

Delhi, 12. Dezember 2004

**18<sup>th</sup> Wilhelm von Pochhammer Memorial Lecture**

**Cooperation and Networking for Sustainable Development**

**The Role of Local international Cooperation after the UN-Earth-Summits from Rio ('92) and Johannesburg ('02) based on 25 years of City Solidarity between Bremen and Pune**

Excellencies, distinguished Guests, Dear friends,

First of all I want to thank you Ambassador Lambah for the honouring invitation to the Lord Mayor of Bremen Dr. Henning Scherf and myself to deliver the von Pochhammer Memorial Speech. Dr. Scherf regrets very much to be unable today to share this evening with us. Despite his strong desire to stick to his original acceptance of your kind invitation, he has to chair the mediation committee of the German Bundestag and Bundesrat our two houses in the legislation process.

Last week we discussed the content of this Memorial Speech and he has asked me to convey his good wishes for this function and his warm regards and that we both share the content of this speech fully.

The fact that I have the honour of speaking to you today is no doubt due to Wilhelm von Pochhammer's special relationship to Bremen. I would be carrying cows to Newcastle to speak to this audience about Wilhelm von Pochhammer's outstanding personality. I would nevertheless like to say a few words about the special circumstances linking Wilhelm von Pochhammer, Bremen and India.

As early as 1947, following his release from internment by the English, Wilhelm von Pochhammer turned to Bremen, his sister's city of residence.

Due to the fact that Germany had no Foreign Service at the time, the diplomat was requested to support the development of a "Standing Secretariate of Emigration" – later the Federal Emigration Office. Here the framework conditions for the emigration of Germans to overseas countries were laid down, conditions which were of special interest to Bremen as an emigration port. Until 1951, von Pochhammer represented the agency at numerous conferences and negotiations, for example at the OECD in Paris. He also participated in the establishment of the Carl Schurz Society, the Ibero-America Association and the East Asian Association in Bremen.

Following the reinstatement of the Foreign Office, he served there for several years, returning to Bremen after his retirement in 1957.

Von Pochhammer then became very active in a publicistic and consulting capacity, focusing primarily on the campaign for gaining understanding of India. These activities led to his founding of the German-Indian Society, which held its meetings and public events in the Bremen Übersee Museum, where an ethnological perspective on the India of the past and present is still conveyed to visitors today.

There is no doubt about the fact that von Pochhammer played a major role in the lively developments that took place in the relations between India and Bremen in the 1950s and '60s.

The Bremen-India relations attained an entirely new level of eminence in the second half of the 1970s, when the first development projects were undertaken with Indian partners and the Bremen State Office for Development Cooperation was founded 1979.

The City Solidarity Forum between Pune and Bremen was founded 1980 in both cities where NGOs working jointly for better understanding and deepening of friendship and knowledge between the citizens of both countries. Poverty alleviation was the starting point of terre des homes 1976, an NGO concentrating on children and woman-projects in Pune. I'm proud to say that the traditional prejudices in particular in Germany about India have broadly vanished in Bremen and regular India weeks, India Seminars and systematic dialog between the different cultures living peacefully together in Bremen enjoy the active participation also of the Indian community. Durga Puja and Divali are since long well known and appreciated cultural contributions enriching Bremen's multi cultural experiences.

We all remember with great pleasure the cultural festival of India in Germany 1992 and Germanys cultural presentation 10 years later in India. I'm happy to say that the City Solidarity Forum Bremen Pune was invited to contribute to this nation wide festivals quite intensively. When the preparations for Indias festival in Germany started in the end 80<sup>th</sup> the world was still divided into east and west and so called 3<sup>rd</sup> World, Globalisation, Agenda 21 and the common goal of sustainable development where unknown words 15 years ago.

The 9<sup>th</sup> of November is the most meaningful date in German history for the worst but also the most lucky developments. In the year 1989 the Berlin Wall was opened and the east west tensions and blocks ended. A rapid development towards globalisation of economics and information exchange accompanied by IT developed power beyond democratic influence.

UN's reaction where 6 Earth Summits starting already 1990 and ending in 1996 with the Summit of the Heads of the States dealing with rapid urbanisation in the Conference in Istanbul. The most important summit was held in Rio de Janeiro 1992 on environment and development followed 10 years later in Jo'burg South Africa as the first world summit on sustainable development. First time in UN's history the important role of joint action by local authorities and NGO's gained politically respect and high priority due to the simple fact that sustainable development can't be achieved without participating people. The local level is closest to the people and national governments accepted in all this earth summits in the 90<sup>th</sup> the important role of people able to contribute to sustainable development by joint actions of local authorities and the main stakeholders in democratic societies.

They were defined already in 1992 in Rio in the Agenda 21 as business, NGOs, Woman, Youth, Local Authorities and Academia. Today they are internationally called ~~today~~ as civil society.

India was the first country in the world promoting systematically the implementation of the world summit results on sustainable development in August/September 2002 in Jo'burg. First step: Capacity building and networking at local level for sustainable development in various stakeholder preparatory workshops in different parts of India. Efforts for interlinking Indias cities have started with full support rendered by Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad since 1997. The credit goes to the former mayor of Pune Mrs. Vandana Chavan and the then commissioner Ramanath Jha, who is now guiding the urban management program in Delhi as a dedicated and efficient partner of Towns & Development an Bremen.

Sustainable Development is a process of achieving a balance between economy, ecology and social justices nationally and internationally since the east-west conflict between the super powers ended and a rapid globalisation of economic and communication systems started.

First time in history of the United Nations municipalities of all sizes were asked to contribute towards sustainability and governments agreed to promote this potential for development so far untapped. The local level is not understood as the alternative for government activities but as a valid addition in particular to integrate the people into the course of change.

10 years later in Jo'burg global research by ECOSOC and ICLEI documented more than 10.000 cities and municipalities all over the world having adopted a program for Local Agenda 21. More than 700 Mayors in Jo'burg and 22 regional governments adopted strategies for sustainable development at all levels. Compared to the big number of small, medium and big municipalities, 10.000 communities seems still a small figure after 10 years but this number for me is important enough to expect a constant and growing mushrooming process of international and national networking which can be understood as a globalisation process from below. I'm happy to note that Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad and Bremen have set up the first International Office Agenda 21 five years ago to promote between our countries this capacity building process at local level which includes a new type of development education between equals. There are no longer developed and underdeveloped countries but differently wrongly developed countries harming the future perspectives either by exaggerated resource and energy use and as a result by poverty driven environment and peace destruction. Only jointly we will find answers between north and south and Towns & Developments label since its beginning 1985 with the first European congress remains valid: "From Charity to Justice joint action between local authorities and civil society."

The International Office Agenda 21 was jointly founded by Pune, Bremen and Pimpri Chinchwad. A rare piece of mutual convictions that sustainable development can't be achieved without international cooperation and participation. Let's take the case of land use in our cities which belongs to the most difficult decisions in town. How to balance economic demands, recourse management and social justice? Well organized economic structures on the one side and a grass route movement paying attention to environment protection and the interests of future generations require a high sensitivity for decision makers which will only succeed in a very transparent and responsible way. Rapid urbanisations add quite often time pressure ruining the peoples trust. Using existing building space in town is quite often more difficult than simply allowing new buildings on near by green land or hills. In the Bremen Agenda 21 process this questions have always plaid a very dominant role.

In December 2003 the three cities signed a new MoU shaping the work program up to 2006 in more details. New elements for Cooperation such as improving public transport systems, improving drinking water quality and liquid and solid waste management including recycling and resource management.

Some hospitals from Pune and Bremen have started working together 4 years ago to improve management skills and upgrade the abilities of nurses and doctors. The work for and with handicapped children and adults in particular by exchanging experiences with sheltered workshop concepts and the cooperation with business community and legal aspects have partly improved the situation for handicaps in this two Indian partner cities. Mercedes in Pune and Bremen place orders in sheltered workshops to strengthen economic autonomy.

Actually foundation-stones will be layed in Pune next week for decentralized waste water management systems in suburbs of this expanding city where most of the people have no access to proper sewage treatment facilities. Bremen has supported this new technology developed by Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA) which was implemented in the last years successfully in China/Indonesia. Now transferred first to South India where BORDA's office is based and since two years after the last DEWATS conference held in Pune in March 2003 to Pune

The Universities of Pune and Bremen as well as the two chambers of commerce have signed MoU's already in the mid' 80<sup>th</sup> and have worked since on joint projects together. Bremen's chamber of commerce took the initiative in October 2004 to start with an India business round table in Bremen.

The backbone of Bremen – Pune cooperation are certainly civil society structures enjoying the full support of both the local governments. Bremen financially contributes since 1980 for the work of about 12 non governmental organisations in Pune improving the living conditions in slums and villages with the main focus on women and children activities including education programs for sustainable development. For all India projects and programs Bremen disburses annually about one Lakh Euros and stimulates a potential for the development cash and in kind which is certainly several times higher. We are fully aware that this amount is far to little compared to the crying needs of about 50% of Pune's citizens living in circumstances beyond human dignity. Politically this amount for Bremen tax payers is considerable and requires a lot of conviction and ongoing political discussions in our State Parliament and government. This discussions are valid for our own debates about sustainable development and a fair sharing between poor and rich countries.

More details you will find in our actual brochure describing the cooperation between partners from India and Bremen in the last 25 years including the MoU I mentioned.

Why is it necessary to emphasize the role of the local and regional level stronger then ever? The world is confronted with rapid urbanisation and 2005 more than 50% of the world's population live in more than 580000 cities. Although they cover only 2% of the planets surface, they use 75% of the worlds natural and energy resources. More than 1 Billion people live below the poverty line and 20% of the world's population command over 80% of the worlds richness.

The relationship between richness and poverty combined with the growing urbanisation processes are today's biggest challenges and unsolved the fertile ground for violence, destruction and even terrorism. Religious fundamentalism must be understood in the context of economic neo liberalism with its tendency of fundamentalism of the industrialised countries since WTO negotiations in Seattle, Geneva and Doha. The Cancun round ended without results and the North noticed with irritation Brazils and Indias mutual leading role. There is a growing mass movements against economic globalisation which seeks political attention and transparency. "Another world is possible" calls for participation of the people as a globalisation process form below, last in Mumbai January 2004. Several conferences in Europe with thousands of official local participants where headlined with the question: Globalisation without municipalities?

I will mention some good examples from Europe and Germany which might be of interest for this audience:

- The Council of Europe invited the 44 member states in November 2002 for the first global education conference and representatives from parliaments, governments, local authorities and NGO's worked on the first European Global Education charter to adopt sustainable development as a concept in our democratic societies and education structures from schools to universities. The Council has brought this Maastricht declaration to the attention of all continents meanwhile.
- The UN General Assembly has launched the UN-Decade for education for sustainable development starting 2005 up to 2014. Next week I'm attending a round table in Pune to exchange the state of the art of preparations for this important UN-Initiative headed by UNESCO and consider fields of joint activities between India and Germany. The national committee and a round table for the UN Decade was formed and started working in November 2004.
- The German Government, the Governments of the Federal States, the Associations of cities and the networks of NGO's have developed the Service Centre for communities in the One World based in Bonn to support German municipalities in their Agenda 21 activities as far as quantity and quality is concerned. An important impetus is laid on municipal international cooperation. Towns & Development is part of this structure.
- In January 2003 Bremen has invited for the first European Workshop to Brussels to promote best cases and regional networking throughout Europe also as an important bridge between central governments and local authorities. Several states in Germany have adopted policies to strengthen the local level with personal and project funding. This structure building is a very valid contribution also for development education and a better understanding of globalisation processes. Personal involvement in global challenges at local level is an excellent opportunity to overcome feelings of unconsciousness. Germany has about 14.000 municipalities and more than 2500 are actively involved in Local Agenda 21 processes. The Service Centre in Bonn has ambitious targets to increase this number and improve the quality at local level.

10 years after Rio the results in Jo'burg were more than modest. The remaining one superpower blocked nearly all concrete targets in particular the share of renewable energy up to 2015, the withdrawal from the Kyoto climate protocol and similar agreements.

Nevertheless the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder invited during the Jo'burg world summit the governments and main stakeholders from all countries in the world wanting to improve and promote renewable energies. This conference was held in June 2004 in Bonn and more than 6000 participants made it a roaring success and even a turning point in world energy policies.

Municipal leaders organized parallel the local renewables'04 and I like to draw your attention to the Mayors document from Bonn "Local governments renewables declaration"

The German government has decided to promote city networks wanting to implement this declaration through concrete action and international cities networks.

The forthcoming year 2005 will be of outstanding importance for the future development in the relationship between poor and rich countries. The first evaluation 5 years after launching the Millennium Development Goals will take place in New York and the G 8 Summit in Great Britain will support the MDG's as well as the targets of the Monterey consensus. Financing of development will be given highest priority during the G 8 Summit.

The 16 Chief Ministers of the 16 States in the Federal Republic of Germany had adopted in June 2004 a motion to support the MDGs also on State and local level despite their enormous budget problems Germany is confronted with since it's unification.

Steering the globalisation process requires understanding, listening, exchange and the integration of people in this process at all levels.

You have provided this opportunity this evening to me and I want to thank you for your attention and I look forward for a continued dialog in the spirit of Wilhelm von Pochhammer lifelong efforts for friendship and cooperation between India and Germany.

I thank you.