

Dated: 09.03.2009

Report on One Day Indo – German Seminar on “Piloting Urban Sustainability Projects” on March 03, 2009.

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Back-Ground: Hyderabad, the fifth largest metropolis of India is the capital of Andhra Pradesh, a state known for its rich history and culture. During recent years, Hyderabad emerged into one of leading tech-one cities. The agglomeration, whose population is expected to cross the ten million (mega-city) mark in the next few years, also gained its reputation as a centre for information technology and a hub for pharmaceutical & bio-technological industry of India.

In a global initiative to develop model sustainable mega-cities, the world-over, Government of Federal Republic of Germany and several universities of the country, together, identified Hyderabad as the one city in India for their research project. The Germans are in the process of identifying Indian Partners to support their effort. The Seminar on “Piloting Urban Sustainability Projects” is a platform for Indo-German exchange of views, highlighting the German objectives and Indian (ECM’s) strengths for handling the research project of Sustainable Hyderabad. The German Team comprised of two Govt. Officials from the Ministry of Education and Research and thirteen Professors / Research Scholars / Specialists, coordinated by Mr Ramesh Chennamaneni, NRI.

Inaugural Session: The German Govt. Officials, Dr Ehlers and Dr Andrea Koch Kraft and Prof Dr Hagedorn having been held up at ESCI, in an earlier programme, the Session was collectively inaugurated by the lighting of the Jyothi, by Sr Members of the German Team present. The three chief guests joined the Session, shortly there after.

At the outset, Wg. Cdr. V L Nandakumar (Retd), Chairman, ECM, welcomed the dignitaries on the dias and the delegates, German and Indian, off the dias. A special mention was also made of the student delegates from schools who attended the seminar. Er C V Rao, elucidated the objectives of the Seminar and briefly narrated the activities of ECM. The Chief Guests and Dr Reusswig of the German delegation spoke of their global activity and the specifics objectivised for Hyderabad. They hoped to discover the strengths of ECM for possible association in the Sustainable Hyderabad Research Project.

Presentations: Under the guidance of Dr M Pushpa of PEAS, School Students eloquently spoke on the practice of environmental awareness in schools and made a power-point presentation on disposal / recycling of E-Waste. An

impressive dance version of the preservation of Nature, presented by them received long applause from the audience, especially the Germans. Dr Pushpa elaborated the Programme for Environmental Awareness in Schools being organized by her, as a voluntary mission.

Brief presentations were made by ECM Members, viz. Er Venkatraman, Er P Sriramaraju, Er C V Rao and Er S K Verma respectively on Energy Saver's Clubs in colleges, solar cookers & hot water systems, water conservation and Energy Smart Model for Organisations. Besides, Dr Ansari of Engineers Without Borders and Dr Shalini Sharma of ESCI spoke on Making Fuel Briquettes from Waste and Clean Development Mechanism respectively. Members of the German Team repeatedly interacted with the Speakers, seeking clarity on various issues.

Er P N Rao, Convener, ECM, proposed cordial vote of thanks to the participants, in general and the German Team, in particular.

The German Govt. Officials and other Team Members took keen interest to watch the demonstration of cooking in Solar Cookers in the Sun. They also exhibited keen interest in the cycle generator, manual pedal generating device, LED-based miner's lamp and other innovative gadgets on display, including the smokeless stove.

The German Team appreciated the "IEI" neck-ties presented to them as mementos and continued their intense interaction even during the period of the closing item of Lunch. The seminar ended with mutual understanding of values and commitment to the cause.