



Inauguration of East Africa Training and Service Center for Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Digestive Oncology

at Muhimbili National Hospital, Dar es Salaam/Tanzania
30 May 2014

Your Excellency, Sir Vicepresident of the United Republic of Tanzania,

Your Excellency, Sir Minister of Health and Welfare of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dignitaries,

Mr. President of the Gastroenterology Foundation, Professor Classen,

Representatives of the organizing committee,

Dear medical colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As representative of the Else Kröner-Fresenius Stiftung I have the privilege to convey to you the greetings and congratulations of the Stiftung on occasion of this festive opening of the First East African Training and Service Center for Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Digestive Oncology.

Prof. Classen in his capacity as President of the Gastroenterology Foundation has approached Dr. med. Carolin Kröner in Munich /Germany, who is responsible for the humanitarian programs of the Else Kröner-Fresenius Stiftung with the aim to submit a proposal for the financing of a center of endoscopy at MUHIMBILI NATIONAL HOSPITAL here in Dar es Salaam.

The mission statement of the Stiftung is Forschung fördern - Menschen helfen - which in translation - means PROMOTING RESEARCH and HELPING PEOPLE

Notwithstanding that promotion of medical research projects is the primary goal, the humanitarian help programs are components of equivalent importance of the Stiftung's activities.

The late Mrs. Else Kröner has founded her Stiftung in 1983 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting medical research supporting medical education and providing humanitarian aid.



To attain these goals Else Kröner has transferred nearly her entire property earned from her very successful pharmaceutical company to a foundation, named Else Kröner-Fresenius Stiftung.

It has to be stressed that this foundation is the major stockholder of the Fresenius group nevertheless the Stiftung is absolutely independent from the company business operations.



The first proposal of Prof. Classen on behalf of the Gastroenterology Foundation was forwarded to the Scientific Committee of the foundation on which I serve as deputy chairman. This committee has evaluated the proposal and has subsequently asked Prof. Classen for amendments and changes of the first proposal, with special emphasis to strengthen its educational and training aspects. These amendments were felt indispensable to guarantee that medical doctors and qualified nurses, not only from Tanzania but also from other African countries could enter the endoscopy training programs.

After the final proposal had unanimously been accepted by the scientific committee the Executive Committee of the Stiftung as the final decision maker has approved the project to be funded.

Ladies and gentlemen, due to the substantial funding of the project we all can assist today to the opening of the First Africa Training and Service Center for Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Digestive Oncology.

All of you are witnesses of a historical event and - I assume - all of you are anxiously expecting true benefits for a great number of African patients due to the professional expertise the trainees will gain at this unique center.



The Else Kröner-Fresenius Stiftung will closely keep under observation the results of this extraordinary humanitarian enterprise.

We do hope and expect that those responsible for the center will do their best for the functioning and flourishing of this new institution.

Thank you for the privilege of the floor.

Prof. Konrad Meßmer, Munich

