

## **National Seminar on Integrated Solid Waste Management in India**

**Date: 20 September 2006**

**Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi**

The Heinrich Böll Foundation in partnership with the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi and the of the South Asia Institute organised a one-day seminar on the issue of "Integrated Solid Waste Management" on the 20th of September, 2006 at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The seminar was attended by more than 70 guests such as practitioners, scholars, students as well as by representatives of government agencies and chambers of commerce.

The seminar, through the sharing of experiences and discussions, aimed to clarify and illustrate the various facets of integrated solid waste management and to arrive at practicable suggestions for sustainable solutions, mechanisms and framework conditions. Divided into three technical sessions followed by a panel discussion, the seminar deliberated on the realities and everyday practices of solid waste management in urban India from different perspectives.

The first session concentrated on the nexus of waste, environment and health, the second session focused on the issues of waste recycling and resource recovery whereas the third session dealt with the aspects of livelihoods, employment and poverty alleviation in the field of waste management. The following panel discussion by representatives of the various stakeholder institutions identified the unresolved core problems pertaining to waste collection and disposal, attempted to define the specific roles of each stakeholder in solid waste management, deliberated on the problems of co-ordination and co-operation as well as highlighted some good and bad practices.

The seminar revealed the complex and multifaceted problems in dealing with new types of waste such as hazardous chemicals, e-waste or different kind of plastic materials due to the conceptual unpreparedness of the responsible agencies. The seminar concluded that the contemporary approach to solid waste management is very technical-oriented and thus increasingly proves to be ineffective and inappropriate. Hence, a more holistic or integrated approach is required amalgamating principles of economic efficiency, social accountability, producer responsibility, effective institutional arrangements and application of appropriate technologies in order to equip the cities with the tools and framework conditions to cope with the continuously increasing amounts of solid waste.