



Second Indo-German Dialogue on Green Urban Practices: Education, learning, training and awareness for sustainable development

Where: Freiburg University (Herderbau), Freiburg, Germany

When: 8-10 November 2018

Funding and organisation by Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS), RWTH Aachen and IIT Madras, Chennai

in collaboration with Freiburg University, Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy, Umweltbundesamt (UBA – German Federal Environmental Agency) and

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Background and Context

The Indo-German Dialogue is conceived as a continuous series of an annual interaction of academics, civil society activists, government officials, and business/entrepreneurs where appropriate. Its key objective is to provide a platform of sharing and exchange of experiences of social urban innovative change in Europe/Germany and India in order to leverage action towards new transdisciplinary research and practice projects. We view this interaction as a cultural project to address the challenges of urbanization and sustainability from a broad perspective, which also includes rural-urban linkages and relationships.

This is the continuation and first iteration of the Indo-German Dialogue on Green Urban Practices, which was initiated in 2017. The first symposium, funded by the Heinrich Boell Foundation New Delhi, was held in March 2017 with more than 40 participants (practitioners and academics) from Germany and India who met in Chennai for three days. They shared and discussed their experiences about social innovation and change agents towards sustainable consumption and lifestyles. While this group comprised a variety of backgrounds, it turned out that many were engaged with working in the food and agricultural sector concerned with urban (organic) farming, e.g. urban gardening activism (Chennai, Freiburg), organic agriculture (Chennai, Delhi, Berlin area, Freiburg) and organic restaurant (Chennai). Also on the level of research, there were a lot of activities in the analysis of sustainable agriculture, land use, policy and education (Chennai, Bangalore, Pune, Freiburg, Kiel).

From its conception, the intention of this dialogue was moving beyond a 'talking shop' to create a network of people with the potential of envisaging collaboration in practical projects and/or transdisciplinary, practice-oriented research projects. This seed has been sown successfully by building new partnerships. Thus the IGCS in collaboration with Kiel University continues with research on urban farming in Chennai. Another group led by the Agronauten/Freiburg is currently developing a project proposal with the aim to facilitate a process re-localization of food supply chains and to reconnect producers and consumers of food in order to build sustainable rural-urban food systems. The core objective is to exchange ideas and tools between

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researchers and initiatives in South Asia (India, Sri Lanka) and Germany to develop actionable solutions in a participative manner.

Overarching Rationale and Concept of Dialogue Series

Social dimensions are increasingly recognised as necessary for a global transition to sustainability. Equally, cities and towns have assumed an important role in action addressing global climate change at the local level. The 21st century will be dominated by the urban phenomenon, as approximately two thirds of the population across the globe is expected to live in cities by 2050.

Clearly, sustainable consumption patterns cannot be achieved by innovations of technological nature alone. It is essential that social practices and routines are taken into account. Changes in lifestyle and consumption will also be needed to effect just or equitable transitions to sustainability globally. Lifestyle changes in turn necessitate a change in mindset (i.e. underlying values and worldviews) as well as shifts in social relations and the evolution of the built environment. Across the globe, innumerable grassroots initiatives and individuals pioneer novel lifestyles, consumption patterns and ways of living together. There is the need for a global perspective of these change agents. Yet, while such initiatives are crucial to drive transformation in Germany and India, there are not many points of interaction between them. Initiating this series of dialogues is an attempt to encourage that exchange and sharing in the global context.

This series of bi-country dialogues on sustainable practices is conceived as a learning journey. Applying the Collaboratory method as a workshop moderation technique during the first dialogue generated a highly interactive environment, which spurred many discussions and critical reflection. Beyond this, importantly, it actively facilitated the production of concrete project ideas to continue further collaboration between groups and participants beyond the meeting. Clues taken from the feedback of the previous participants suggest, especially time given to share and understand each others' perspectives and situations more in depth is a required prerequisite for durable and continuous interaction between diverse participants. For this reason, more extended time will be granted to these elements as well as adjusting the format of the dialogues to accommodate for this cross-cultural experience as the series continues.

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Overall objectives of the dialogue series:

- cross-cultural experience, knowledge transfer about mutual perspectives and fieldtrips/exposure visits
- this series of dialogues is underpinned by ongoing research of participants and the organisers (interviews, group discussions, mapping, participant observation at field trips, document & discourse analysis, citizen science elements for participation of practitioners in research process)
- research that comes out of the dialogue networking process and cumulates in collaborative proposals

Specifics of the Second Indo-German Dialogue

Rationale and thematic introduction

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Based on the experience and activities of participants/initiatives of the first dialogue and supplemented by a further review of activities carried out across academia and practice we identified “Education, Learning, Training and Awareness” as a crucial area. We propose this cross-cutting theme for this year’s dialogue to both continue and carry over from the first one. This will also open the door for new opportunities and participants to join us in this effort. Research about urban change agents in Bangalore and Chennai (Hackenbroch and Woiwode 2016) indicates that almost all the studied civil society actors undertake one or the other educational and awareness activity to spread the knowledge and support others to replicate their experience. This was also reflected in the participants of the 1st Dialogue who are either working with educational organisations or are setting up such activities, such as Ka Restaurant’s recently established Academy, [Swadharma learning programme in Auroville](#), Centre for Environment Education (CEE), urban gardening workshops and film making for awareness and many more.

These activities connect to global policy frameworks and campaigns such as the UNESCO’s decade 2005-2014 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the Global Agenda 2030 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Social transformations towards sustainable lifestyles will only succeed in practice when people reflect on and learn about the implications of their daily life activities, combined with widely communicating and spreading successful practices, skills, knowledge, values and behaviours. While the local conditions and context are essential dimensions that influence teaching and learning on the ground, transnational exchange with respect to local responses is an inevitable building block to generate global awareness and action. This importance is evident in Target 4.7 of SDG 4 on education that addresses ESD and related approaches such as Global Citizenship Education. Both Germany and India, have made efforts through national programmes.

Target groups and participants

The symposium seeks to bring together people from academia, grassroots activists and policy makers from Germany and India for a dialogue about the role and potentials that socially innovative individuals and citizens initiatives have in the sustainability transition of cities on the cross-cutting themes of education, learning, training and awareness.

Objectives of this dialogue

1. **good practices:** role of learning, awareness, trainings for changing patterns towards sustainable living and consumption especially in urban contexts
2. **knowledge sharing** about methods of and approaches to ESD (education for sustainable development)
3. potentially, **experiences of knowledge transfer** implemented in projects
4. explore **opportunities for collaborative projects** in ESD
5. explore and document **potential funding** sources

Expected outcome and output/deliverables

Outcome:

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A shared understanding between Indian and German participants of research and practice activities in the policy area of education, learning, teaching, training and awareness towards a sustainability transformation is generated.

Outputs:

- a workshop documentation/report is available
- specific project ideas are continued and/or new projects identified including task distribution to follow up
- a workplan and tentative time schedule of follow up activities is available
- the network of participants is strengthened and expanded with a basic way forward and structure
- the next Indo-German Dialogue on Green Urban Practices is planned

Description of Activities

Day 1

Morning:

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| I. | Introduction | Context, rationale of the dialogue series |
| II. | “Keynote” by Uni Freiburg & UBA (t.b.c.) | Sustainable consumption and lifestyles, and link to ESD (national and international perspective) |
| Afternoon | | |
| III. | Sharing and Listening Space | Max. 10 mins presentations by each participant (willing to present): any means such as poster, brochures, PPP, video, items, etc.; any format |
| | Academic intervention 1 (20mins + discussion/Q&A) | Dr. Milind Brahme (IIT Madras, confirmed) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in India |
| | | Continue with participants presentations |
| | Academic intervention 2 (30mins + discussion/Q&A) | Carry over from 1 st Dialogue: natural farming perspectives (India- Dr. Sujatha Byravan confirmed & Germany – Dr. des. Jenny Lay-Kumar, Uni Freiburg) |
| | Closing of day | |

Day 2

Morning:

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| I. | Threads and Themes Space | Two note takers from Freiburg University report about day one: identify major themes, |
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commonalities, issues (flipcharts and wallpapers)
Participants add on to these to build theme clusters

Afternoon

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| II. | Transdisciplinary Action Research Space | Group work on concrete projects. At least three/four parallel 'streams' |
| | STREAM 1 | Urban/organic farming (carry over from 1 st Dialogue) |
| | STREAM 2 | Theme of 2 nd Dialogue |
| | 'Open' STREAM 3 | Any other topic that may have come out of previous discussions |
| | 4 th STREAM | Theme and planning for 3 rd Dialogue in India: where, when, funding options |
| | Plenary | Results of research/action projects |
| | Get-together and dinner | |

Day 3

Field trips in Freiburg on urban social innovations to sustainability, e.g. community gardens (17 projects in Freiburg, many more in the surroundings,), Foodsharing/-saving, community-based agriculture and bee-keeping, start-up centers Grünhof & Lokhalle, waste free shop, organic restaurant, fab lab, repair cafés. The field trips will allow to build a bridge between a more academic discussion on education, learning and training and practical experiences, chances and challenges in the context of sustainable agri-food systems.

Location: City of Freiburg

The city of Freiburg is an excellent site for the Indo-German dialogue on urban green practices, as it has a pioneer role as a green city. Claiming to be one of the birthplaces of the environmental movement, the city began a sustainability process already in the 1970ies (<https://www.freiburg.de/pb/,Len/372840.html>). Freiburg's eco-modell district "Vauban", its enterprises and initiatives will be part of the field trips. Socio-civic activities have continued to play a crucial role as change agents being part of the „Local Agenda 21“ process. The city of Freiburg signed the Aalborg Commitments (2020 Land Use Plan, 2006) , as well as the associated sustainability targets set by the Freiburg Sustainability Council and adopted by the Municipal Council (2009). In 2011, the Sustainability Management was set up to systematically develop the ‚green profile‘ of the City of Freiburg for the future. A wealth of projects and the innumerable activities and initiatives that help to implement Freiburg's sustainability targets, attest to the city's comprehensive commitment to sustainable development. One vibrant activity in the field of sustainable agriculture and consumption is the annual "agri-culture festival", organised by the research association "Agronauten" (<http://www.agronauten.net>, <https://agrikulturfestival.de>). In addition, the city has

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developed a start-up-culture in the field of sustainable practices (e.g. “Lokhalle” in the new district Gare du Nord). In the last years, the ESD network “learning sustainability” has formed, creating synergies between different fields of sustainability learning (<http://www.leif-freiburg.de/ueber-leif/aktionsfelder/wirtschaft-technik-umwelt-wissenschaft/freiburger-netzwerk-nachhaltigkeit-lernen/>). Since 2015, “city of the future Freiburg 2030 – shaping the future together” is part of the federal community contest (phase I + II), currently preparing the application for becoming a real life-laboratory from 2019 on (phase III, zukunftsstadt.freiburg.de, Lay-Kumar 2018). Sustainable agri-food systems and education are at the core of the planned real-life-laboratory. The participants of the Indo-German dialogue will have the opportunity to interact with the most relevant stakeholders of the “city of the future 2030” project.

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