

[News & Events](#)

Post-Oil City: The History of the City's Future / Cyberabad – Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities for India's Emerging Urbanisms

Post-Oil City: The History of the City's Future /
Cyberabad – Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities for India's Emerging Urbanisms

Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad as part of "Germany and India 2011-2012: Infinite Opportunities", in collaboration with Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa), Vidyaranya High School, conducted a Public symposium on the occasion of the opening of two parallel exhibitions "Post Oil City: The History of the City's Future" and "Cyberabad – Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities for India's Emerging Urbanisms" at Vidyaranya High School, Saifabad, on Sunday 12th August, 2012 from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

The symposium was led by eminent panellist like Peter Gotsch, Susanne Kohte and Jyoti Hosagrahar with speakers and invited local experts. Central to this program was a focus on sustainable urbanization and the challenges that both the countries face with areas such as urban planning, public transportation, sustainability, education and urban culture. The program was moderated by Anh-Linh Ngo, Curator of Post Oil City. This project was one of the highlights of the year of Germany in India, titled "Germany and India 2011-2012: Infinite Opportunities".

The symposium had here come together with the aim of initiating a dialogue to stimulate a new type of urban planning, where the environmental sustainability of a city becomes the core value. With a truly international delegation of experts of the field, urban planners and architects, the ideas on urbanisation in the light of technology, sociology, environment and history have been discussed, and Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad has furthered its long-term effort in creating environmental awareness.

The public, consisting of architects, urban planners, professors, students and environmentalists amongst others, gathered at Vidyaranya High School. After sometime of networking, Mrs. Amita Desai, Executive Director of the Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad introduced the symposium. She said that it is with immense pleasure that we have this wonderful gathering of experts from many countries to brainstorm around themes that, as Hyderabad's, and as citizens of the world, are very close to our hearts". Late on the proceedings continued with a power point presentation by Mr. Anh-Linh Ngo, curator of the exhibition "Post Oil City". Mr. Gotsch, curator of the exhibition "Landscape of Surprise", followed with an equally interesting and inspiring talk.

The focus on the first panel discussion was "Culture" and was moderated by Ms. Chandana Chakraborty. The core reflection was on "Sustainable Urbanism International: Heritage, Culture and Environment" by Ms. Jyoti Hosagrahar. Later on a case study "A New Vernacular Pattern Language" was presented by Mr. Anh-Linh Ngo. It was an insightful discussion as the public gathered had a fruitful Q&A session with Ms. Jyoti Hosagrahar and Professor Jyotirmaya Sharma. This was followed by a quick coffee break and then followed by the next panel discussion.

The focus of the second panel discussion was "Climate" and was moderated by Dr. Nandini Rao. The core reflection was on "Beyond Climate Universalism: Tropical Architecture" by Susanne Kohte. Later on a case study "Climate Design: Masdar City" was presented by Peter Voit. This was followed by an interactive Q&A session with Susanne Kohte, Peter Voit and Local Expert: M. Anand, IGBC. Later on the guests were seen socialising over a sumptuous lunch.

The focus of the third panel discussion was "Infrastructure" and was moderated by Arch Shankar Narayan. The core reflection was on "Learning from Curitiba: Urban Acupuncture and Urban Transit" by Stefan Gruber. Later on a case study "Negotiating the right to the street – The Walkable Hyderabad Project" was presented by Tobias Kuttler. This was followed by an interactive Q&A session with Stefan Gruber, Tobias Kuttler and Ramakrishna Nallathiga. This was followed by a warm coffee break.

The focus of the final panel discussion was "Cyberabad – Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities for India's Emerging Urbanisms" and was moderated by Dr Sujata Patel. The core reflection was on "City-Regional Governance" by Ravi Anand. Later on a case study "Challenges of the Master Plan" was presented by Prof. Utpal Sharma. This was followed by an interactive Q&A session with Utpal Sharma, Ravi Anand and Martin Kohler. Finally, the last panel discussion was on "Cyberabad, India's emerging peripheries and the Post-Oil Challenge" and was moderated by Prof Jyotirmaya Sharma.

The public then went into the main hall of Vidyaranya where the exhibits were displayed. "Post Oil City" occupies the main part of the hall, while "Landscape of Surprise" is set up on the stage. A table and several benches invite people to linger around and consult writings about the themes treated in the exhibitions. The gathering continued to socialise with one another, sharing thoughts and ideas about the symposium during the get together.