material were in great demand, especially as the Chancellor's „communication offensive“ to supply Angola with patrol boats sparked off public debate again. In the GKKE report on arms exports of 2007 the case of Angola was discussed in more detail. The reports and database [www.ruestungsexport.info](http://www.ruestungsexport.info) jointly developed by BICC and GKKE offered ideal background information for many journalists.

In future the EU directive which has already been adopted by national law will limit the possibilities of states to control intra-EU transfers of defence articles, unnoticed by the public and by politics.

### **First annual report on International Church Affairs has been published**

The variety of the commitment to International Church Affairs in Germany is shown in the „Annual Report on International Church Affairs 2010“, which was presented for the first time on 1 August 2011: 133 missionary orders, 27 dioceses, the six large international relief organizations and other institutions as the new Institute for the Universal Church and Mission present an overall view of their work in their joint annual report. The German Commis-

sion for Justice and Peace describes its longstanding activities on putting the bishops' word of a „Just Peace“ into practice. Data can be accessed through [www.dbk.de/presse](http://www.dbk.de/presse) and [www.justitia-et-pax.de/aktuell](http://www.justitia-et-pax.de/aktuell).

During the first session of the Conference on International Church Affairs, held on 14 April 2011 and chaired by the President of the Commission for International Church Affairs, Archbishop Dr Ludwig Schick, the first joint projects as an internet platform, annual report and annual meeting were agreed upon.

### **EDP in den banlieues of Paris**

„Intercultural and interreligious diversity – a chance and challenge of social cohesion“. Experiences to this EDP which was carried out by the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions from 1 to 10 May 2011 in the banlieues of Paris, were contributed by the participants of Albania, Lithuania, Ukraine, Italy and Germany.

High youth unemployment, failure at school and violence are problems in the Cités, which are aggravated by social stigmatization, the so-called „labelling“: if young people are looking for a job their prospects to find one are reduced drastically, if they reside at Quartier 91 or 93. The residents mostly come from Africa or Asia. How will they, who are mostly regarded as objects of social politics (système de zonage), become responsible actors willing to shape their Quartier/district and their community?

The diocese of Evry responded with a participatory approach and changed the „Pastoral des Migrants“ to a „Pastoral de la Cité“: the first and second generation migrants play an active and responsible role in divine services, Bible sharing, children's play groups or open local meetings. A profound experience of the universal church on the spot. In the dialogue phase, bishops and politicians expressed harsh (self)-criticism of the open or latent racism and nationalism, as well as the stigmatization of Islam. They underlined the need for courageous politicians who do not rely on the stupidity but rather on the intelligence of people: „We all need migrants“. The participants from Eastern and Western Europe, from Italy and France, all agreed that migration and migrants as well as intercultural, interdenominational and interreligious diversity belong to the European identity.

### **Solidarity and human rights policy, concerted action and short films**

With the declaration „Human dignity and human rights. A culture of solidarity to strengthen human rights“ the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions has pointed out the potential dangers and consequences of getting used to or even accepting discrimination and inequality in the field of human rights. Therefore they demand with the help of concrete examples to apply the legal guarantees for a life worthy of a human being to all people within a state in the same way. To this purpose a stronger solidarity with those who are above-average at risk of being restricted in the exercise of their rights because of their ethnic, religious, political, or other minority status, is needed.

In the context of the Concerted Action 2011 by JP Europe the declaration was published on 15 April 2011 with a press release. Together with a letter it was sent in advance to the Chancellor, the respective Federal Minister, the chairmen of the parliamentary factions and to the chairmen of the Bundestag Committees.

Based on the text of the declaration, four short films were produced at a Cologne media university on behalf of the European Conference of Justice and Peace Commissions. As of September 2011, these films will be at the disposal of the European Conference. In Germany the official presentation will take place in Cologne on 11 October 2011 on the occasion of the One World Film Award North Rhine-Westphalia.



*EDP participants of JP Europe visiting Bishop Dubost, Bishop of Evry and President of JP France (to the right in the back row), next to him Archbishop Defois, President of JP Europe*



*At a Roma Camp on the outskirts of Department 92*



*Concert of African church choirs in Juvisy in the South of Paris*

### **The churches as Change Agents in the Near and Middle East?**



Walid Abd El Gawad,  
Ibtihal Abdel Kawi Shedid,  
Bishop Anbar Damian,  
Dr Christina Pfestroff, Prof.  
Udo Steinbach, Henriette  
Sachse at the panel discussion  
(from left to right)

A living civil society and education for Muslim and Christian citizens will strengthen democratic movements and transformation in the Near and Middle East. This was the essential point of a panel discussion which took place as part of a series of events „Bonner Forum Kirche und Entwicklung“ (Bonn forum church and development) on 26 May 2011, titled “Change Agents for the Near and Middle East – The role of the churches in the current transformation processes”. During the panel discussion, which was assisted by Bishop Anbar Damian of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Germany, Prof. Udo Steinbach as well as Ms Sachse from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and which was chaired by Dr Christina Pfestroff, KAAD (Catholic Academic Service for Foreign Students), the importance of the development of the rule of law, of participation in social decisions and of the cooperation of all citizens was stressed. Education, further training and qualifications were considered the key to the promotion of development. The KAAD was in charge of the preparations. The KAAD scholars from Egypt gave a graphic description of the democracy movement on Tahrir Square and of the current situation after decades of oppression and discrimination.

### **Kairos document – Conference at Bad Boll**

During a conference on the Kairos Palestine document held at Bad Boll from 22 to 22 May 2011, theologians, experts on the Middle East and representatives of church and civil society organizations talked about the Kairos Palestine document and the situation in the Middle East. “The Kairos Palestine document – A challenge for the churches in Germany” was the title of Mrs Casel’s comment from the Catholic point of view. She acknowledged the document as the ecumenical voice of Christian Palestinians in favour of a just peace which encourages a non-violent commitment. In addition, she mentioned examples of solidarity with the Christians in the Holy Land on the part of the Catholic Church as the international Episcopal meetings and the Middle East Synod, and she criticized a general boycott of Israel - in contrast to a boycott of products from the settlements in the illegally occupied areas. Bishop Eberhard Renz retd., spoke on behalf of the Evangelical Church. Father Dr Naim Ateek and Father Dr Jamal Kahder, Dean at the University of Bethlehem, presented the document.

The conference was organized by the Evangelical Academy Bad Boll together with the German division of Pax Christi, the ACK Baden-Wuerttemberg (Working Group of Christian Churches) and the Protestant Mission Work in South-West Germany.

### **Ms Schumacher will change jobs**

Ms Schumacher, staff member of the Justice and Peace Office since 2002, will change jobs on 30 September 2011. She will work at the Allgemeine gemeinnützige Programm-Gesellschaft (APG), which, among other things, develops and operates the official web portal of the Catholic Church in Germany „katholisch.de“.

Together with Ms Bellinghausen, Ms Schumacher has developed the layout of this newsletter which has been published in 18 issues so far. We would like to thank her very much and we wish her all the best for her new job!

### **Obituary on Prelate Dr Ernst Niermann**

Dr Ernst Niermann, who was Vicar General for the armed forces for many years, died on 1 August 2011. Also as a member of the German Commission for Justice and Peace from 1984 to 1995, Prelate Niermann has marked the peace work of the Catholic Church, especially the services for peace. As chairman of the permanent working group “Services for Peace” he has – even after 1995 – further developed the church understanding of a service for peace. In cooperation with the dioceses, youth associations, the Kolping society, AGEH and others and as the chairman of the project group “social services for peace and reconciliation” he promoted the establishment of a voluntary service for peace and reconciliation, a forerunner of today’s community service in lieu of military service. In the 1990ies he participated in



GKKE president (cath.)  
Prelate Dr. Karl Jüsten  
welcoming the panellists

the first talks with various authorities on the development of the Federal Association of International Voluntary Services. Decisions of conscience and moral decisions as regards military service and conscientious objection were matters of great concern to him.

With expert knowledge, great commitment and powers of persuasion he promoted – even in times of the heated debates on rearmament in the 1980ies – an open and fair dispute and the dialogue, so that the various services for peace and the different ways of church peace support could work together in a productive way. Being at the interface of the state and the church, of the military and members of the peace movement Dr Niermann by his respectful, human and friendly personality, was able to win many people – not only decision makers - for the church point of view that peace is possible and that we are called to fight for it.

The German Commission for Justice and Peace owes a lot to Ernst Niermann and will always honour his memory.

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development, human rights  
and peace.*

