

## Sustainable Habitats in India - Call for Participation - 05– 23 April, 2010



*Are you interested in sustainable development and international cooperation?*

*Do you want to get an insight on the issues of sustainable urban habitats within an international academic framework?*

*Would you like to acquire new learning methods and to change perspectives?*



### Background and Description

The German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in cooperation with the School of Habitat Studies of the Tata Institute of Social Science are inviting PhD-students, junior researchers and junior professionals and experts from any disciplinary background working on the outlined topics to participate in a 3-week long Summer School on **Sustainable Habitats in India** from **April 5<sup>th</sup> to April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010** in Mumbai. After a fruitful and successful first Summer School in India in May 2009, in 2010 the issue of exploring the emergence and consolidation of shanty towns and cities will be addressed within the context of sustainable livelihoods in new and old shanty towns in Mumbai.

Through its new learning approach, the GTZ-DAAD-Summer School 'Sustainable Habitats in India' aims to introduce participants from all over India and Germany to the concept of sustainable development, its approach and possible implementation in the habitat context. "Sustainable Habitats in India" is part of the UN-Decade 'Education for Sustainable Development' (ESD)-project, and inspired by "Between Lecture Hall & Project Works", GTZ-Berlin. This Summer School in India will be the sixth within this framework after Vietnam, Egypt, Brazil, Peru and India and will focus on strengthening sustainable links between researchers, civil society, businesspeople, policy makers and development practitioners as well as strengthening the scientific and institutional exchange between the involved parties from India and Germany.

By introducing new teaching and educational methods based on peer-and action-learning and inter-disciplinary training for participants with different cultural and technical backgrounds, the Summer School meets the requirements of the current labor market and responds to India's needs for creative and decisive intellectuals, future decision-makers and representatives of their country within the increasingly international governance-framework.

The three-week program will introduce participants to the following thematic areas:

- Livelihoods, Housing and Infrastructure

- Planning and Governance
- Sustainability of Urban Habitats

### **Structure of the GTZ-DAAD-Summer School**

The duration of the Summer School will be from April 5<sup>th</sup> to April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 and will take place at the TISS School of Habitat Studies in Mumbai:

First week: In the first week, the political framework, state-of-the-art methods, peer-learning techniques will be presented to the participants. In the end of the week group work at different research sites will be initiated in the form of action research.

Second week: Participants will continue to carry out action research tasks in new and old shantytowns in Mumbai and by mid-week start to discuss the results with experts from the different fields and perspectives.

Third week: During the third and final week, further learning-dialogues, amongst others with leading German scientists will conclude in the presentation of the results in a public symposium on the last day.

### **Objective**

The Summer School aims to contribute towards sustainable development in India through bridging the communication gap within research and its implementation at policy level. Through improved communication and networking the mutual benefits could be achieved at different levels with relatively small efforts.

The Summer School intends to introduce to PhD-students, junior researchers and junior experts and professionals that whatever subject they study and whatever field they work in, their activities are a contribution to the overall sustainable development of their country and its society and to highlight that in the process of globalization, everybody's life and activities are bound to, and influenced by, international processes.

### **Some objectives and challenges for Sustainable Habitats in India**

- To understand the slum-dwellers' perspective of their life world in different situations.
- To understand the relationship that informal settlements have with the city along the themes pertaining to sustainable habitats.
- To explore possibilities of new questions and knowledge generation through the interface of local and international (north-south, south-south) experiences.
- To possibly elaborate a proposal/framework for further international and national research and development activities in the end of the summer school.

### **Methodology**

In order to achieve such ambitious goals in a short period of time, all available knowledge in the learning environment would be utilized. Thus all participants would be experts for sharing their experiences and skills in order to contribute to the success of the learning process.

Blended learning: To arrive well prepared at the phase of attendance, work is going to start some weeks before on a virtual learning platform where the participants meet and come to know each other. Peer learning: In Mumbai the participants, all with interesting and relevant backgrounds, will meet each other personally. The learning methodology guarantees that all the participants will contribute their knowledge and experiences towards the construction of a new knowledge base, which will be complemented by the inputs of Indian and German experts from various academic backgrounds as well as through work experience in different subjects.

## **Partnerships**

The GTZ-DAAD-Summer School “**Sustainable Habitats in India**” is being prepared and organized in close cooperation with the TISS School of Habitat Studies in Mumbai, TERI, CEPT and other institutions in India, the Habitat-Unit of the Technical University Berlin, Institute for Megacity-research at the University of Cologne, the Sociology Department of the University of Magdeburg, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and GTZ-India.

## **Application Process**

The application process is open for PhD-students, junior researchers and junior professionals and experts working on the outlined topics. The maximum age for participation is 40 years. Please email the filled in application form together with the essay to: [sustainable-india@gtz.de](mailto:sustainable-india@gtz.de). The application deadline is **28th of February 2010**. The applications will be evaluated by a multi-institutional selection committee and selected candidates will be informed by **12th** of March 2010. After the selection process, an interactive preparatory process will be followed through a blended learning methodology on our virtual collaboration platform: <http://sustainable-india.ning.com/>

## **Application Form**

To apply for the GTZ-DAAD Summer School '*Sustainable Habitats in India*', please email the information requested below to: [sustainable-india@gtz.de](mailto:sustainable-india@gtz.de).

### **1. Personal Dates**

- Name:
- Date of Birth:
- Email:
- Phone:
- University, Institute/Institution, Organisation, Firm:
- School, Area of Research, Department:
- Area of major Interest:
- Two professional references (not related to you):

### **2. Comprehensive CV**

### **3. Essays**

- Maximum 400 words on one of the major topics of the summer school: Urban Governance, Urban Sustainability, Green Public Building, Sustainable Livelihoods
- Your motivation to participate in the Summer School

**Last date of application is 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2010.**