

Rotary's Point of Gravity

The Rotary Foundation recently defined six fields of gravity, offering Clubs and Districts a choice to plan and develop projects along their lines with a view to be subsidized. The intent behind it is to sharpen the profile of the organization and to help interested parties to find international partners:
Peace and Prevention of Conflicts



Rotarians from Coburg meet with local people on the building site

The Federal Government as a Partner

During the last few years the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) became a remarkable sponsor of Rotarian Projects in line with the definitions mentioned. For the current year 2016 as many as 22 projects are planned to be started, six of them with a high priority. One half thereof are new projects, the other half have their basis in successful initiatives completed earlier, with the intention to scale them up. Most prominent examples are earlier measures to safeguard the health of mothers in Nigeria (Past Governor Robert Zinser/RFPD). Also, Frank Müller-Römer (RC Munich-Land, Drinking Water and Sewage Projects in Central Egypt) and Hans-Peter Weber (RC Otterndorf-Land Hadeln, enlargement of an orphanage school in Ghana) have a good chance to receive funds from the ministry for an upscaling. The three new projects ranking in Top Category A are: a concept for a water upgrading system in Namibia (Dieter Höreth, RC Ludwigsburg), a sewage project for Lake Dal in India (Frauke Betz, RC Celle-Schloss) and a project to enlarge a hospital in Techiman/Ghana, provide it with hospital equipment and train doctors and staff (Past Governor Ulrich Sprandel, RC Kaufbeuren-Ostallgäu).

For these six projects alone (which will require a number of years to be completed), the BMZ will agree to contribute 944.000 Euro in 2016, to be paid out as soon as the ministry approved the plans. These contributions will cover up to 75 per cent of the project costs. Winfried Flor, staff member of the ministry responsible for sponsoring German based projects, says that a total of 700 projects had been submitted to be started in 2016, with a total volume of 255 million Euro while funds provided for in the ministry's budget only amount to a mere 32 million Euro. Private project carriers enjoy a high esteem in the ministry. Flor: "Without

participation of private persons, development aid today could hardly be as successful as it factually is.” He rates RDG as one of the partners of excellence.

Over and above the budgeted funds of 32 million, an additional amount of 175.000 Euros from the ministry is available for two projects in a special program “A World without Hunger” (SEWOH). They intend to create new jobs in Malawi in the field of pollution free environment building technics (Dieter Sitzmann, RC Coburg), and agricultural training to improve the food situation in Burundi (Dieter Höreth, RC Ludwigsburg).

Education and Construction

The quality of the projects submitted shall be illustrated by the Coburg SEWOH project in Malawi. It combines two independent purposes: Educational chances for children and jobs for the local economy. Planning includes the erection of a boarding school in the north of the country, using environmentally safe methods only. Instead of producing bricks with a high amount of fire wood, a technic to produce adobe stones is being propagated. Local craftsmen will be equipped with stone compressing devices to help them to a startup. The project will be carried by 9 Rotary Clubs and is intended to run until 2018. During the first building phase, 800.000 Euro will be required, and a global grant is being applied for.

Information as to the procedure to be followed in dealings with the BMZ is available from Ms Yvonne Heimerdinger, RDG, Tel. 0211-863959-19, yvonne.heimerdinger@rdgduesseldorf.de

Box: 700 project proposals from private carriers
 were submitted for 2016 – requiring a total
 of 255 million Euro.