



**Technology without  
Borders**



# **Newsletter I 2025**

Dear members, dear friends and supporters of Technology without Borders,

still caught up in the many impressions of our Board trip to Uganda, we - Robert and Jannik - are slowly settling back into daily life in Germany. Twelve intense days are behind us - and as many of you can well empathise: we are once again completely grounded. The daily challenges at home, big and small, have to be reorganised. We travelled to Uganda between 9 and 21 February. Together with our two Ghanaian TwB members Sylvester Duoh and Nurudeen Ayubeogo Akaamah and, of course, leading members of our two Ugandan RGs, we organised a total of three WASH workshops at schools, a project manager workshop and visits to an agroforestry farm, the Rotary Club Kampala South, Ndejje University as well as the orphanage in Bubbebere. The new regional group at Makerere University was welcomed by us and familiarised with the TwB basics in a small event. The enthusiasm with which our Ugandan members participate in all activities is impressive. The break-out groups at the project leader workshop delivered excellent results. As usual, we will of course provide a detailed account of the trip in a project report.

I would like to emphasise two points in particular at this point. The BLI (Bethany Land Institute) Agroforestry Demonstration Farm supported by Roland Frutig, an honorary Rotarian member of the

RC Poona, India, is, in our opinion, a 'best in class' example of the various stages of agroforestry in theory and practice. Since - subsidised - training courses are offered there, we will take up this offer in a targeted manner. And secondly, the orphanage in Bubbebere, which is linked to the Hubert Schwarz School there, offers many projects for TwB that can be realised relatively quickly. Exactly in line with some of our core competences: Waste incineration, recycling and toilets. Some of the know-how is already well available in Uganda, but some projects should be systematically accompanied by German partner RGs. Take up these suggestions, it is worthwhile.

Our **members' meeting** for the association year 2024 will take place in Erlangen on **May 17**. We are offering a very interesting supporting programme. **And we are celebrating 15 years of TwB!** After the coronavirus pandemic, our communication between the various RGs and also within the Executive Board is increasingly taking place online. This has advantages and disadvantages. One disadvantage is the lack of face-to-face communication in all its facets. Our members' meeting offers good opportunities to do just that. The best ideas and contacts often emerge both in the workshops and in the free time there. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet in person and come to Erlangen!

Finally, a note on the newsletter's own behalf. Our great editor Sophie Hutzler is looking for support. If you are interested in this exciting task, please contact her

directly. Dealing with modern forms of communication is an extremely interesting task that is also in demand in professional life.

Robert Schullan

Best greetings from the entire Board

Robert Schullan	Markus Reinhard	Felix Schofer	Christian Zeidler	Lara Hachmann	Maximilian Martin	Jana Landel
Annika Weiß	Andreas Vierling	Heiko Blumenschein	Arne Bruns	Daniel Schaffert	Jannik Mechau	

## Completed Projects

### Project leader workshop and exchange between country groups



As part of Robert Schullan and Jannik Mechau's Board trip to Uganda, a two-day project leader workshop for our local members was held at the University of Ndejje with a total of 23 participants. In addition, our Ghanaian and Ugandan members presented their own projects at an evening event and exchanged ideas intensively. Good and professional project management is the key to a successful and sustainable project. Therefore, our association aims to strengthen project work in our international country groups and to provide our local members with the necessary tools for successful project planning and implementation. On February 13 and 14, a 2-day project leader workshop was held at the University of Ndejje with 21 members of the Ndejje regional group ...

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## WASH Workshops in schools during our board trip to Uganda



To educate children about appropriate hygiene measures to prevent diseases, our RG Ndejje, Uganda, has developed a WASH workshop that can be piggybacked on school visits. As part of our board trip to Uganda, we held the workshop in three different elementary schools. The first WASH workshop took place at Ndejje Parents Community School in Ndejje and was excellently organized by RG Ndejje. The workshop was mainly held by our local members Irene, Hiram, Christine and Edwin, but our two Ghanaians, Nurudeen and Sylvester, also assisted with the implementation. They all showed that they are excellent teachers. The schoolchildren learned about important everyday hygiene practices in the workshop, such as washing their hands with soap and water ...

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## Trees for tomorrow: A successful afforestation project in eastern Uganda



From November 11th to 16th, 2024, our Regional Group Ndejje successfully implemented an afforestation project in Ocokican Central Village, Soroti District. Led by project leader Renin Omugabe, along with dedicated team members Kobusinge Christine and Ndayishimye Ivan, the initiative aimed to promote environmental sustainability and combat deforestation in the region. Over the course of the project, the team planted 3,000 eucalyptus trees, marking a significant step towards reforestation and ecological restoration. Some community members actively participated, demonstrating a strong commitment to preserving their environment for future generations. The project will not only contribute to increasing forest cover but also provide an opportunity for ...

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## Borehole regeneration and repairs in Dodo Amanfrom



Two members of our regional group Accra, Beatrice Yaa Afihumah and Nurudeen Ayubeogo Akaamah, regenerated six boreholes in communities of Dodo Amanfrom with the ecofriendly chemical Wessoclean to enhance their water flow rate. In addition, broken seals were replaced in 4 of these wells. The project has significantly improved the water supply for about 3500 people. Access to clean and safe drinking water is a fundamental human right. In Dodo Amanfrom, boreholes are a primary source of water. However, many communities in this area face challenges in accessing potable water. Research was conducted by Beatrice in 2024. The results of this study indicated that the boreholes require regeneration to improve their water yield. Moreover, the unbalanced pH level

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## Water for Qhosmi, Bolivia



In the community of Qhosmi, located in the Bolivian Andes near San Pedro de Buena Vista, is home to 26 families with around 255 people. These families mainly rely on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods, but the lack of access to clean water presents a significant daily challenge. Currently, the residents use water from an untreated river, which often leads to health problems such as diarrhea—particularly affecting children. Together with our partner organization, World Vision Bolivia, which has extensive experience in the region and similar projects, we aim to sustainably improve living conditions and establish a secure water supply system. In January 2025, two members of our Aachen regional group traveled to Bolivia to advance the project planning. On-site, we ...

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## Current Projects

### Waste incinerator for the Bekoko Medical Centre, Cameroon



Healthcare centers play a crucial role in ensuring human well-being and survival by providing safe and sanitary environments for treatment and recovery. When these facilities themselves are unable to maintain hygiene and properly manage waste, the risk of infections and environmental harm increases significantly. The Bekoko Medical Center in Cameroon (serving around 200 patients per month with 14 patient beds), along with many other healthcare facilities in its vicinity, is facing an urgent crisis due to the lack of a sustainable solution for disposing of infectious medical waste. The center generates hazardous waste such as used syringes, contaminated dressings, and biological materials. Previously, waste disposal was handled by a local company, but ...

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## Newsflash

### Save the date: Members' meeting and anniversary celebration on May 17 in Erlangen

The Erlangen regional group is happy to be hosting this year's members' meeting! On Saturday, 17 May, the meeting will start at 10 am. at the Technical Faculty of the University of Erlangen. The main part of the meeting will be followed by lunch and various workshops in the afternoon. Members who have travelled a long way (and everyone else) are also welcome on Friday! There will also be a small get-together there at around 6 pm.

But there is more good news! There will also be entertainment after the members' meeting on Saturday. The anniversary celebration (15 years of TwB) will take place there from around 5 pm. The exact programme is still being planned, but I can assure you that it won't be boring! Of course, you can also spend the night in Erlangen.

To make it easier to plan, we would be glad if you would enter your name in [this survey](#) (if you want to come). You will also find the link in the official invitation e-mail you received from Lara Hachmann in February. Further information will be announced in good time in advance. See you in May!

*Jan Amtmann, RG Erlangen*

## New member for editorial team

And here's a little job advert... 😊 The editorial team for the newsletter (that's me) is looking for support. The main tasks are: editorial meetings every three months, writing e-mails to the project teams to 'collect' the articles and then, of course, creating the actual newsletter. You don't need any previous experience. If you are interested, just contact me directly ([sophie.hutzler@teog.de](mailto:sophie.hutzler@teog.de)). Then I will be happy to report in more detail and answer your questions.

*Sophie Hutzler, RG Erlangen*



## New formation of the Kampala regional group

During our board trip in Uganda, a new regional group was founded at Makerere University in Kampala. Hiram Mwanga, the current head of RG Ndejje, contacted the university in advance and was able to motivate several interested students to join TwB. On February 10, Robert and Jannik visited Makerere University together with four members of RG Ndejje and Nurudeen and Sylvester from our country group in Ghana to introduce our association and our projects to 13 new members of RG Kampala and to answer questions. Edith Mulamu and Solomon Mpola will lead the RG Kampala. They both took part in our project leader workshop in Ndejje. Edith also accompanied us on our trip to Mpigi and the orphanage in Bubbebere and supported us in two WASH workshops. Our country group in Uganda now has two regional groups in Kampala and Ndejje, which are very close to each other and are already in very close contact.

*Robert Schullan, Jannik Mechau, Vorstand*



## Visit at the Rotary Club Kampala South

The traditionally close connection between Rotary and TwB is a great advantage for us. We benefit from the wide range of relationships through the approximately 1.18 million Rotary members worldwide and, last but not least, Rotary clubs are responsible for many of our projects as donors. Rotarians played a key role in our founding and many of our TwB members are also Rotarians. Jannik Mechau is currently President of the Rotary Passport Club Horizon D1850 and I am President elect 2025/2026 of the Rotary Club Höchststadt. In these roles, we also attended the club evening of the Rotary Club Kampala South as part of our trip to Uganda. Our contact person Richard Kalungi Kimura paved the way for us there and introduced us. The evening was very interesting and fun. The club there has 170 members, which is a lot compared to German clubs (approx. 30 to 50). The meeting was very relaxed and entertaining. The rules, which already play a major role in Germany, tended to take the background. We were intensively involved in the discussions and there was a high level of interest in TwB. With Kampala South, we certainly have an excellent partner for the future in Uganda

*Robert Schullan, Jannik Mechau, Vorstand*

## Meeting with Dean of Students, University of Ndejje



As part of our trip to Uganda, we also met the Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Survey, of Ndejje University, Henry Ntale. He was accompanied by Roice K. Bwambale, a lecturer at the university and the first member of our RG Ndejje, which was founded in 2018. In the presentation of Technology without Borders, we went into our mission, general principles, core topics and goals. Henry Ntale showed the greatest interest in our projects, especially water and waste. We thanked him, Roice and the other responsible persons at the university for the good cooperation. He promised us his continued full support, especially to ensure the necessary continuity of the TwB regional group. As tends to be the case, students leave Ndejje after their Bachelor's or Master's degree to start their careers. And for this we constantly need new members, who should then be inspired with interesting projects. After our visit, Henry Ntale posted on LinkedIn: '...their expertise in applying technology to solve real world problems aligns perfectly with our goals. We had a valuable exchange...on addressing local challenges through practical solutions...' An integral part of every Board trip is always to deepen our local university contacts.

*Robert Schullan, Jannik Mechau, Vorstand*



### **Visit to the BLI agroforestry farm**

As part of our board trip to Uganda, together with Hiram and Irene from our Ugandan RG Ndejje and our Ghanaian members Nurudeen and Sylvester, we visited the Bethany Land Institute (BLI) farm near the University of Ndejje, which was significantly supported by Roland Frutig during its creation. The farm serves as a training centre for local farmers and operates an agroforestry demonstration farm, among other things. After our arrival, the two managers of the farm, Sylvester Kule and Lucky Mokasa, welcomed us and gave us a long, clear and detailed insight into the background, goals, status and further development of the farm. BLI follows the approach of regenerative agroforestry, in which a forest is created as an independent ecosystem. This results in an independent cycle with ongoing harvests and maximum productivity without erosion and other interventions such as artificial fertilisers and pesticides. As part of an extensive tour, we also visited the agroforestry demonstration farm. Here we were introduced to several agroforestry systems with different focuses: School gardens, vegetables, coffee, animal feed, reforestation and the commercial farm. The approaches 'Change Ecosystem', 'Education' and 'Economic Prosperity' are taught. Special emphasis is placed on the economic perspective of the farmers. The concept of the farm is very well thought out and professionally implemented. In our view, the BLI farm is a model for future agroforestry projects in Uganda and other tropical countries. If we want to set up further agroforestry demonstration farms within our organisation, we will only use this example. One consideration is to train suitable participants within our organisation at BLI in the near future. Finally, we would like to thank BLI for the opportunity to visit and also Roland Frutig for the organisation and coordination.

*Robert Schullan, Jannik Mechau, Vorstand*

We hope you enjoy reading it!

To stay up to date, please also visit us on [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#) or have a look at our [website](#).

Published by Robert Schullan, Sophie Hutzler

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