

Together for urban development

Joint working of State, voluntary sections urged

Staff Reporter

TIRUPATI: Is it possible for governmental and non-governmental institutions to work in tandem to establish a sustainable urban development model aimed at making a city clean and green?

Yes, say the thirty young researchers and professionals who are part of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) Summer School currently being conducted in India.

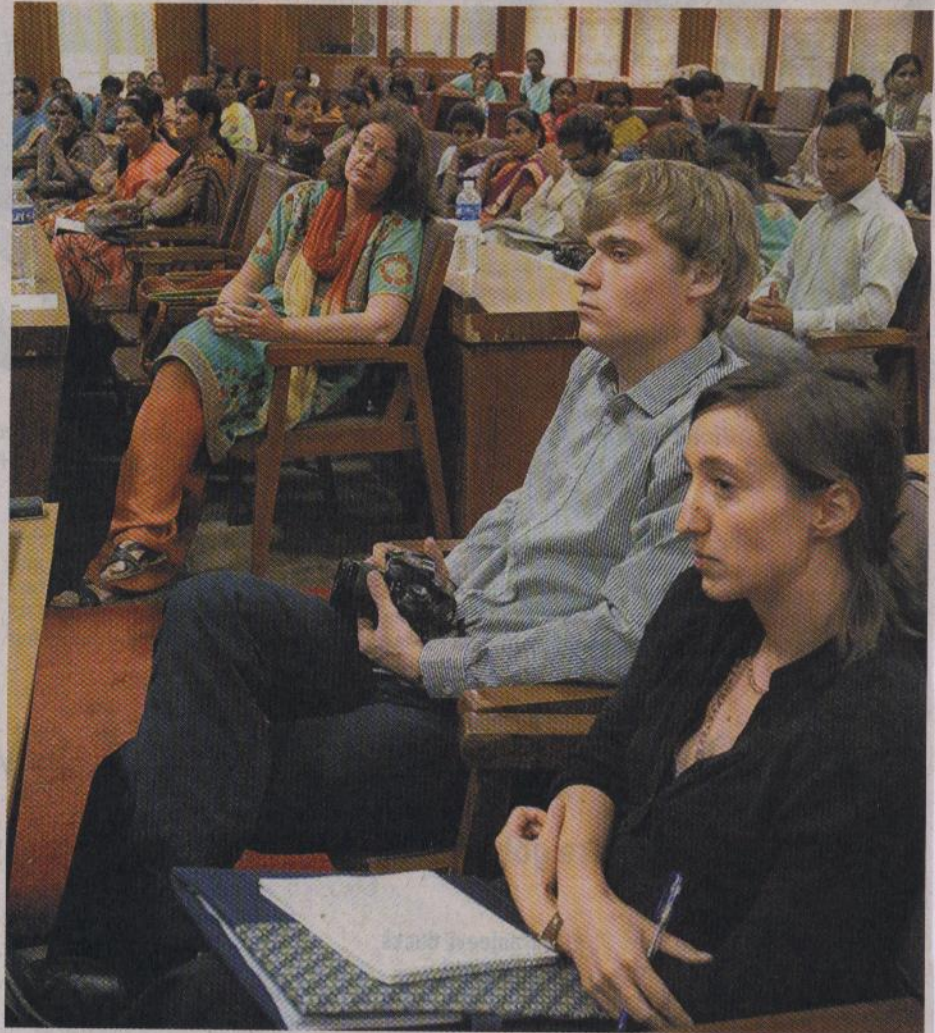
As part of the week-long programme conducted with an aim to fill the gap between the ideal system of sustainable development and the one currently in vogue, an interactive learning dialogue for Ph.D. students and young professionals was organised at Sri Venkateswara University's Senate Hall in association with SVU College of Engineering, where consensus emerged on the need to enhance cohesion between the working of State and voluntary sections for better administration of a city.

The first two weeks of study was conducted in Hyderabad under the head 'Sustainable innovations in India', while a study in the third week was conducted in Tirupati.

The concluding session to be held at New Delhi next week will have a similar itinerary, where the inputs gathered thus far will be collated.

The concept of action research was introduced by studying the different projects in the field of urban sustainability in Tirupati.

The holistic approach in water management, waste recycling and transport was studied in detail and the results presented to the various



ALL EARS: Participants at the interactive programme organised as part of German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) Summer School in Tirupati.

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stakeholders such as municipal corporation, Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA), GTZ, SVU Centre for Environment Education and also Indian Tobacco Company (ITC), which has taken up a major waste buy-back project.

Regina Schonenberg, director of the summer school, P. Mohan Reddy, Civic Commissioner and S.A.Rahim of PEN India, a voluntary organisation, and other speakers concluded that a continuous dialogue among stakeholders was essential for the success-

ful joint implementation of urban policies.

They also envisaged a greater role for the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), the temple administration having the will and wherewithal to make the city self-sustainable.