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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute

Africa Toward 2030: Exploring the Future

*German Development Institute/
Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)*

*Hosted by the South African Institute of International Affairs
Jan Smuts House, East Campus, University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg*

4 December 2009

How could Africa change in the next twenty years? What are the most important forces that underlie possible changes in one direction or another? What seems certain and what seems uncertain about the future of the African continent? These broad questions guide a research project coordinated by the German Development Institute that seeks to explore how the development landscape could change toward 2030 and aims to contribute to debates on how development policy can be adapted to confront changing global circumstances. The purpose of this workshop is to obtain critical feedback and creative input for a book project focusing on possible futures for African development. This book project includes analyses of individual drivers of change (demography, climate change, technological change, new actors in international development, internal political transformation, and global governance processes) and their potential impact on African development in the long-term as well as scenarios for the future that build on these studies.

The focus of the workshop will be on improving the scenarios for the future of Africa, which will be presented as sketches. After a brief elaboration of the main components of three distinct scenarios for the future, participants will be asked to discuss how plausible the clusters of developments described are, whether there are already important signals that indicate the prospects of these scenarios materializing, and how elements of the overall storylines can be refined to better take into account the interrelationships between central driving forces as well as emerging developments across the African continent. Throughout the sessions, participants will be asked to identify potential discontinuities that could disrupt the general scenario storylines and to probe the validity of the assumptions underlying the scenarios.

Programme

9:00 – 9:30	Participant Arrival
9:30 – 10:40	Overview of the Research Project and Introduction of Participants
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	Scenario 1 Input followed by group discussion
12:30 – 13.30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Scenario 2 Input followed by group discussion
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee / Tea Break
15:20 – 16:50	Scenario 3 Input followed by group discussion
16:50 – 17.30	Concluding Discussion Round

The German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) is one of the leading Think Tanks for development policy world-wide. DIE builds bridges between theory and practice and works within international research networks. The key to DIE's success is its institutional independence, which is guaranteed by the Institute's founding statute.

Since its founding in 1964, DIE has based its work on the interplay between Research, Consulting and Training. These three areas complement each other and are the factors responsible for the Institute's distinctive profile. DIE draws together the knowledge of development research available worldwide, dedicating its work to key issues facing the future of development policy. DIE's research is theory-based, empirically backed, and application-oriented. It serves as the basis for the Institute's consulting activities, which in turn provide the initiative for further research programmes. DIE's Training Programme is an integral component of the Research and Consulting process. The policy advice and consulting services DIE provides is bearing on the framework conditions of development policy, including issues concerned with world economic policy, foreign policy, and security policy.

The Institute's Postgraduate Training Programme is concentrated on courses dedicated to development-related themes and issues bound up with shaping the process of globalisation as well as with improving trainee communicative and social skills. The cornerstone of the Training Programme – field research carried out by small interdisciplinary groups in a developing country – serves to provide trainees with an opportunity to gain practical experience with what they have learned by participating in concrete consulting-oriented research projects. Once they have completed the Training Programme, the graduates find career opportunities with development organisations at home and abroad.

In addition to the Postgraduate Training Programme, DIE offers Young Professionals from selected partner countries of Germany's international cooperation the participation in the 'Global Governance School'. The highly qualified participants work in governments, Ministries, Universities, policy-orientated Think Tanks or research institutions. The Training and Dialogue Programme of the Global Governance School is the practice- and research-oriented component of the 'Managing Global Governance' Programme, implemented jointly by the German Development Institute and InWEnt. This unique exchange and learning opportunity supports the creation of a sustainable, equitable and effective global governance architecture.

The German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) is headed by Prof. Dr. Dirk Messner (Director). At present, the Institute has a staff of about 100, two-thirds of whom are researchers.