

Registration

International Symposium

Prospects for Africa –
Europe's Policies

Deadline: 20.08.09

Online: www.afrikas-perspektive.de/veranstaltungen.html

Per E-Mail: afrikas.perspektive@venro.org

Name

Organisation

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An
VENRO
Dr. Werner-Schuster-Haus
Kaiserstraße 201
D-53113 Bonn

Date and venue

Tuesday, **25th August 2009**,
Haus der Evangelischen Kirche,
Adenauerallee 37, 53113 Bonn

How to get to the venue:

Directions:

Airport Köln/Bonn

- Take bus SB 60 direction Bonn
- Step off at "Hauptbahnhof"

Train (Bonn Hauptbahnhof)

- Walk to the basement
- Take subway 66 direction "Bad Honnef"
- Step off at "Juridicum"



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

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PROSPECTS FOR AFRICA –
EUROPE'S POLICIES
The VENRO-Project on the
Africa-EU-Partnership

International Symposium: Rethinking Biomass Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa

Tuesday, 25th August 2009,
Haus der Evangelischen Kirche,
Adenauerallee 37, 53113 Bonn

VENRO
ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN
DEVELOPMENT NGOS

German NGO Forum on
Environment and Development

Background

International Symposium: Rethinking Biomass Energy in Sub-Sahara Africa

The debate over bioenergy is often narrowed down to biofuels. However, biofuels represent just one possible use of biomass for energy purposes. Ten percent of global energy consumption is covered by traditional, non commercially-used biomass – first and foremost firewood and dung from livestock. In Sub-Sahara Africa, this share even amounts to up to 90 percent in some countries. Usually, this is not sustainable: More wood is taken than can re-grow. And burning up dung means losing important nutrients. The consequences are soil degradation and desertification.

The Symposium focuses on modern, renewable energy options for Sub-Sahara Africa. How can – chiefly rural – regions in Africa gain access to modern energy services? What is the energy demand like? What role does bioenergy play in this context, and what is the role of replacing imported crude oil with biofuels? How should export-oriented biofuel programmes run by a number of African governments be assessed?

Subsequently, consequences are to be drawn for project activities at local level. What role should bioenergy play?

With the project “Prospects for Africa – Europe’s Policies” VENRO seeks an active civil society contribution to the implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. The project builds on cooperation with African partners that began during VENRO’s successful EU Presidency Project in 2007. VENRO member organisations then worked together with their African partners to develop statements for policy makers, the media and interested public on the main topics of the project: Energy and climate change; regional integration and trade; and gender.

Further information: www.prospects-for-africa.de

Programme

9:00 a.m.

Arrival and Registration of the Participants

9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Prof. Dr. h. c. Christa Randzio-Plath, VENRO
Jürgen Maier, German NGO Forum on Environment and Development

9:30 a.m.

Africa’s Energy Needs: the Status Quo

Amanda Luxande, Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), Republic of South Africa

10:30 a.m.

“Rethinking Biomass Energy in Sub-Sahara Africa” Presentation and Discussion of the Paper

Ewah Eleri, International Centre for Energy, Environment & Development (ICEED), Nigeria

Biomass is still the key source of energy in most African countries, sometimes accounting for up to 90 percent. While firewood has often been associated with deforestation and desertification, it is also clear that the more efficient use of traditional biomass, particularly firewood, is a key component in any policy to increase access to energy in Africa and to make energy use in Africa more sustainable. At the same time, modern biomass such as plant oils is essential to make Africa’s net oil importing countries more independent of petroleum imports. What needs to be done to improve traditional biomass use and to introduce sustainable modern bioenergy into Africa’s energy mix?

12:30 a.m.

Lunch

13:30 p.m.

Large-scale Biofuels Programmes in Africa – Who Benefits?

Andrew Scott, Practical Action, United Kingdom

Some African governments are planning or considering to produce biofuels for export to the world market. A new cash crop for export has been associated with biofuels, although many negative consequences have been warned of, too: large-

scale “land grabbing”, monocultures, and rising food prices. What is the reality behind such projects, what are the myths, and who benefits?

15:30 p.m.

Coffee Break

16:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion: Bioenergy in development cooperation – Criteria for Successful Project Screening

Renewable energies are playing an increasingly important role in development cooperation, particularly in Germany and the EU. While biofuels have come under increasing criticism, donors have become reluctant to engage in this field. However, as long as local bioenergy projects can help to alleviate poverty and rural development, we need to distinguish between such projects and those that primarily serve the interests of foreign investors and markets. What are the criteria for bioenergy projects in development cooperation?

Panelists:

Harry Hoffmann, Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung (ZALF) e.V., Germany
Jürgen Maier, German NGO Forum Environment and Development
Ousmane Ouattara, Mali Folkecenter
Barbara Richard, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany (tbc)

18:00 p.m.

Conclusions

Richard Brand, Church Development Service (eed), Germany

18:15 p.m.

Come together

Facilitator:

Monika Hoegen, Freelance Journalist

The conference will be held in English.