

The Global Food Crisis and World Peace

Sievershausen, 19th July, 2008

The UPF conference in Sievershausen, near Hannover brought together over 50 guests from all over Northern Germany for some intense discussions. It was a joint conference in co-operation with IFEED (International Research Centre for Renewable Energy in Germany).

In his introductory lecture, Rainer Fuchs emphasized the importance of "living for the sake of others" in order



to overcome the barriers between cultures and religions, or even those on a personal level. Many people had questions and comments after his presentation, but I was particularly moved by the Korena Baron, (14 years BC) who commented on the possible causes of conflict in the world. She said, "In my school many of the students behave really badly and I



have come to the conclusion that you have to educate the parents on how to raise their children!"

Jürgen Mandel, executive committee member of IFEED, concentrated on the different aspects of the energy crisis. He explained that renewable energy is the only real alternative to fossil energy. He showed how Europe could be fed with clean energy of various types and how solar energy farms in Africa could supplement the needs of the industrial nations. The UNO concept of "Integrated Energy Farms" would play a central role in the developing countries in the future, he claimed, which in turn would help solve the global food problems.



Dr Al Fahad spoke about fighting poverty in the developing countries. "Over 3 500 Africans die every year in an attempt to cross the Mediterranean and flee from poverty", he said. "Yet here, so much money is invested into agriculture, and over-produced goods are simply tossed into the sea, so as to maintain stable prices. Yet every 5 seconds, somewhere in the world a child will die of hunger." "We have to work together with the local politicians and their communities in order to solve the problems of poverty," he suggested. "Through personal commitment and co-operation hunger and poverty can be eradicated and the living conditions improved."

In conclusion, Dr Rose Ngomba from Cameroon reported about a project she had started in Malawi. The initiative is an attempt to improve the medical care, combat the spread of HIV and improve the life expectancy of the people.



"I started this project as a gesture of gratitude, as I remembered all those who helped me when I came to Europe to study," she said. "My father was not able to give me much, he only earned about 20\$ a month and had 8 children. But here and there in my village, people would give me a dollar and wish me all the best for my future. Then later I decided to help others, too. It was my chance to pay back what I had been given".

With the support of some German doctors, the local midwives can now receive a 3 year training in psychology, marriage counseling and social work in St Anne's Clinic in Nkhokotakota. "It is important for the local people to learn to help themselves," she said. "The results are much better than when foreigners come and try to organize everything," she concluded.

The event was rounded off with intense discussions and appreciation for the different initiatives that had been presented. A new guest from Berlin, who is a journalist, seemed to be particularly impressed. At the end of the meeting he expressed his sincere thanks for the invitation and said.. "I want you to join our African Academy!"