

## Media release

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### **Voith and Theirworld join forces and launch Code Clubs for girls in Tanzania**

Page 1 of 3

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- **Safe environment for girls and young woman to learn coding and being prepared for labor market**
- **Technology company Voith supports Code Clubs**

Heidenheim, London, (October 11, 2017) – During the Africa Code week between 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the technology company Voith and the children’s charity Theirworld launched the “Code Clubs” for Girls in Tanzania: Code Clubs are established to give girls and young women in Tanzania a unique chance to learn vital coding and technology skills in a safe space and thus prepare them better for the digital labor market.

The Code Clubs are being launched as a way to recognize girls’ ambition and potential, and highlight the need for greater gender equality. 480 young women in Tanzania will now have the opportunity to enter the digital world and open up new prospects for their future. Despite thousands of jobs being created in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) industries across Africa, gender discrimination and lack of access to education and technology means girls are often kept out of the work force and unable to break the cycle of poverty. On average, women make up less than 30% of the people working in STEM related jobs.

“This innovative initiative for education will help girls and young women to learn technical coding and develop vital communications and leadership skills, which prepare them for entering the expanding technology sector across Africa. We are proud to support this,” says Hubert Lienhard, President and CEO of Voith GmbH & Co. KGaA. He explains that social involvement and innovative spirit have always been part of Voith’s history. In the 150th anniversary year of the company, many of the 19.000 Voith employees around the globe participated in sporting events, such as running or cycling and every kilometer achieved by the Voith employees was then transferred into euros for a total donation in an amount of 150.000 EUR to the Theirworld organization.

Sarah Brown, President of Theirworld said, “We know that investing in a girl has social and economic returns that go beyond her, extending not



only to her family and future children, but also to her community. Engaging the private sector and mobilizing its resources are key to scaling these approaches to as many girls and young women as possible.”

The project also highlights that over the next 25 years, Africa’s working-age population will double to one billion, exceeding that of China and India. However, the digital skills gap is widening. Coding provides skills that can put millions of young Africans on the path to successful careers, companies in Africa are struggling to hire enough qualified IT talents.

The Code Clubs are located in Dar es Salaam within the Temeke district where many girls have dropped out of school and the risk of teenage pregnancy is high. The girls and young woman aged 11 to 25 years learn how to build computers and learn to code. Older participants learn how to create their own websites using HTML, CSS & Java as well as gain skills for future employment and business.

The new Code Clubs in Tanzania will expand and complement Theirworld’s existing Code Clubs in Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria, contributing to a higher amount of women working in the area of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

#### Further Notes to Editors:

Code Clubs run once a week in nine month cycles. Girls will be taught a bespoke programme of online coding content by a trained teacher, and given access to numeracy, literacy, art and music to support their formal education. The Kano computer kits used in the clubs are low-cost, easily transportable, can be rebuilt multiple times and are highly applicable in countries where connectivity is low.

**About Theirworld:** Theirworld is a children’s charity that believes all children everywhere deserve the best start in life. We work for a future where all children are born safely, have a quality education and the chance to change the world. For more information go to [www.theirworld.org](http://www.theirworld.org)

**About BRAC Mandeleo Tanzania:** BRAC is a development organization dedicated to alleviating poverty by empowering the poor, operating across 11 countries. BRAC started its work in Tanzania in 2006 by adapting and implementing its comprehensive development models reaching approximately 2.64 million people, with programs in microfinance, small enterprises development, education, agriculture, poultry, livestock and empowerment and livelihood for adolescents.

**About Voith:** For 150 years, Voith’s technologies have been inspiring customers, business partners and employees around the world. Founded in 1867, Voith today has around 19,000 employees, sales of €4.3 billion and

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Page 2 of 3



locations in more than 60 countries worldwide and is thus one of the largest family-owned companies in Europe. Being a technology leader, Voith sets standards in the markets of energy, oil & gas, paper, raw materials and transport & automotive.

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Page 3 of 3

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