



Heinrich Böll Foundation at the Frankfurt Book Fair

Date: 4 – 8 October 2006

Venue: Frankfurt, Germany

This year's Frankfurt Book Fair, for the second time, featured India as the guest of honour. The stall of Heinrich Böll Foundation at the fair had an exhibition of the foundation's India activities and we were present with some of our main partners.

The events organised included a panel discussion on "Rising India – which way ahead? Which way to go?" with the participation of the Centre for Science and Environment's (CSE) and the Centre for Social Market's (CSM) respective directors Sunita Narain and Malini Mehra. The panel addressed the questions of "which way lies ahead in terms of the social and ecological underpinnings of India's rapid economic growth?" and on "how to set the course for sustainable development to gain momentum?"

The second panel discussion on "Religious and Cultural Diversity in India – A Role Model for Tolerance and Integration?" with the Centre for the Study of Secularism and Society's (CSSS) director Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer and prominent Indian social activist Swami Agnivesh focused on the questions of "which way lies ahead in terms of the future of India's political stability amidst a globally rising uneasiness about cultural diversity?" and on "how to preserve the course for communal harmony in India?"

Finally, a literature reading with the two Indian writers Alka Saraogi and Uday Prakash, organised jointly with Draupadi Publishers of Heidelberg, broached the social dimension of Indian literature. Additionally, there was an extensive programme apart from the book fair events for selective partners. Sunita Narain, for example, delivered a talk at German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), whereas Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer participated in several discussions on inter-religious dialogue and on progressive Islam.