

**Welcoming remarks by the Chargé d'Affaires a. i. of the
German Embassy Windhoek, Mr Matthias Hansen, on the
occasion of the opening of the 2nd APEDIA Conference on
sustainable Land Use in Africa „Land Use and Climate
Change“**

Windhoek, 2010-08-30

Honourable Minister,

Mr Tjama Tjivikua, Rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia,

Members of the Media,

Representatives of the APEDIA Network,

Dr Jörg Klinner, DAAD

Participants in the Conference,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

all protocol observed,

**it is a pleasure and an honour for me to join you on this
commendable occasion. May I therefore start with a very
warm thank you both to you, Tjama Tjivikua, Rector of the
Polytechnic of Namibia and hence host to the conference, and
to you, Prof. Thilo Marauhn, on behalf of the participating
universities within the APEDIA network (= Academic
Partnership for Environment and Development Innovations
in Africa), supported by the German Academic Exchange**

Service (DAAD), for inviting me. I would also like to convey to all of you the best wishes and greetings of my ambassador who is currently out of the country and therefore has asked me to attend on his behalf.

We are very happy to see this conference taking place here in Namibia, not only because it is another milestone within the existing close co-operation between our countries, and because it is at the same time the result of a truly regional approach, all the more adequate with regard to the subject.

The initiative is furthermore in line with several goals and guidelines of German Foreign Policy, both in general and specifically within the region, which I would briefly like to outline here.

- **Ever since our G8 Presidency four years ago, Germany has made co-operation on environmental issues, and specifically in the field of climate change, one of her top priorities on international political level.**
- **The same applies to co-operation with Africa as such, which, in our view, is a continent full of perspectives and with which we aim to have a trustful and sustainable partnership on level playing field.**

- **Cultural, Academic, and Scientific co-operation in itself is an essential part of this partnership. Here at the Polytech alone, not only a number of academic twinning programmes, but also a commonly established Logistics Centre of Excellence within the framework of our so-called „Aktion Afrika“-programme, and the secondment of academic personnel do bear witness to this co-operation. Another future milestone may be the common establishment of a Regional Science Service Centre on Climate Change co-sponsored by the Federal German Government.**
- **Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in all of its forms - land issues, registration, communal farming, national parks etc - is by right one of the major areas within the framework of our very intense Development Co-operation with Namibia. I take pride in stating that we are looking back on a very long, successful and mutually trustful co-operation with the esteemed Namibian Government.**
- **Germany is aware that there is a clear link between Development and Climate Protection (and, if you will, Climate Change Management) Policy which must be**

taken into account exactly in the way you are intent on: In an environment characterized by both widespread poverty, by a crucial role of the agricultural sector within the national economy, and possibly - like in the case of Namibia - a natural scarcity of water, potential negative effects of Climate Change might be felt much harder than in other parts of the world, and have more severe effects on society.

To sum it up, in our view, there is a lot of good reasons for this conference, and hopefully a lot to gain from it in terms of exchange of ideas, opinions, and human capital. Let me therefore conclude by wishing you fruitful deliberations and every success for the upcoming days.

Thank you very much.