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Kick-off Workshop in Berlin

A kick-off workshop initiated by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) took place from 23.-25. November 2005 in Berlin. Three German institutions have launched programmes dealing with Megacities. The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) set up the largest programme "Research for the Sustainable Development of the Megacities of Tomorrow" where 16 projects in Latin America, Africa and Asia started a two year project development phase. The programme of the Helmholtz Association is called "Risk Habitat Megacity - Strategies for Sustainable Development in Megacities and Urban Agglomerations" in Latin America, primarily Santiago de Chile. The German Research Foundation (DFG) is planning to launch a priority programme next year called "Megacities - Megachallenge: Informal Dynamics of Global Change". The regional focus will be on Dhaka, Bangladesh and the Pearl River Delta (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong), China.

All projects started in the BMBF programme were presented. They are dealing with several aspects of sustainability, focussing on different sectors and the research will be highly interdisciplinary and collaborative – including researchers, city representatives, NGO's and other concerned stakeholders.

for further information see www.emerging-megacities.org

The second part of the workshop was oriented towards the work and methods of the German Development Corporation (GTZ). GTZ will be included in the BMBF programme as a consultant for both the project teams in their host countries, and as part of the BMBF, Berlin in the evaluation of the project proposal after a two-year project development phase.

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SHAKTI kick-off Workshop in Hyderabad

Organised by EIfER (the European Institute for Energy Research) and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), the international launch for the SHAKTI-project took place in Hyderabad, 12th of December 2005. Inaugurated by the Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, K. Ranga Rao, together with the Mayor of Hyderabad T. Krishna Reddy, the MCH Commissioner Sanjay Jaju as well as the German project manager Dr. Bärbel Schwaiger, some plenary presentations were made addressing the key issues for the future of Hyderabad.



This was followed by a two-day workshop with the theme “Understanding the Present – Envisioning the Future” with presentations, discussions and working sessions. Besides the 16 German researchers, experts from the city Government of Hyderabad, local Universities and NGO’s participated. While the German team got a better understanding about the situation, a session on “vision” pointed out issues to address for a sustainable Hyderabad. Local participants pointed out some of the main issues that need to be addressed in the future development of the city, such as: urban infrastructure, and social and environmental aspects, which fit perfectly in the framework of the SHAKTI project.

for further information see: www.shakti.uni-karlsruhe.de

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