Dear reader,

In May and June SEF and INEF address two important topics of international politics: External democracy promotion and global cooperation in the field of nuclear weapons. This issue of SEF/INEF News has a focus on sustainable urban development. Read more about this and our current events and publications in the following.

We wish you a fruitful reading!

Best regards,

Rebekka Hannes, SEF Marie-Luise Mußenbrock, INEF

HEADLINE TOPIC

: Green Cities – Cities of the Future

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More than half of the world’s population lives in cities. Correspondingly, a large portion of global resources is being used there. Cities already account for two thirds of the global energy and water consumption – a figure set to increase in the future. Especially in developing countries, demographic growth still mainly takes place in metropolitan areas as they still seem to promise a better life for many people. At the same time, diverse forms of pollution, like rising amounts of waste, wastewater and emission problems, are more noticeable there than anywhere else.

Not only in European cities, but also in many emerging and developing countries these problems have been ignored for a
long time. During the past years, however, a change of views has taken place, as shown for example by the Siemens Asian Green City Index. Cities increasingly perceive themselves as pioneers for sustainable development. This turns green cities, which make an efficient utilisation of resources possible in a confined space, into a role model for the future.

Especially in Asia the urban population continues to grow immensely and will increase by 60% by 2025 according to UN data. The Asian Development Bank estimates that Asian cities would need to build 20,000 new flats, 250 km of new roads and the infrastructure for the additional transport of six million litres of drinking water on a daily basis in order to retain the population growth. Therefore, savings made possible by modern technology and an economically friendly, sustainable development are of special importance. A decentralised and consumer-related generation of electricity with photovoltaic, wind power or biomass, for example, requires an uncomplicated infrastructure, reduces transmission losses and is often a cost-effective and sustainable alternative that directly yields savings to the citizens. In India, for example, currently 60 so called “Solar Cities” are being established. They commit themselves to reduce the consumption of fossil energy sources by 10% and obtain the title “Solar City” as well as a financial support by the government. Energy efficient construction methods or smart redevelopment measures can generate significant savings of electricity as well.

Smart water resource management is also an important part of sustainable urban development. On the one hand, extensive and uninterrupted clean water and sanitation services as a prerequisite for public health is still not provided in many cities in developing countries. On the other hand, also developed countries can benefit from integrated water resources management, the smart usage of waste water and energy efficient treatment plants. The city of Fukuoka in Japan, for example, has used treated waste water for the flushing of toilets and the irrigation of trees already since 1980.

Traffic is another main source for urban pollution. The environmental impacts and the noise level of the daily traffic density in large cities can be reduced by attractive, that is above all save and affordable, public transport, as well as pedestrian and bicycle paths. The eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou has taken over a simple model of many European cities: bike-sharing. 50,000 bicycles can be rented at budget-price at 2,000 service stations, which are located in close proximity to public transport. Electro mobility also plays an important role in many Asian cities.

These and other good examples as well as remaining challenges for “Green Cities” will be presented and discussed during the Development Policy Dialogue at the Asia-Pacific Weeks 2013. SEF will conduct the Development Policy Dialogue together with the State Office for Development Cooperation (LEZ) at the Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Research Berlin and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) from 10th to 12th June 2013 in Berlin. Under the title “Cities in Transformation – Pioneers for Sustainable Development” the conference will focus on forward-looking strategies for sustainable urban development in the Asia-Pacific region as well as the role of the German development cooperation (see forthcoming events).
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

• 4th Käte Hamburger Lecture with Prof. Jan Aart Scholte
  World Financial Crisis and Civil Society: Implications for Global Democracy

  5th June 2013 in Duisburg

  At the 4th Käte Hamburger Lecture, Prof. Jan Aart Scholte, until recently Senior Fellow at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21), will analyse the current operations of the financial markets. These raise profound questions about social inequality, ecological integrity, and declining democracy. Despite these challenges, and even after the magnitude of the latest world crisis, civil society engagement with financial markets and their regulation has been rather small. How can this outcome be explained, and what can be done about it? Peter Wahl, expert on the regulation of the international Financial System and Chair of the Executive Committee of World Economy, Ecology and Development (WEED), Berlin, will comment on the lecture: find out more

• Development Policy Dialogue at the Asia-Pacific Weeks
  Cities in Transformation – Pioneers for Sustainable Development

  10th-12th June 2013 in Berlin

  From 10th to 12th June 2013 SEF, the State Office for Development Cooperation (LEZ) at the Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Research Berlin and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) will conduct the Development Policy Dialogue at the Asia-Pacific Weeks in Berlin. Special emphasis will be put on collaborative urban governance approaches with regard to an environmentally friendly and energy efficient development, especially in the domains of mobility and water management as well as in the creation of affordable housing: find out more

• 5th Käte Hamburger Lecture with Prof. Ramesh Thakur
  Global Governance and the State of Nuclear Weapons

  12th June 2013 in Berlin

  In cooperation with SEF, the Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21) organises the 5th Käte Hamburger Lecture on 12th June 2013 in Berlin. Addressing the topic „Global Governance and the State of Nuclear Weapons“, the lecture will be held by Professor Ramesh Thakur, Director of the Centre for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy of the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. Ambassador Rolf Nikel, Commissioner of the Federal Government for Arms Control and Disarmament, and Uta Zapf, Member of the German Bundestag and Chairwoman of the Sub-Committee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, will comment on the lecture: find out more
KHK-Workshop in cooperation with INEF
India's Role in Global Cooperation: Curbing or Shaping World Politics?

11th June in 2013 Duisburg

India is an emerging power and the government's aspirations in global politics have steadily been growing in recent years. The economy has experienced impressive growth, but India's political, social and economic development has neither been coherent nor smooth. Millions of Indians still suffer from inequalities and poverty. The Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21) and INEF take Prof. Ramesh Thakur's visit as an inducement to invite a selected group of specialists to look at India's new global role. Herbert Wulf, Senior Expert Fellow at KHK/GCR21 and Adjunct Senior Researcher at INEF, who recently published the INEF-Report "India's Aspirations in Global Politics", will, among others, participate as a panellist at the workshop. : find out more

6th Käte Hamburger Lecture with Prof. Bob Jessop
Beyond the Regulation Approach: Rethinking State Power and Governance in a World of Complexity

27th June 2013 in Duisburg

All good things come in threes: The 6th Käte Hamburger Lecture and, therewith, the final lecture of the trio in June, will be held by Prof. Bob Jessop, Distinguished Professor for Sociology at Lancaster University under the title “Beyond the Regulation Approach: Rethinking State Power and Governance in a World of Complexity”. Some keywords of the lecture will be the Post-Westphalian Paradigm Shift, Power Sharing and Global Governance. : find out more

PAST EVENTS

Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2013
Conference Report Online

26th-27th April 2013 in Potsdam

On 26th and 27th April, this year’s Potsdam Spring Dialogues took place. Under the title “Fostering Energy Access in Africa. Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Integration” around 70 international participants discussed strategies and measures for an improved access to energy in sub-Saharan Africa. The recently published conference report sums up the most important results of the conference. : find out more
32nd Forum on Global Issues
Conference Report Online

7th May 2013 in Berlin

The Federal Foreign Office in cooperation with SEF and INEF hosted the 32nd Forum on Global Issues on the topic “Success Factors and Pitfalls of External Democracy Promotion”. The conference inquired after current challenges of external democracy promotion, especially after the role of constitutional processes in young democracies as well as chances and risks before elections in transition countries. A special focus was put on the recent upheavals in the Arab world. The recently published conference report sums up the most important results of the conference. : find out more

PUBLICATIONS

Global Governance Spotlight 2|2013
Still a Bumpy Road. The Multiple Challenges of External Democracy Promotion

After the triumph of democracy as a political system in the 1990s, many western countries expanded their work in the area of democracy promotion. They sought to help new democracies to institutionalise and consolidate their systems, as well as to encourage remaining authoritarian regimes to liberalise politically and make a transition to democracy. Dr. Stephen Brown, Associate Professor for Political Science at the University of Ottawa and Senior Fellow at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21) analyses why external democracy promotion has slowed down in the past years and shows how it can be made more effective in the future. : find out more

Global Governance Spotlight 3|2013
The Arms Trade Treaty: Is the glass half full or half empty?

After several false starts, the text of a global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 April 2013. Professor Herbert Wulf, Senior Expert Fellow at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21) and former Director of Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC) analyses what obstacles stand in the way to an effective implementation and gives recommendations to the German government. : find out more
The working paper deals with the process of decentralisation in Tajikistan, including all its contradictions. This process, despite intensive international support and a statement of commitment by the government, which was in fact issued years ago, is only progressing slowly. In this context Prof. Dr. Frank Bliss analyses the collective and individual opportunities for involvement of the population on local processes of decision-making with regard to the organisation of society in Tajikistan. : find out more