



Lake Victoria: Municipal Platforms for Local Strategic Development 29.8-7.9.2011

International Training Conducted within the framework of MASHAV by the Weitz Centre for Development Studies in partnership with TAG International Development and LVRLAC

Lake Victoria is the world's largest tropical lake with a surface area of 68,800 Sq. km shared amongst the three East African Countries of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, with Rwanda and Burundi being part of its catchment. The lake and its basin supports a population of over 30 million people, through fishing, agriculture, mining, local industries, tourism and related activities.

Due to the strategic role of the lake and the critical importance of the region to the livelihoods and well being of its inhabitants as well as the East Africa's economy and stability, Lake Victoria Basin has been designated as an "area of common interest" and a "regional economic growth zone" by the East African Community (EAC).

The region experiences one of the highest population growth rates in the world estimated at 3% per annum. The rapid population growth is majorly reported in the constantly growing urban centers. Local authorities in the region are therefore constantly faced with numerous urban development and management challenges, notably, economic development, infrastructure planning to avoid slums social and municipal service delivery and environmental management. However, local authorities in the region are trying to improve their technical and financial capabilities. This will allow them to address these challenges, which in turn will reduce increasing poverty levels, mushrooming slums and increased disease incidences.

Many development actors have stepped in to fill the gaps. One of the most significant initiatives introduced to the region was the UN-Habitat and the Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC) partnership to address the various challenges facing the urban areas under the Lake Victoria Cities Development Strategies (CDS) program. The CDS provided a framework for stakeholder involvement in the identification of the development issues and joint action planning to address them while tapping on to the resources and expertise available. As a network organization for the local authorities in the region, LVRLAC played the role of mobilizing its members, creating a platform for sharing and committing to scale up the CDS lessons.

One lesson learnt from the CDS process was the weak institutional framework for implementation of the investment plans as agreed by the various stakeholders. In a bid to improve on this and upscale the CDS framework, LVRLAC is seeking to establish and operationalize a network of municipal planning and development mechanisms.

Weitz Center for Development Studies, within the framework of MASHAV, established one such a mechanism in Kisumu – Municipal Strategic Planning Unit (MSPU), which has since went ahead to establish two other municipal development mechanisms – Municipal Development Corporation and Industrial Park Management. Based on this experience, LVRLAC is interested in disseminating the model among urban local authorities in the region.

In this light, a 10 days training activity is designed to:

- Expose decision makers and executives from relevant stakeholders in the region to the Israeli experience in municipal planning and management mechanisms
- Demonstrate the practical development results derived from operating such municipal mechanisms
- Provide participants with tools to adapt the Israeli experience to local conditions and challenges
- Guide participants in creating an enabling environment for professional and technical staff (that will be benefiting from follow-up on-the-spot training activities to promote the establishment of relevant municipal mechanisms)
- Strengthen the regional network with LVRLAC as focal point

Participants of the international training will benefit from the experience gained by Israel in establishing and operating municipal management mechanisms for economic, community and environmental development as well as from the lessons of the MCK MSPU.

More specifically, the training course should permit participants to benefit from the Israeli experiences in the following areas:

1. **MSPUs** – what can be learned from various models operated in local authorities in Israel (and in Kisumu)
2. **Municipal Development Corporations** – operating to promote municipal development in areas such as tourism along water fronts and tourism infrastructures, local economic development, public facilities development, maintenance and management
3. **Industrial Zone Management** – planning, development, marketing, maintenance and management of municipal industrial and business zones
4. **Municipal Branding** – as a complementary strategic development mechanism
5. **Jobs and income generating support centers** – local and regional institutions supporting the establishment and survival of SMEs and local employment programs

The training course will provide participants with knowledge and tools regarding

- the legal frameworks of these mechanisms
- PPP opportunities and financial aspects
- modes of operation and working patterns
- the relations between the mechanisms and the local authorities and other stakeholders,
- projects operated by these municipal mechanisms and more.

The training involves presentations, workshops, discussions, field trips and meetings with professionals and decision makers. The training also involves personal assignments and exercises.

Selection of candidates

The seminar targets policy-makers and high officials from local authorities, regional institutions and organizations and ministries directly working within the region; from Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya Rwanda and Burundi. Their experience should be on municipal administration and municipal financing, planning, economic development, social and community development and

social services, environmental management and other related areas. LVRLAC will be a partner to the selection process.

Application Process

*Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, www.weitz-center.org. The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli mission in your area and sent to our office (ronitshp@netvision.net.il) not later than **27 July 2011**.*

Costs for the training

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MASHAV) shall meet the costs of training, meals , accommodation and transportation from and to Ben-Gurion airport. MASHAV **WILL NOT** meet the other costs. Participants are expected to meet their own costs of travel to Israel.

Arrival and transportation

*A Taxi Company called "MONI SITON TOURS" will transport the participants to "Reisfeld Residence" of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, Israel, where the students will stay during the seminar. Transportation will **be free of charge only by this company**.*

The MONI SITON TOURS counter is located after the customs, at the gallery of floor 1 of Arriving Passengers' hall, near gate 2.

Insurance during the stay

MASHAV will provide insurance for the participants for the duration of the seminar. The medical insurance will benefit the participants during their stay in Israel, except for dental treatments, pregnancy, eyeglasses, and chronic illnesses. MASHAV, Weitz Center and the "Reisfeld Residence" are not responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

About MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs. MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs. MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>

About Weitz Center

The Weitz Center for Development Studies is a leader in capacity building for sustainable development. Our work is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of international agencies, governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to achieve positive social and economic change worldwide. Towards this end, we offer high quality training and consulting services, highlighting our practical, assets-based and integrated approach to development. <http://www.weitz-center.org/>

About TAG

Tag International Development is an independent British organization specialized in sharing Israeli humanitarian expertise, best practices and social development models to assist developing

countries by building and harnessing their capacity in the fields of medical relief and social infrastructure development. Tag introduces the expertise and knowledge of NGOs from Israel and the UK in post-disaster medical recovery and community development, both in the field and through innovative digital and social networking tools, and works with its partners in Asia, Africa and the Middle East to adapt and develop highly effective models for crises response and disaster preparedness and capacity building. Tag delivers ground-breaking, sustainable projects, which bring meaningful change to communities. The guiding principles of Tag's work are to promote peace and reconciliation; to save lives and ameliorate suffering; to foster regional co-operation.

About LVRLAC

The Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC) is a network organization founded in 1997 to coordinate and strengthen collaborative efforts by Local Authorities within the LVB towards sustainable harnessing of the region's resources so as to promote the wellbeing of the riparian communities. The network has since registered commendable growth with a current membership of 100 members Local Authorities cutting across three countries namely Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda with prospective membership from Rwanda and Burundi. The organization envisions contributing to a Lake Victoria Region in which Local Authorities are effectively networked for sustainable management & development of common resources for the benefit and harmonious coexistence of the local communities. This is made possible by facilitating member Local Authorities through building of strategic partnerships, harmonization of policies and promotion of knowledge on best practices that enhance the capacity of Local Authorities to provide better living standards, services and opportunities for sustainable development in the Lake Victoria Region. <http://www.lvrlac.net>

Additional Information

Any additional information is available at:

**Weitz Center for Development Studies
Division of Training and International Cooperation
P.O.Box 12
Rehovot 76100, Israel
Tel: 972-8-9474373
Fax: 972-8-9475884
Cell Phone: 972-54-6655233 (Mrs. Ronit Shpindel)
E-mail: ronitshp@netvision.net.il**