

# PERSPECTIVES

NEWSLETTER OF EXPOSURE- AND DIALOGUE PROGRAMME E.V.

## Editorial

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Dear reader

We are glad to present to you the first edition of **PERSPECTIVES**, the new newsletter of Exposure- and Dialogue Programme e.V. Since May we are called according to what we do: „Exposure and Dialogue Programme e.V.“ (formerly „Association for the Promotion of North-South Dialogue“).

As you can see, we have combined our new name with a new presentation in design as well. Shape and colour of our logo are meant to put emphasis on the following elements of our self-concept:

- ◆ focus on the human being
- ◆ meeting and approaching one another
- ◆ networking through encounter

With this newsletter, we would like to inform you about EDP programmes dealing with the issues of globalisation, good governance and micro credit, which have already taken place as well as our other activities. Apart from that, through **PERSPECTIVES** we would like to create a forum for the exchange of suggestions and ideas. You are invited to inform us about follow-up steps, EDP experiences, reflections of

your own learning experience or about current issues that you are dealing with.

Would you like to contribute to our newsletter or do you have suggestions? We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Your Team of Exposure- and Dialogue Programme e.V.



Basket netting, EDP in the Dominican Republic 2003.  
© EDP e.V.

## President of German Parliament Thierse in Bolivia

In the course of an informational journey to Bolivia, which was organised by our partner organisation CEPROLAI, the president of the German Parliament Mr. Wolfgang Thierse visited the Mejia's family in La Paz on July 17th 03. Cecilia Barja, deputy mayoress of La Paz and participant of the EDP with bolivian decision-makers in 2002, acted as facilitator in the encounter with the Mejia's.

Father Don Ramos (55) has

been looking for a job for months, in vain. He is one of the leading personalities in the neighbourhood committee.

„Mister Thierse was surprised that the members of the committee decide which projects will be realised in their district“, Cecilia Barja tells us, „meaning that the decisions are not made by a department of the public administration, but by the people themselves. It was also new to him that the citizens are able to obtain the freezing of funds if

mismangement on the part of city councillors can be proven“.



President of the German Parliament Mr. Wolfgang Thierse with the Mejia's family in La Paz 2003.  
© C. Barja

## On the Horizon of Globalisation

„Can solidarity be globalised?“

This was the central question of the Exposure- and Dialogue Programme with Catholic pastoral workers at universities (KHP) taking place from February 17th to March 4th 2003 in Guatemala.

14 participants from KHP, Misereor and Justice & Peace lived with peasant host families and coffee plantation workers for four days and got to know the work of agricultural coo-

peratives. In the focus were the basic conditions for social, economic and institutional development after the genocide affecting indigenous groups during the 'time of violence' (1960-96), the still unjust distribution of land as well as the personal handling of trauma in the families.

The Maya population is trying with great efforts on their own – and supported by the Church's social pastoral departments – to work against

the ongoing cultural de-rooting and political marginalisation of their people. Besides the thematic exchange with native experts, the experiences of this exposure programme help the KHP to put emphasis on development policy aspects in their educational work with German students, e.g. during preparation and supervision of trainees aiming at internships abroad.



„Our life would have been completely different if they hadn't taken away our father.“  
© EDP e.V.

## Creating positive basic conditions

„Creating positive basic conditions for fighting poverty through self-help – ensuring participation of the poor“ was the title of the EDP (4th-14th/10/2002) in Bolivia.

Justice & Peace, Misereor and the *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)* mutually financed this EDP, in which 10 Bolivian and 5 German decision makers participated.

The EDP had been initiated by

our Bolivian partner organisation CEPROLAI (Centro para la Promoción del Laicado) and the Archbishop of La Paz Monseñor Edmundo Abastoflor. In the long run, CEPROLAI wants to anchor the realisation of EDPs with Bolivian decision makers into their own work. The participants were able to experience the importance of active participation of the poor in political and economic processes. In spite of the current

political events in Bolivia, which are characterised by riots and many problems, there are positive signs that the initiated process of political participation and codetermination will continue, e.g. in relation to communal oversight in the use of public funds for poverty reduction.

*This immediateness cannot be replaced by any development policy seminar, or by reading; not even by good will, however determined it may be.*

Christoph Brass, participant of Exposure Programme. Bolivia 2002.

## Increasing active participation of the poor

„Improved financial and social security through micro credit“ was the EDP's topic that took place from January 31st to February 10th 2003 in the Dominican Republic.

It was arranged in co-operation with the Protestant Church Development Service (EED) and ADOPEM (Asociación Dominicana para el Desarrollo de la Mujer), a member organisation of Women World Banking.

Increasing the participation of

the poor in economic processes through the allocation of small credits by microfinance institutions has been accepted now as an approach in fighting poverty. The immense expansion of the informal sector worldwide shows that the „small people's economy“ must not slide out of view of economic policy agendas. Due to tourism, the Dominican Republic ranks among the economic carriers of hope in the Caribbean.

Nevertheless, the still young democracy faces typical problems of a developing country. About twenty percent of the population have to get by on less than one dollar per day. Representatives of EED, DEG, KfW, GTZ and one member of the German parliament were able to observe how especially indigent women were able to improve their living situation effectively through micro credits.



„Life in the Dominican Republic means working seven days a week ...“  
© EDP e.V.

## Friends of Exposure- and Dialogue Programme e.V.

In addition to already established contacts we would like to give everyone who sympathises with the Exposure- and Dialogue Programme the opportunity to stay in closer connection to the office, the local partners, the host families and the issues Exposure- and Dialogue Programme e.V. are involved with.

For us, one option would be the establishment of a „circle of friends of Exposure- and Dialogue Programme e.V.“. For a start, this circle could give interested parties the

opportunity to enrich the network of people emerged from the participation in an EDP. For example, regional meetings could be organised and suggestions for topics of future EDPs could be discussed. Experience has shown that the exchange of persons involved in politics, economics, church and civil society is of great importance not only for the acquisition of new participants but also for EDP content design.

We would like to discuss with you how such a circle of

friends might look like in detail and which tasks it could take over. Please do take part in our participants' survey and fill in the form that is added to this newsletter or simply write to us informally. After evaluation of your feedback, we will contact you again!



Dialogue in the Dominican Republic  
© C. Wilkens

## The EDP Team introduces itself

The EDP Team has been backed up and there are now six persons working at the EDP e.V. office.

Ms Gertrud Casel and Ms Dr. Elke Löbel cooperate in the general management and are in charge of the realisation of programmes.

Mr Jörg Hilgers and Ms Dr. Angelika Stauder do programme planning and implementati-

on, development education and public relations.

Ms Silke Malpica-Segovia attends to accounting and personnel affairs and, since summer this year, office tasks have been assumed by Ms Ursula Krondorf.

Naturally, the planning and realisation of exposure- and dialogue programmes require the help of everyone and this

means team work.

In the upcoming editions we would like to introduce ourselves individually with our particular professional background.

Picture on the right from back to front: J. Hilgers, U. Krondorf, S. Malpica, E. Löbel, G. Casel, A. Stauder



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## Dr. h.c. Karl Osner receives Federal Cross of Merit

On September 19th 2003 Mr Karl Osner, managing director of EDP e.V. until the end of the year 2001 and now spokesman of the council of experts, was bestowed with the Great Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

At the bestowal, district president Jürgen Roters pointed out that the approach of exposing leading personalities to the everyday life of the poor

has triggered numerous impulses for sustainable politics.

Karl Osner, retired assistant secretary, has campaigned for the fight against poverty and for the principle of „help for self-help“, so the statement. During his long years of professional activity at Misereor and the Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation, he has been engaged in diverse fields of development coopera-

tion and development politics and has set lasting initiatives. Since 1985, over 900 persons, amongst them numerous members of parliament, have participated in the EDPs developed by him. The German Parliament has endorsed these programmes as important instrument for advanced training.



Karl Osner and his wife Pirkko Osner at the bestowal of the Federal Cross of Merit  
© EDP e.V.

## A contribution by Cecilia Barja

### Faith, politics and our daily tasks

I am Cecilia Barja Charmas,

I am Catholic, politician and public servant.

I would like to use the picture of a tree to illustrate my comments:

My faith is like the root. It nurtures me, it gives new prospects, goes deeper. It means constant growth.

Politics is the trunk.

It develops, it needs time,

it depends on the conditions of humidity and drought.

The political task is the fruit.

There are good and bad years.

There can be little and sour fruit, or many and sweet ones.

They are dependent on their roots and their trunk.

Faith, ideology and action have defined me as a person.

It is that which we call the option for the poor.

I work every day in the administration of poverty, the planning of hope, the reconciliation of frustration and desires:

In a city of millions, in which 80% of the population are poor and live in a place of inevitable natural disasters.

Is this everyday exposure and dialogue? - Maybe it isn't.

For four days of exposure and three days of dialogue „I was“ and „ceased to be“.

I ceased being bureaucrat, slave of the appointment calendar, city counselor, well-known, in charge, indispensable, always in a hurry, judging and being judged.

Often in doubt because of lacking funds, unable to supply the demand, depressed by the political arena, put under pressure by the public opinion, interpreted by the media, paralysed and/or pushed by the national government.

I ceased being all this, in order to turn into a shepherdess with 18 lamas and 83 sheep,

into an eager bread-winner for 5 watchdogs, a wood-collector, an unexperienced and slow cook.

Without light, with water from the well, in the midst of illiteracy, only Aymara, 5 hectare of land, with an occasional potato harvest.

I was a human being, living without haste, learning without ambition, speaking and listening, not to inform or to be informed, but to understand, to learn and teach.

I was rest, air, eyes, hands that will transform back into dust and not plastic, wood and not steel, flesh and not clothing.

This is a dialogue of north and south, but it is above all and furthermore an internal dialogue and an inner encounter of north and south:

Head – Heart, where faith, politics and our daily tasks are connected to them not as objects, but as closest brothers and sisters.

**Cecilia Barja, 26**, has been deputy mayoress and city counselor in La Paz for three years. She was participant of the exposure and dialogue program with Bolivian decision makers in Bolivia, in 2002.

## Preview

### Joint workshop of partner organisations of EDP e.V.

Berlin, 29.02.-03.03.2004 - Topic: Promotion of participative development processes in fighting poverty and exclusion through EDP.

### EDP Singapore & Malaysia 2004

22.03.-04.04.2004 commissioned by MISSIO Aachen and MISSIO München - Topic: AsIPa - "A New Way of Being Church" - Building communities and spirituality.

### EDP Bolivia 2004

Presumably October 2004 with Bolivian decision makers - Topic: Distribution of land and migration— the rural population's ways of survival in Bolivia.

### EDP Albania 2004

Time fence 17.09.-03.10.2004 commissioned by Renovabis - Topic: Migration, income poverty and sociocultural crises as challenge for church self-help-approaches and community development work.

## Current issues

### New Executive Board

Suffragan Bishop Leo Schwarz is the new president of the Exposure- and Dialogue Programme e.V., Mr. Ulrich Pöner, remains Vice President. The general meeting has elected the new executive committee in its first meeting in the new term of office after amending the constitution on 10.10.2003 in Berlin. Hitherto President Dr. Friedrich Kronenberg has been confirmed member of the executive board; along with him, Dr. Bernd Bornhorst (Misereor), Prelate Dr. Konrad Lachenmayr (Missio Munic), and Prelate Dr. Dieter Spelthahn (Adveniat) became newly elected members.

### Recently published

Franz Marcus, *Begegnungen im Glauben* (Faith Encounters): Exposure- and Dialogue Programme with Christian communities in Central America. (Report on Adveniat EDP in Guatemala and Honduras, 04.-14. August 2001, Publisher: Association for the Promotion of North-South Dialogue), Don Bosco, Munich 2003.

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