

Focus on urbanisation and future cities

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 witnessed a cross-section of people converge at the school. The central focus was on sustainable urbanisation and the challenges that both the countries, India and Germany face with areas such as urban planning, public transportation, sustainability, education and urban culture.

Experts from various fields such as Peter Voit (Transsolar), Jyoti Hosagrahar, Founder-Director of Sustainable Urbanism International at Columbia University, New York City, Professor Utpal Sharma, Director at School of Planning CEPT Ahmedabad Stefan Gruber (Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna/Austria), Tobias Kuttler (Nexus), Anh Linh Ngo, Susanne Kohte, Peter Gotsch and various other urban experts from the public, private and university spheres shared their experiences and ideas for dialogue and exchange.

Issues such as climate change, migration, urban populations and planning of new cities was discussed. Urban populations in emerging economies will double in the coming 30-40 years. Fast



Visitors at the exhibition in the Vidyaranya School

growing peripheries become the key sites of contemporary urbanisation. What does this historically unique and enormous growth mean and how can it be geared towards more sustainable urban futures? Questions such as these were central to the discussion.

Prof Dr Peter Andreas Gotsch said, "In Europe some cities are shrinking but

the same cannot be said of countries in Asia. In China alone, hundreds of new cities are coming up. Planning is handling change. In Germany it is how one can organise change." He adds, "In the past, one could make a master plan for a twenty year period but today, we need to be flexible and be ready to make new ones in periodic intervals."