

**Statement by H.E. Egon Kochanke,  
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany  
at the  
Handover of Lab Equipment for the Transport Sector at  
Polytechnic of Namibia June 28, 2010, 11:00, F30 Engineering Building  
Polytech Campus**

Director of Ceremonies, (Dr. Zaccheus Oyedokun, the Dean of Engineering)

Honourable Erkki Ngthmtima, Minister of Works and Transport

Rector of Polytechnic, Dr. Tjama Tjivikua

Dean, professors, students and staff of the Polytechnic

Prof. Semar, Project Coordinator of GTZ

Representatives of German Cooperation Organizations

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for inviting me to this handing over ceremony . It is good to be back here at Polytech, an institution that is central to the academic exchange but also to the cooperation program between Namibia and Germany. The Polytechnic of Namibia enjoys an outstanding reputation for innovation and emphasis on practical experience. The facilities and quality of teaching meet European standards. The Namibian-German Centre for Logistics in one of five Centres of Excellence for promoting future leaders in Africa. And the Rector of Polytechnic, Dr. Tjama Tjivikua was recently elected President of the African Division of the International Association of Science Parks – Congratulations !

Namibian-German cooperation has been successful since independence twenty years ago. All our efforts target the aim of the Namibian Government to reduce poverty and enable the people of Namibia to create sustainable livelihoods. Consequently, both governments agreed to cooperate on three focal areas, i.e.

1. the Management of Natural Resources
2. Sustainable Economic Development
3. and Transport, road transport in particular.

Efficient transportation is of great importance for the economic and social development of your beautiful, but sparsely populated country.

The German Development Co-operation is, within its bilateral program, supporting the Ministry of Works and Transport and other stakeholders to improve the efficiency of the road transport sector in Namibia.

This has quite a history as Namibian transport infrastructure has already received substantial German assistance in the past. And this resulted in important achievements as we have just witnessed only five weeks ago when Performance Agreements of the State-owned Enterprises Affiliated to the MWT were signed.

Some say that German development cooperation is complicated to deal with. In Namibia here and especially in the transport sector you can see how we work on the macro, the meso and the project level:

- Measures and activities under financial and technical co-operation are undertaken,
- Integrated experts are deployed and training programmes are offered.

The Namibian Government introduced a Transport Sector Reform towards the end of the 90s.

It established the required legislative framework and created State owned Enterprises. The Technical Assistance Program “Strengthening of Institutional Development in the Road Sector”, assists the Namibian Ministry of Works and Transport in its reform. This includes services to improve administrative procedures within road sector authorities and agencies.

Remaining challenges are to guarantee that all involved organizations, develop processes and skills in order to fulfill their new roles and responsibilities.

German support therefore likes to strengthen the MWT and other stakeholders in the evolution determined by this reform.

This particularly consists of two elements, namely:

- Enhance the institutional capacity of the road sector
- Enhance the human resources capacity of public and private institutions.

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, both components are carried out by German Technical Cooperation jointly with the Polytechnic of Namibia.

Core of the program is an exchange of lecturers and students between the Polytechnic and the University of Applied Science in Aachen, Germany.

This exchange proved to be highly successful in supporting the civil engineering faculty at Polytech. By handing over testing and laboratory equipment for the Materials Testing Institute, the Polytech will have a modern laboratory enabling it to conduct tests and enable students of the civil engineering faculty to have access to an up to date practical experience.

With this laboratory the Roads Authority and the National Standard Institute can develop into the first fully fledged material testing institution of Namibia and will be able to carry out calibrations of equipment and to approve other laboratories.

German engineers are working within the Polytechnic to insure a capacity development and know-how transfer.

The new laboratory supports those in charge of Namibia's already established road network to maintain the existing infrastructure and develop new roads of a high quality more efficiently.

Having said this, it is now my pleasure to officially hand over the new equipment for the laboratory to the Polytechnic of Namibia.

I am confident that the installation of this laboratory will play a vital role in improving the road network in Namibia.

I thank you!