



Press Note

Kick-Off Workshop for the Pilot Project

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

at

**Saraswatha Academy Trust High School
18-7-851, Gowlipura, Hyderabad 500 053, India**

**Saturday, 15 October, 2011
14:00 – 18:00 pm**

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The consortium of the Sustainable Hyderabad Project, which is funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and led by Humboldt University, Berlin, is conducting a workshop together with NO2CO2, Bangalore on the topic of “Education for Sustainable Lifestyle” in Hyderabad on Saturday, 15th October, 2011.

The workshop aims to introduce a new concept that addresses education for sustainable lifestyle in different schools in Hyderabad. It is widely accepted that a good (school) education is a key prerequisite of successful development, and India’s track record in globally competitive branches such as IT is clearly a result of its investment in (higher) education. This also holds when it comes to sustainable development. Energy intensive, wasteful or otherwise environmentally problematic lifestyles are a result of a wrong adaptation to these development induced changes. Re-programming modern lifestyles so that they can be sustained for generations without harming the environment and future generations can thus only materialize as a collective learning process, leading to institutional changes and a re-adjustment of individual attitudes and behavior. Schools are a good place to learn sustainably, and to learn about sustainability.

The objective of the project is to move away from the common concept of imparting schoolbook knowledge, and instead focus on the lifestyles and everyday experiences and interests of the students. It intends to move away from isolated curricula and use an integrated, holistic approach to sustainability in the urban context of Hyderabad. It aims to also move away from a one-directional educational communication towards interactive communication between students and teachers/experts. By and large, the project envisages to make use of new, more playful forms of knowledge transfer and engagement.

The project will start with the workshop held at Saraswatha Academy Trust High School 18-7-851, Gowlipura, Hyderabad. The pilot phase of the project will then start immediately afterwards, and end in September 2012 with a final project workshop. During this year the concept will be tested and adapted and will be applied in other schools in Hyderabad and elsewhere in India in a later stage.