

## Sources of Conflict in South Asia: Ethnicity, Refugees, Environment

Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka, 12.-24. März 1998

This Winter Workshop was the second in the series of annual workshops organised by the Colombo-based Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) with the partnership of the German foundation Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNSt). The programme is specially designed for young South Asian professionals of up to 40 years of age. Participants come from a varied professional background including public and private sector institutions, research, academia, media and NGOs.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- a) equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the concepts and approaches to conflict, conflict resolution and conflict management with a specific focus on non-military sources in the context of South Asia;
- b) provide participants with insights into how non-military issues evolve into conflict, and how they affect relations between communities and peoples;
- c) offer training opportunity for the younger generation of professionals of the region to strengthen their skills in policy development and negotiation with particular emphasis on specific issues, actors and decision making processes; and
- d) facilitate better understanding of problems and constraints, and promote collective consideration of alternative visions, options and approaches to resolve such conflicts. In the long run, the workshop is expected to create a network for sustained interaction and communication between a growing body of a new generation of professionals in South Asia. By facilitating the evolution of alternative approaches with a regional perspective, it will advance the cause of co-operation, conflict resolution and conflict management in the region.

This year's workshop was participated by 32 young professionals from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The faculty was comprised of eminent experts from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Dr. Reiner Adam, Regional Director for South Asia of the FNSt, New Delhi, conducted an interactive session on Franco-German Experience of Conflict Resolution while Dr. Rene Klaff, Representative of FNSt, Islamabad, spoke on Human Rights and Development. The renowned Pakistani scholar and columnist Prof. Eqbal Ahmad delivered the key-note lecture of the workshop which was chaired by Mr. Mahfuz Anam, Editor of the Bangladeshi newspaper *The Daily Star*. Other distinguished speakers included Dr. Ashis Nandy of India and Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy of Sri Lanka. The workshop was directed by Dr. Iftexhar Zaman, Executive Director of the RCSS.

The course and approach were inter-disciplinary. Discussions were focused inter-alia, on the character and role of the state, political dynamics and problems of governance. Constitutional issues, human rights, role of media and civil society came up for debate, as well as economic, technical and institutional constraints and realities. Intra-state, inter-state and international dimensions were also examined. A vital part of the programme was the group activities which facilitated closer focus of the participants on the specific issues, including consideration of alternative visions and approaches to managing and resolving conflicts.

The event is expected to be transformed into a process. The workshop alumni form part of the network of individuals engaged in strategic studies in South Asia. Various follow-up activities like group research by participants from more than one country on specific issues are expected to be undertaken.

The RCSS is an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organisation for research, dialogue and networking on strategic, security and international issues pertaining to South Asia. Themes relating to conflict and conflict resolution, confidence building and regional co-operation constitute the principal focus of its work. The RCSS serves its international and regional constituency by sponsoring research, training and advocacy on South Asian strategic and security related issues; by promoting interaction among scholars and other professionals in this region and beyond, engaged in South Asian strategic and international studies; and last not least by fostering linkage and collaboration between institutions devoted to studies on issues related to conflict, co-operation, stability and security in South Asia.

The RCSS winter workshop organised in collaboration with the FNSt has become one of the much awaited annual events organised in the region targeted to young South Asian professionals. It has also become a forum for sensitising the future leadership in the region to issues in conflict, conflict resolution and mutual confidence building.

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Iftekhar Zaman

## **Symposium über die Entwicklung der Medizinethik in China**

Hamburg, 9.-12. April 1998

Im Rahmen dieses Symposiums diskutierten 20 internationale Experten das Thema der Biotechnologie in China unter medizinethischen Aspekten. Das Ziel der Veranstaltung bestand in der Initiierung einer medizinethischen Debatte in China. Die Teilnehmer kamen überwiegend aus verschiedenen Teilen der Volksrepublik China sowie aus Hongkong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Deutschland und den USA. Das Symposium wurde organisiert und geleitet von Ole Döring, wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter am Hamburger Institut für Asienkunde (IfA). Das IfA war zugleich Träger der Veranstaltung, die im Rahmen eines größeren Forschungsprojektes ausschließlich aus Mitteln der privaten Dr. Helmut Storz Stiftung finanziert wurde.

Ausgangspunkt der intensiven Diskussion auf hohem fachlichen Niveau war eine kritische Bestandsaufnahme der derzeitigen Medizinethik in China. Die Lage wurde übereinstimmend als unbefriedigend empfunden. Gleichwohl wurde eine Reihe von Perspektiven zur schrittweisen Verbesserung der Situation diskutiert und im Detail erörtert. Gravierende Unterschiede zu anderen Kulturen, die einer ethischen Entwicklung im Sinne internationaler Standards im Wege stünden, wurden nicht gese-