

Anlass

Gesprächspartner

Datum

Herr Günter Nooke

**Personal Representative of the German Chancellor for Africa
in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development**

Welcome Address

**Green Industrial Skills for Sustainable Development
Risks and Challenges for Least Developed Countries**

anlässlich der

42. WorldSkills Berufsweltmeisterschaft 2013

(2. - 7. Juli 2013)

Aktuell: ca. 5200 Zeichen

The spoken word shall prevail!
Hinweis: 13.400 Zeichen, ca. 20 min. Sprechzeit

- Thank you very much, Mr König [Moderator], for your warm welcome.

Dear Commissioner,

Dear Ministers,

distinguished guests,

dear colleagues,

- It is my honor to welcome you today on behalf of the German Federal Government to the conference on “Green Industrial Skills for Sustainable Development”

organized by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), UNIDO, WorldSkills Germany and the WorldSkills Foundation on the occasion of the WorldSkills Competition 2013. As the personal representative of the German Chancellor for Africa I want to pass on the best wishes from Angela Merkel who is the patron of this conference.

- With the WorldSkills 2013, a very special international competition is coming to Germany and I am especially pleased that we all meet here in Leipzig, the city where I studied physics and lived 30 years ago.
- Apprentices and young professionals from all over the world compete in 46 different disciplines, showcasing their capacity and competence in craftsmanship, industry

and services. High-performance, suspense and emotion and international encounters are guaranteed.

- The contestants arouse new interest by demonstrating their enthusiasm, devotion and passion for their specific occupation and sector. This is of great importance.
- In many countries, the image of technical vocational education and training (TVET) does not receive as much appreciation as academic education. It was different in

the former GDR when I myself, for example, was trained as a bricklayer and my wife worked as a sewer – but with Abitur, the higher education certificate in Germany. This was not so much based on ideology, but on the interest to assure economic independence and a certain degree of autarchy.

- Reasons for the low image of vocational education nowadays are diverse. But the point is – and I would like to emphasize this – in most cases they are not valid.
- Let me put it as simple as this: The world doesn't turn into a better place if we only have people that know how things function and no one has the ability to actually do it!
- Most countries need skilled workers, and a lot of countries have high youth unemployment rates. The

numbers are alarming. In 2013, over seventy million young people are unemployed. In North Africa, e.g., roughly every fourth young person is without job. The well-being of a whole generation is at stake, of our future generation.

- In countries and regions with high poverty levels and high shares of vulnerable employment, the youth employment

challenge is as much a problem of poor employment quality as one of unemployment.

- Luckily, I can say that the situation in Germany is different. Experts claim that the German TVET system is one of the main reasons why youth unemployment lies at merely 8 percent. The flexibility of our economy and the good quality of the local work and products also build their success upon the TVET system.

- WorldSkills 2013 at Leipzig offers Germany a unique opportunity to present to the world its “dual” vocational education system a topic that is on everyone’s mind and lips at the moment. It’s characterized by its close collaboration between the state, the German enterprises, their chambers and associations.
- Germany strongly believes in its systemic and holistic vocational training system. It is proven that the

guaranteed practice oriented and company-operated apprenticeships are the source of qualified staff and economic success in Germany.

- TVET schools and enterprises work together to prepare our youngsters for their future working lives.
- Vocational education and training offers a lot of career opportunities for the youth. In Germany, there are various possibilities from initial vocational education and training

to further education and training to boost skills needed to step up the career ladder. This is something I very strongly support.

- Because: without education there is no future!
- Due to its close link to the labour-market and broad and practically oriented training – the German TVET system is a promising way to create and open up career opportunities for young people and to sustainably ensure

the skilled manpower and basis of experts needed in the economy.

- But this means, of course, that a well working industrial basis is needed. Without companies that invest in their future employees during the education period the dual TVET system does not work. In Germany, we rely on our small and medium sized enterprises and on a long tradition in handcraft and trade guilds.

- To be honest it's difficult to achieve in short term what has been growing in Germany over centuries. But I would like to give one advice: new investors should be obliged to train young workers. I would call this a win-win-situation for all sides even if it looks more expensive at the beginning.
- A win-win-situation because sustainable development is only made possible by people. Without trained people all

investment is short sighted. And this is, ladies and gentlemen, why I am pleased to be here with you today.

- The 42nd WorldSkills competition offers all visitors exciting and fascinating insights into fields of different expertise and work. At the same time, it emphasizes the importance of TVET for the motivation and development of young people for choosing their professional career for the future.

- We are honored that Germany is hosting the WorldSkills Competition this year.
- I wish you – us – an interesting and fruitful discussion and an enjoyable conference as well as exciting and entertaining days in Leipzig during this unique event!
- Thank you.