



Dear Friends and Partners,

In this newsletter, the emphasis is on the vocational training aspect of our work. We are now making the final preparations for our annual event on 2 October 2014 in the Zurich Kongresshaus. During this event, we will be discussing the opportunities and prospects for vocational training in international development cooperation in the 21st century with selected experts. Due to the fact that developing countries are currently facing some difficult challenges – including a growing population and unemployment on the rise – more training places must be created to meet local and international market demands for qualified, skilled personnel. Please read below how we are meeting these challenges on a daily basis through our project work.

Yours, Swisscontact

Europe

20 Years of Vocational Education in Albania



«I am who I am today because Swisscontact believed in me more than I believed in myself,» says Violeta Ruzi. Violeta runs the private training centre «Leta» in Berat, a small town in central Albania. Violeta is one of many Swisscontact partners touched through our efforts spanning 20 years to support vocational education reform in Albania. Take a look back at 20 years of vocational training in Albania. [More](#)

Africa

Ekiru's Path from Kenyan Shepherd Boy to Bricklayer



Ekiru Lokaale Ekal's school career came to an abrupt end with the death of his father. It immediately became his responsibility to provide his family with a livelihood. After years of abject poverty, the "Skills4Life" Project in Kakuma, Kenya, set him on the path towards a self-determined life. Thanks to selected training courses, Ekiru acquired new skills and has now found employment with a local building firm. [More](#)

First Steps in Vocational Training & Education in Mozambique

In Mozambique, Swisscontact has been awarded the task of conducting a Feasibility Study

on TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) on behalf of the kfW Bank (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau). The study will be completed by the end of October 2014 and will include a detailed situation analysis of the TVET sector as well as a needs assessment of the labour market. This will be a good opportunity to make a first step towards TVET in Mozambique. [More](#)



Americas

Swisscontact Launches Technical Assistance Facility to Support Financial Inclusion and Enterprise Growth



Swisscontact is proud to announce the formation of a global Technical Assistance Facility to support innovative financing models and enterprise growth in the developing countries of Asia, Africa, and the Americas. The initiative responds to the increased financial commitments from the social and impact investing sectors in international development.

[More](#)

Colombia's 'Cocoa Gold' Contest: a Unique Opportunity for Local and International Recognition



In its second edition, the 'Cacao de Oro' (premium - quality cocoa) National Contest gets even better. This year, the contest will allow producers to meet world tasters and interact with specialised gourmet buyers who will express their international market requirements. Hence, this edition will feature taster Astrid Gustsche, a known chocolatier, chef and promoter of small producer varieties, and important world buyers as Dandelion, Walter Matter, Bonnat Chocolatier and Guittard, among others. [More](#)

Colombia Develops Higher Technical Skills for more Employment of Road Construction Workers



Swisscontact, in partnership with the SENA Institute (Colombia's National Training Service), is developing higher qualification learning programmes for infrastructure workers, as a measure to increase capacities, employability and inclusion within Colombia's road and infrastructure development. [More](#)

Asia

Skills Development and Employment for Bangladeshi Growth



The Skills for Employment Programme in Bangladesh (SEP-B), a 5-year skills development project funded by UKAid in Bangladesh has begun its inception phase. The project will focus on the Ready Made Garments (RMG) and construction sectors. [More](#)

Vocational Skills Development in Myanmar Enters the Implementation Phase



After a 7-month inception phase, the Vocational Skills Development Programme (VSDP), began with the implementation phase in September this year. The programme's overall goal includes the gainful and market demand driven employment or self-employment and better income for disadvantaged people in targeted areas of Myanmar. [More](#)

Podcast: Making Energy-Efficient Bricks in Peru



Since 2010, Energy Efficiency in Artisanal Brick Kilns in Latin America (EELA) has been training brick makers on how to use energy-efficient brick kilns and how to use better, cleaner fuels to fire bricks. In this podcast, Momentum of Chance talks to Swisscontact's Jon Bickel about reducing the carbon footprint of traditional brick-making in Peru. [Listen now](#)

Blog: Democratizing Investment Banking



Starting in July, Ognyan "Ogy" Kenderov from Credit Suisse Investment Banking takes part in the Global Citizens Programme, an international skills-based volunteering programme which aims to increase the knowledge transfer to partner organisations in the field of development work. During the 3 months, he will work in Nairobi, Kenya, on a Microfinance capacity-building initiative at Equity Bank. In his blog Ogy writes about his adventure in Nairobi. [Follow Ogy](#)

Save the Date



Thu October 2nd 2014, from 14:30

Swisscontact Annual Event

Skills Development – Opportunities and prospects of the 21st century for developing and emerging countries?

Kongresshaus, Gotthardstrasse 5, Zurich

[Sign up now](#)



Wed/Thu 8.-9. Oktober 2014, from 8 o'clock AM

Global Impact Forum

Transforming our world through creative partnerships

GDI Gottlieb Duttweiler Institut, Langhaldenstrasse 21, Rüschlikon/Zurich

[Information & Sign up](#)

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