



## Visit to Delhi by Winfried Hermann

**Date: 1-2 November 2007**

**Venue: Delhi**

Mr. Winfried Hermann, Member of the Green Party in the German Parliament and spokesman of the Green Party on Sustainable Development, transport policy and sports affairs visited India on an invitation of the Mithradam Renewable Energy Centre in Cochin, Kerala. He spent two days in Delhi to get informed on India's response to climate change and transport policies. After a consultation with members of the German Embassy, Mr. Hermann visited Heinrich Böll Foundation's long term partner Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). He met the Director Sunita Narain to discuss policy issues on sustainable mobility. The discussion largely revolved around the varied costs of mobility that Delhi and other larger metros in India are confronted with as well as on new, alternative concepts to implement policies on sustainable transport. Amongst several other appointments he had a discussion with Dr. Albrecht Kaupp, the Director of the Indo-German Energy Programme, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) about India's energy policy, CDM and the energy efficiency programme of German Technical Corporation (GTZ).

The visit also included a meeting with Dr. Satish Kumar, Director (Electricals) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to get briefed about the Delhi Metro project and the traffic scenario in a sprawling and still expanding mega-city like Delhi. The meeting revealed the success story of DMRC and the German experience of 'greening' the transport sector. The succeeding experience of a ride in the Delhi Metro from 'Rajiv Chowk' to 'Chawri Bazaar' was a confirmation of the humungous accomplishment that DMRC achieved in an extremely short period of time. Winfried Hermann, furthermore, held a lecture on 'Climate Protection and Sustainable Transport' at Delhi School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), which was perceived as highly beneficial for the students and lecturers. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion between the lecturers, members of the Indian Town Planning Institute and students of SPA. Apart from the graphic presentation the substantiated live examples from Mr. Hermann made a distinct impression on the young professionals being trained in urban, regional and transport planning. On the whole, the visit of Mr. Hermann was very worthwhile in informing the Indian counterparts and HBF's partners the approaches that need to be applied in transport policy and the direction, in which investments need to be made in order to make modal shifts, adopt cleaner and more efficient vehicles and technologies. Mr. Hermann's experience informed the audience about various technologies and strategies that are available for reducing pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions, as have been adopted in Germany. Reciprocally, Mr. Hermann learnt about the lively civil society, the complexity of problems India has to tackle with reference to transport policies and the effectiveness of good management to implement new technologies and new modes of transport such as Delhi Metro.