

PRESS RELEASE

Water Distribution in Africa

Berlin, 6th February, 2012 – Yesterday, the Roundtable “Water Distribution in Africa - Challenges, Experiences, Solutions” was organised in Berlin/Germany. 22 ambassadors of African nations and representatives of non-governmental organisations, such as the German Foundation for World Population (DSW) and Institute Water for Africa, followed the event invitation sent out by Frank Heinrich, member of the German Parliament, and the Embassy of Zambia.

According to UNICEF and WHO, 51% of the population in rural areas use water derived from rivers and lakes behind dams. Women carry the highest workload when fetching water. They often need to walk many miles until they reach the closest public water point.

Mr. Lubasi Mungandi, First Secretary for Economic Affairs of the Embassy of Zambia, and Mr. Andreas Holtkotte, Head of Division „Water and Sanitation Division in Sub-Saharan Africa“ of KfW Development Bank, opened the discussion with expert presentations.

The concept of a “water kiosk” as an example for successful water supply was presented. Mr. Holtkotte underlined the importance that the consumers need to know that they will receive the water for free, but that they will need to pay for the maintenance of the facilities. He gave examples of relatively high water losses of more than 50%. Currently, consumers only pay for 30% of the costs for water supply. In comparison, consumers pay for 60% of electricity costs and about 160% of telecommunications costs. KfW Development Bank focuses on large cities because they state that most people live

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there.

Institute Water for Africa believes that rural areas should not be neglected. Otherwise, migration to the cities will increasingly occur, which will lead to increased growth of slums. An efficient water supply and wastewater management in rural areas will contribute to a functioning agriculture that can meet the growing demand for food.