

bleibt. In der ersten Jahreshälfte 1998 sollen einige der Konferenzvorträge in einer Sondernummer der Zeitschrift *Pacific Review* veröffentlicht werden.

Christiane Wohl

European-Japanese Summer School on "Ecology and Economy - Strategies for Sustainable Development"

Wittenberg, 4.-17. August 1997

The idea of offering Japanese and European students a chance to meet in an ecological summer school was stimulated by requirements from both environmental education and cultural and science policies. From the viewpoint of environmental education it makes sense because Japan as well as some European countries range at the top of environmental efforts and success with a strong capacity for environmental innovation. Bringing together students from these countries offers a chance to learn by comparing and inquiring reasons for differences.

As for cultural policies, bringing together Japanese and European students means involving two regions of the world which are expected to co-operate intensively, but are in reality far from a satisfactory degree of exchange in economy, culture, and science. There are far less Japanese studying in Europe than in the United States. Inviting Japanese and European students from various disciplines to study together offers the chance to build bridges; bridges across language barriers, across barriers of different academic socialisation and across different cultural backgrounds and learning cultures, while enhancing knowledge of other countries and encouraging mobility.

In order to make full use of these chances, a summer school was chosen as the only form of teaching that allows to combine intensive environmental learning with social learning. The "Summer School on Ecology and Economy - Strategies for Sustainable Development" took place between August 4th and 17th at Wittenberg. It was organised by the Seminar for Japanese Studies of Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, the Japanese-German Centre Berlin as well as the European Japanese Experts Association, and headed by Professor Gesine Foljanty-Jost, director of the Seminar and chairwoman of the Association. The Summer School was supported by the European Commission, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the German Federal Foundation for the Environment (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt). Its aim was to join students from different cultures and disciplines to study and work together on global and local environmental problems and possible solutions.

The programme intended to provide students with an intensive course in "sustainable development". For the recruitment of participants networks of environmentalists, of European-Japanese co-operation and of scientific partnerships between European and Japanese universities were activated. Students applied on their own or were recommended by their academic tutors. In the end, thirty participants were enrolled: eleven of them Japanese or from Japan, twelve from Germany and seven from EU countries. They represented disciplines such as physics, eco-

nomics, political sciences, medicine, and geology. Almost half of them had attended lectures on environmental issues at their home universities before, or even planned to specialise on environmental issues in their major subjects. The others were "beginners" motivated by the idea of European-Japanese student exchange and the chance to experience co-operative learning, combined with a strong interest in the field of ecology and related issues.

Programme-planning reflected the rather heterogeneous mixture of students. The first week was dedicated to two goals; one was the creation of a common frame of reference. Experts from various disciplines and countries were invited to give introductory lectures on basic issues like eco-systems, ecological modernisation and others. The second task was to form students' project teams. The teams were arranged according to participants' interests such as water, waste, and energy, and were each guided by a tutor.

Lectures

On the very first day interest focused on the Asian-Pacific region, particularly on Japan and China. This was partly due to the number of Japanese students, but even more so to the lecture of Takeuchi Tsuneo from the Environment Agency of Japan. He pointed out that this region will be decisive for global environmental problems like the greenhouse effect, deforestation, and urbanisation, due to its 3.1 billion people and its enormous growth rates.

The different backgrounds and academic fields of the speakers also led to different descriptions of environmental problems. Economists like Kawakami Tsuyoshi or Niizawa Hidenori (both from Japan) were most concerned with the cost-effectiveness of environmental policy, whereas ecologists like Ota Michitaka (Tokyo/Cambridge) highlighted the gap between human intervention in eco-systems and our limited knowledge of the basic functions of those systems. He stressed the need for continuous learning in order to make ecological principles work in human societies, economies and politics, too. From a sociological point of view, Wolf Schluchter (Germany) emphasised the importance of citizen's participation on a municipal scale as pursued in the Agenda 21 process. Widening the focus to the national level, Neil Summerton (UK) described the groups of actors in environmental policy including governments, himself a former government official. Governments and their political and administrative systems depend on favourable conditions such as a high level of economic development and an advanced ecological consciousness in the population for successfully promoting ecological modernisation. This was deduced by Mautie Cohen (USA) from a comparative political science analysis conducted in several OECD countries.

Nearly all speakers agreed that cultural factors like values, habits, education and knowledge are crucial for solving environmental problems. Even the representatives from industry, e.g. Daimler, Siemens, Ebara and NEC, accepted this assumption although they tend to favour technical solutions like the concept of zero-waste factories developed in co-operation with the United Nations University, Tokyo. It turned out that several globally active companies have acknowledged the new tasks arising out of the concept of sustainable development. Representatives from two big Ger-

man companies presented their ideas of how to take on global responsibility, e.g. by carrying out projects in developing countries. They even recognised a responsibility to influence the market in an environmentally sound direction by offering new products and services.

As a final highlight, Reinhard Loske from the Wuppertal Institute reported on his study on "Sustainable Germany", which was of special interest to the students from abroad, particularly because of his visionary approach. In contrast to the technology-centred Japanese "New Earth 21" concept promoting for instance the sea-dumping of carbon, he presented a "Wuppertal New Earth 21" plan on how to reduce CO₂-emissions through social, political, and technical measures. These include sufficiency strategies aiming at a change in values and consumption patterns.

Excursions

It was a major goal of the Summer School to examine local environmental problems in the region. The triangle of Halle, Dessau, Bitterfeld was one of the most polluted areas in the former GDR and has experienced a tremendous improvement in its environmental quality after the German unification. Nevertheless, there still remain environmental problems that could be examined by the students during their excursions: open-cast lignite mining, problems of water supply in the region, waste treatment within the Dual System, and the modernisation of the chemical industry. The choice of sites corresponded with the subjects of the working groups, and the excursions were well prepared by special lectures of experts from the region. The excursions were evaluated by the students' working groups during the final days of the summer school.

Working Groups

The students were given the opportunity to profit from each other's knowledge in three working groups: energy, water problems, and waste & recycling. With the aid of tutors, the groups worked on a description of the problems, of the social actors involved, and on possible solutions. This work was documented in written reports and in oral presentations at the last day of the Summer School.

In its report, the *water group* analysed the local problems of water supply (partly caused by the construction of an ICE high speed railway track through a water and nature protection area near Halle) and recommended an intensified participation of local citizens and NGOs. The cases examined showed that environmental groups in this region have rather little influence on large scale technical projects like power plants or chemical factories. Industrial interests carry even more weight than in Western Germany in the face of high unemployment rates in the region.

Analysing the special case of a lignite fired power plant in Schkopau, the *energy group* criticised the high subsidies for such a centralised solution with an efficiency rate of only 40%. These subsidies could have been spent much more effectively on decentralised combined heat and power stations with efficiency rates of about 90%.

Solutions to waste problems were studied by the *waste & recycling group*. The group praised the German Dual System for providing some incentives for the reduction of packaging materials. However, they criticised the system for not urging

consumers to avoid waste in the first place. Moreover, the recycling plant visited during one of the excursions presented an example of down-cycling of light plastics which revealed the impossibility of fully-closed substance cycles in this field.

To sum up, this pilot project of an eco-summer school was remarkably successful in more than one way. First of all, the mixed structure of participants from different cultures, disciplines and with different levels of knowledge proved a good prerequisite for some highly motivated work, especially in the working groups. Secondly, the Summer School encouraged the students to engage in environmental issues. Even those who had never been in touch with environmental topics before developed a strong interest in these problems, especially after visiting a power plant, a waste recycling factory etc. during the excursions. Thirdly, the intercultural exchange enriched discussions by its international perspective on the problems. And last but not least, it allowed the students to experience that the way people communicate depends on their cultural background. Debating and criticising are not universal features of co-operation but vary according to cultural background.

The Summer School is planned to be carried out every year at changing locations and with varying environmental subjects. For further information please contact: European Japan Experts Association, c/o Japanese-German Centre Berlin, Tiergartenstr. 24-25, 10785 Berlin.

Bernd Siebenhüner, Annette Erbe

50 Jahre unabhängiges Indien - Licht und Schatten im demokratischen Indien

Berlin, 29.-30. August 1997

Die Deutsch-Indische Gesellschaft - mit fast 4.000 Mitgliedern wohl die mitgliederstärkste nichtstaatliche Gesellschaft in Deutschland zur Pflege der Beziehungen mit anderen Ländern - veranstaltete am 29./30. August 1997 im Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin einen Festakt und ein Symposium mit mehr als 300 Teilnehmern zur kritischen Würdigung der Staatsgründung im Jahre 1947 und der zwischenzeitlichen Entwicklung Indiens auf den Gebieten der Politik, Wirtschaft, Kultur und der sozialen Strukturen.

Bundesminister des Auswärtigen Dr. Klaus Kinkel hatte die Schirmherrschaft übernommen und betonte in einem Grußwort: "Indien kann mit Stolz auf das Erreichte zurückblicken und im Bewußtsein seiner bisherigen Leistungen die ungelösten Herausforderungen in Angriff nehmen. Auf seinem Wege zur Förderung von Frieden, Stabilität und Wohlstand im Inneren, in der Region und in der Welt wird Indien Deutschland immer an seiner Seite finden."

Der von der indischen Regierung für Verdienste um die kulturelle Verständigung zwischen den beiden Ländern im Jahre 1996 gestiftete "Gisela-Bonn-Preis" wurde vom indischen Botschafter S.K. Lambah erstmals verliehen - an Frau Martina Wütz, der Redakteurin der Vierteljahrzeitschrift *Indo-Asia*. Die Zeitschrift war Jahrzehnte hindurch von Frau Professor Gisela Bonn herausgegeben worden.

Professor Ali Mohammed Khusro, Präsident der Deutsch-Indischen Gesellschaften in Indien, früherer Botschafter in Bonn (1980-1982) und Mitglied der unabhängigen