



Virtual Learning for SD  
The Richness of Diversity

## North-South Inter-University Collaboration: the first steps of an intercultural dialogue



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# Content

- RCE Rhine-Meuse and Greater Nairobi the starting point.
- Introduction to the Intercultural Virtual Seminar for Africa.
- Results so far – encouraging but also challenging.
- Discussion



# About RCE's Worldwide

- Role of RCE's – UN Agenda 21
- The Background of RCE Rhine-Meuse – The Netherlands.
- Moved Influence to Spain – making use of plastic waste matter for kids playing ground.

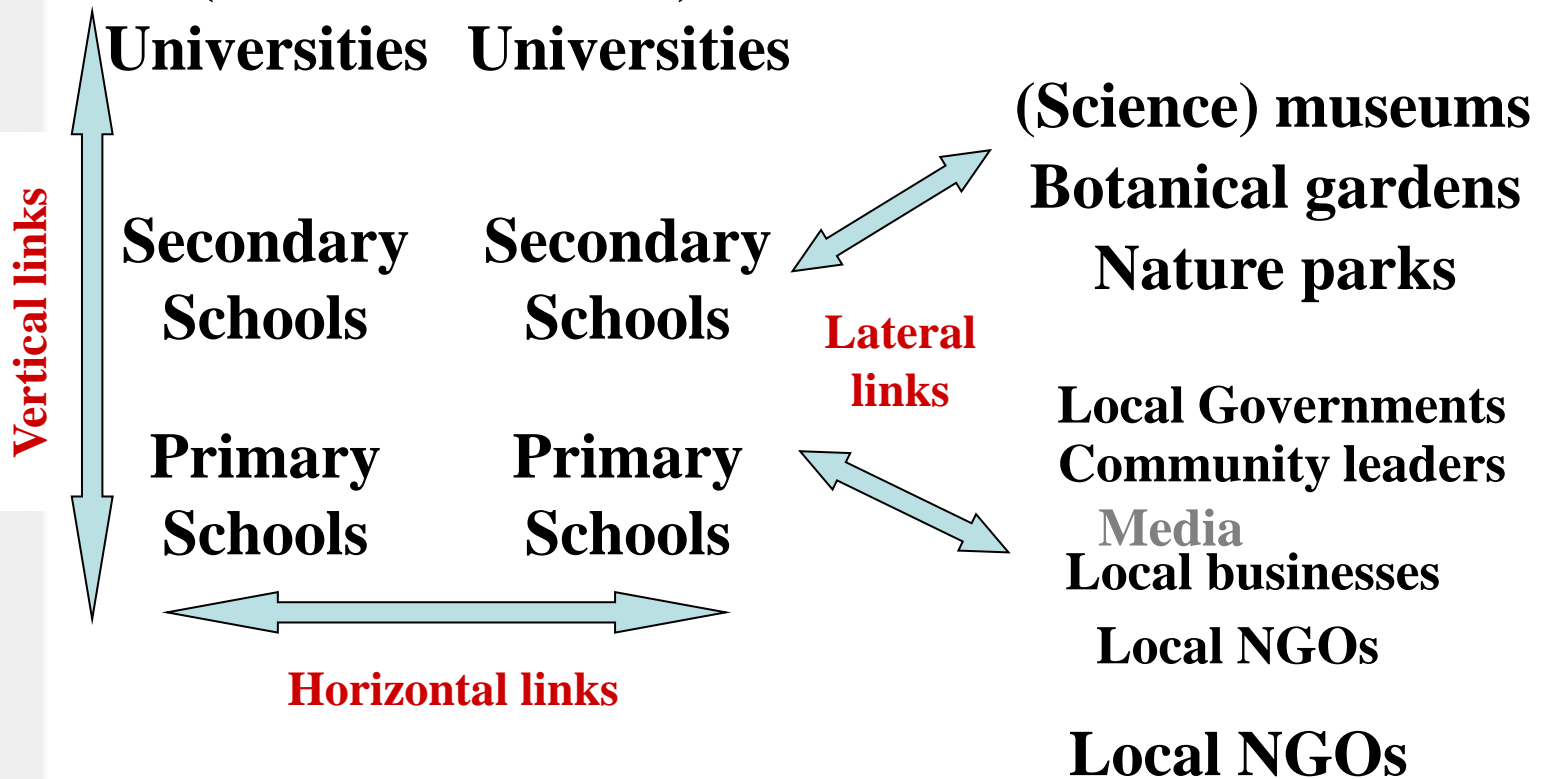




# Regional Centers of Expertise Education for Sustainable Dev.

## Formal education (Research centers)

## Non-formal education



# RCE Rhine Meuse

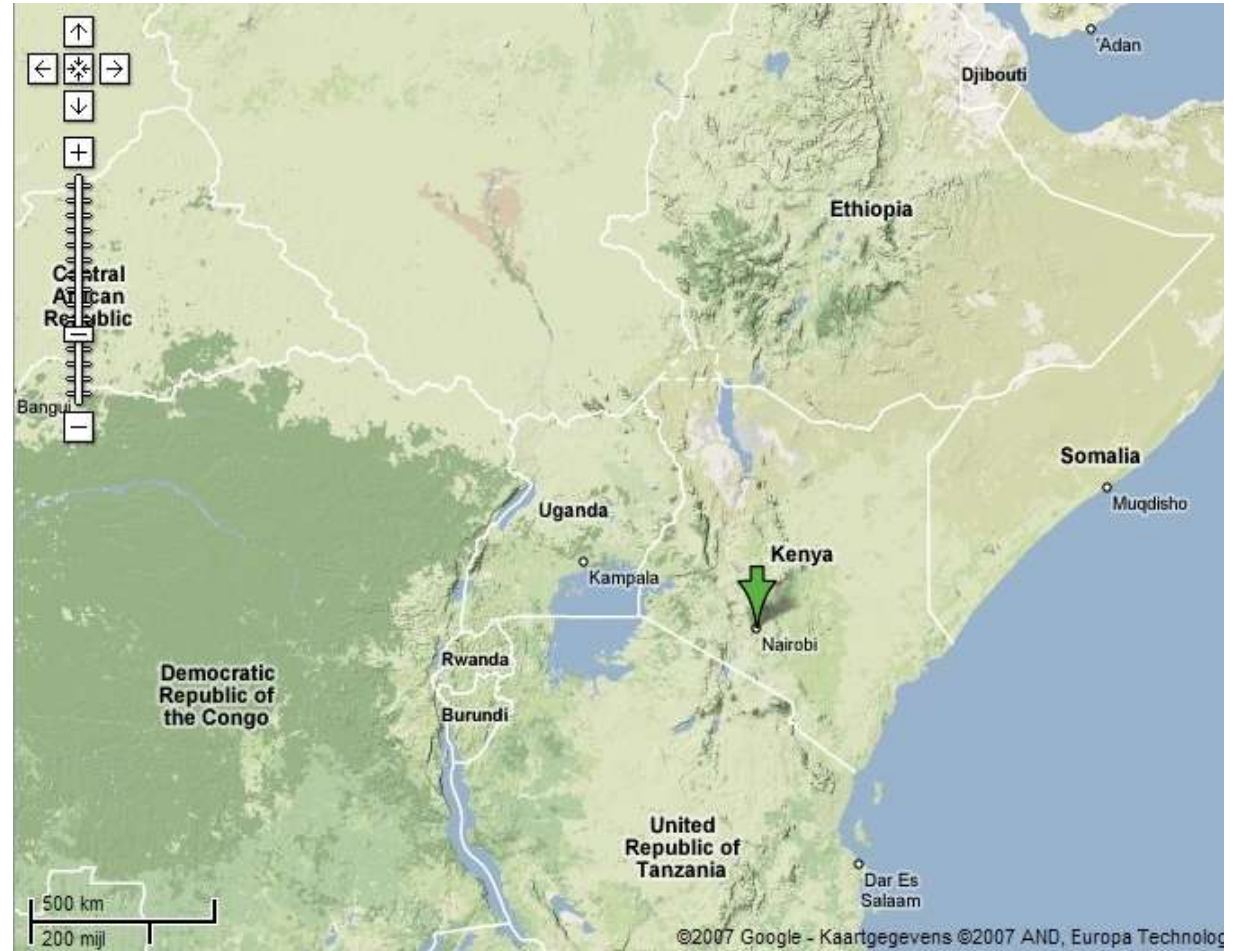




# Some Facts

- Founded in 2004, Cooperates with
  - Hogeschool Zuyd
  - Open Universiteit Nederland
- Acknowledged 1 of 7 Pioneers in 2005.
  - First in Europe, now increased to 12, and 55 world wide.
- Not meant to create redundancy but add value and support the mainstreaming Sustainable Dev.

# RCE Greater Nairobi



# Purpose for this Project

- Unity of Purpose and Collaboration – Part of the RCE Mission.
- No fast hit and run strategy but building a long term relationship on an equal basis and understanding of possibilities and available options.





# Purpose of this Project

- Part of the TU Delft 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program:
  - Technical solutions: Focus on Africa
- Done by and through students; aiming for a brighter future.
- Understanding and identifying the problems is a necessary basis for successful collaboration.

# Introduction to the IVS4A

- Organisers of this Project in the 1<sup>st</sup> yr were:
  - RCE Greater Nairobi: Tangaza College & SOMIRENEC.
  - TU Delft.
  - RCE Rhine-Meuse: Open Universiteit – NL.
- Second year: Mekelle Univ. of Technology – Ethiopia.
- Participants
  - Students TU Delft
  - Students/ Graduates Tangaza College/Mekelle.



# Introduction to the IVS4A

- Major Participants:

- Intercultural dialogue now takes place between the students from three institutions: Delft University of Technology (NL), Tangaza College (Kenya) and Mekelle University of Technology (Ethiopia).

- Minor Participants:

**SOMIRENEC and HSHC** – graduates, interns and volunteers  
And vocational workers.



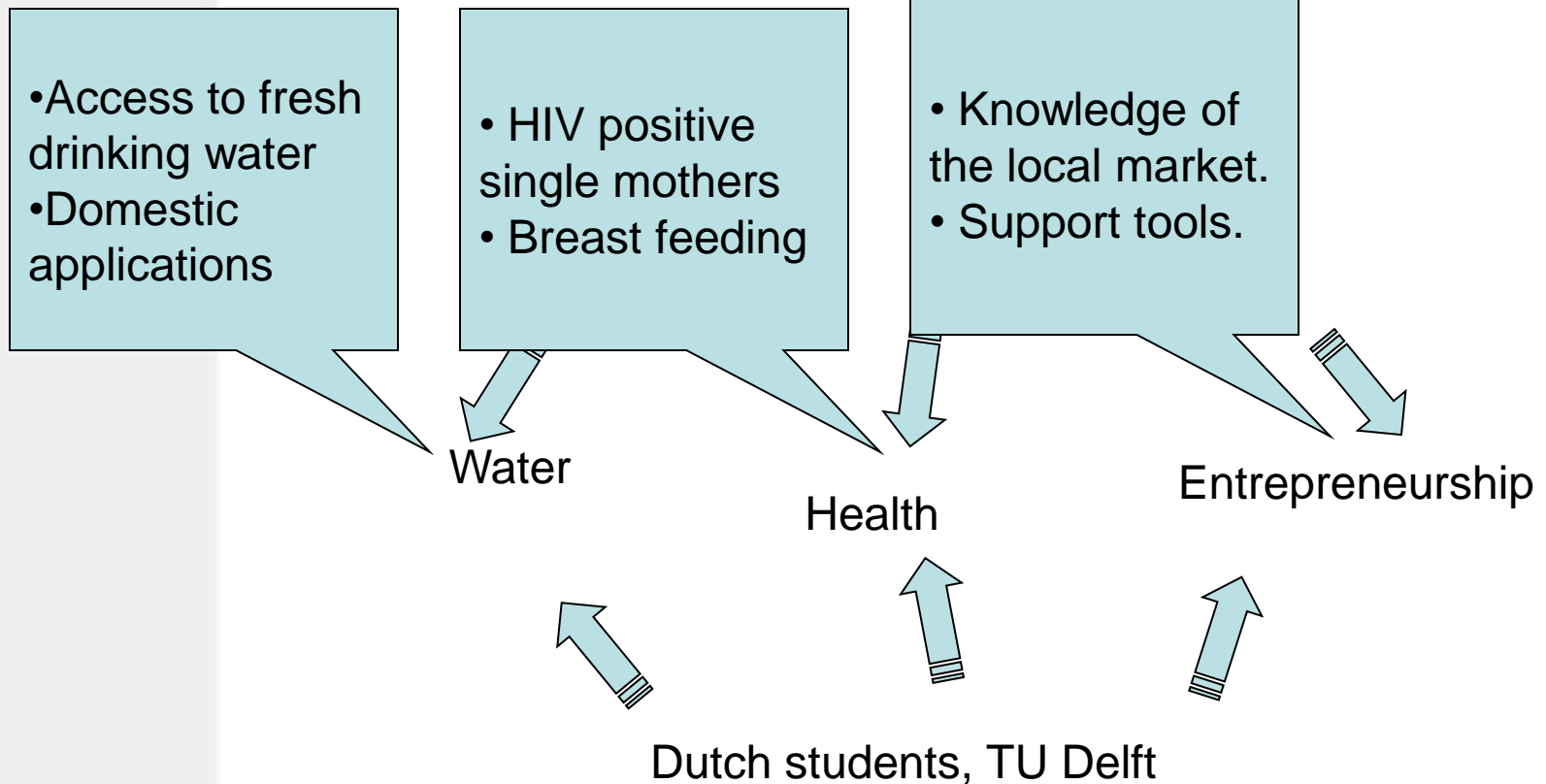


# Aims and Objectives

- The Aims for this project are two: 1. building a common basis for academic and cultural understanding: 2. Identifying the common problems faced by all those involved.
- The overall objective for this project is only one, but double faceted: To focus on technical sustainable solutions in the African situation.
- The project also seeks to create awareness in the students in the north of the difficult situation of poverty and want that most of their colleagues study and live in.
- Build up expertise to deal with technological improvement across cultural differences.

# First Year of IVS4A

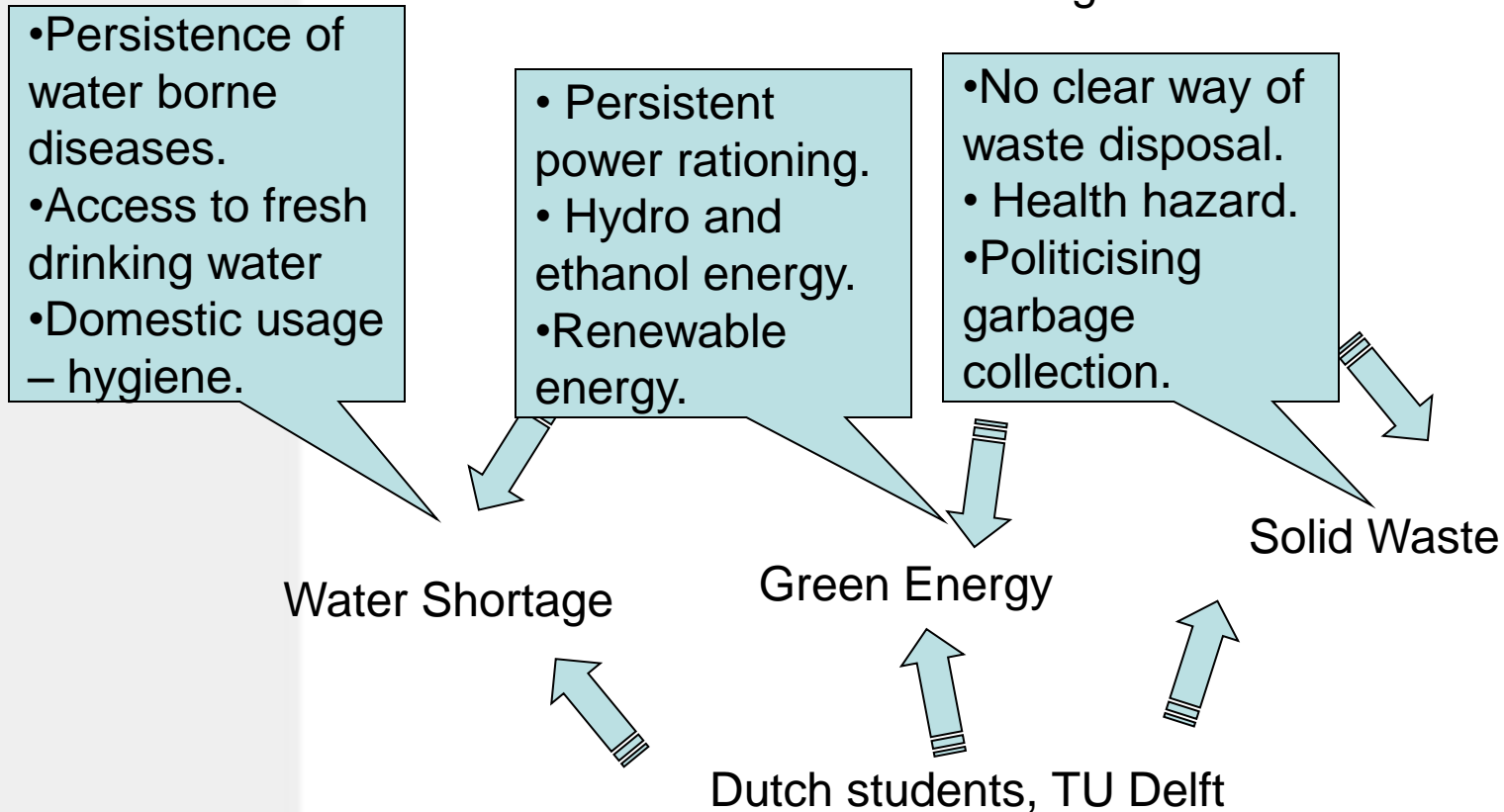
Co-creation & Knowledge dialogue  
Kenyan Students – Tangaza College



# Second Year of IVS4A

Co-creation & Knowledge dialogue

African students – Tangaza and Mekelle



# Challenges: Technical and Social

- Technical Issues:
  - Poor connectivity
  - Blackboard learning environment
  - Bad timing
- Social Issues:
  - Introductions
  - Virtual meetings
  - Frustrations



# Response to Challenges

- Input from coordinators:
  - Lectures.
  - Information materials.
  - Field surveys.
- Asynchronous discussion:
  - 3 Groups of mixed composition.
  - Structured discussion using questions, presentations, documents.

# Results so far

- Moderation:
  - TU Delft / Tangaza College/Mekelle
  - Meeting of Coordinators at Delft: Ndegwah/Otto and Kassahun.
  - RCE Rhine-Meuse/ OUNL
  - Visit by Otto to Kenya and Ethiopia.
  - Expansion of the collaboration to include other areas; to enhance communication.



# Does it Work?

“It is difficult because of the technical issues and the timing problems, but we now have established a good contact on an equal basis, and we are slowly getting there. Most of all it is inspiring and really fun to do.”

Quote by participants IVS4A

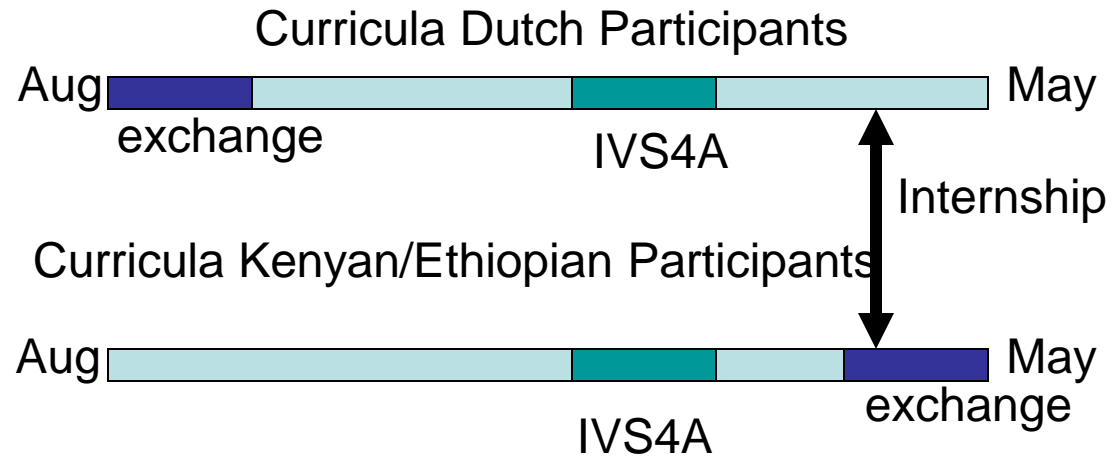
# Evaluation

- Evaluation of the second IVS4A was done by the three partner institutions with varied conclusions – it be continued and expanded.
- Evaluation report submitted to the administrations of the three partner institutions – joint training program (RCE Rhine-Meuse) that will lead to a Degree in entrepreneurship.

# Looking ahead

- Work towards a long-term master-plan (This achieved somehow).
- Integrate in curricula (in Tangaza and TU Delft).
- Combine virtual dialogue with real action (not fully successful as yet).
- Broaden the groups involved and focus on incubator model (slow, but moving towards this goal).

# An Innovation System



## Participants:

Students TUDelft

Students Tangaza College

Alumni Tangaza College

Students from Vocational Institutions

Ethiopian Students

# An Innovation System





# For Future Generations



OpenUniversiteitNederland

