The Village of the Future

The first „Village of the Future“

The first „Village of the Future“ will be constructed in the Northwest of India - near Abu Road in the state of Rajasthan - on a plot with the size of about 16 ha (hectare). The village will be set up as a village for training/education with about 15 residential buildings, farmhouses and a school building with administrative sections.

Experienced professionals will utilize this training ground for many years to train and instruct the rural population - which has been living under primitive conditions so far - in the following areas:

- Hygiene, elderly care, first aid, health, construction of chemical toilets, ecological farming, water retention, generation of renewable energy, road construction and organisation of sustainable mobility, storage of grain, afforestation, cultivation of medical plants, healthy mudbrick (loam) building, etc.

In addition, small loans assignments for future projects in the countryside are to be established according to proven models.

The date for the commencement is October 2nd, which is Ghandi´s birthday!

„The Villages of the Future“ are to guarantee an equitable commercial intercourse with each other. The inhabitants need to be trained to interact with nature in a responsible way. The required technical infrastructure will consistently be constructed with renewable energies only and has to be socially, ecologically as well as economically compatible!

In India, like in many countries of the earth, loam is known as „building material for poor people“ and for this reason has been avoided so far. The major task of the planning team will therefore be to convince the future inhabitants in training courses of the fact, that the newly built houses with self-supporting clay domes fulfil the optimal requirements for stable healthy living in the climatic conditions in this region of India. And they are also affordable for everyone.
Substantiated training of the rural population in the new training village is the pre-condition for starting - in one year from now - to collectively reconstruct the first collapsed villages on the basis of trend-setting criteria.
The training in the training village will continue parallel, in order to win more and more people for this kind of sustainable management as well as for the reconstruction of the villages. The construction of these villages worth living in is to convincingly stop the migration into the misery of the cities.

Awarding authority of this sample project is the Indian hospital “Global Hospital & Research Centre” under the direction of the director Dr. med. Pratap. The general construction management and organisation is carried out by the German architect Dipl.-Ing. Udo Heimermann, Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler.
The project is scientifically supported by Prof. Dr. Gernot Minke. Dipl.-Agraring. Paulus Johannes Lehmann is responsible for the coordination and PR. The German “Dachverband Lehm (DVL)" e.V., represented by the first chairman Prof. Dr. Horst Schröder, will be available for advice. Dipl.-Ing. Gunter Geller will participate as an internationally experienced professional on sewage water. Dipl.-Ing. Roderich Seefried will resume the position of construction manager and coordinator on-site.

The next strategy meeting will take place in Bad Neuenahr in the beginning of July 2010 in order to keep up to date with the stage of development.

Financial responsibility is predominantly with the “ILD” (international rural development service), Bad Honnef lead by Lothar Kleipaß, the trust “India Care” in Berlin, lead by Golo Pilz and the Global Hospital Mount Abu, directed by Dr. Pratap.

The project is expected to be relevantly supported by the “Ferderal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development “BMZ”. In order to position this trendsetting project on a broader and financially more stable foundation donations are requested to the following account:

For each donated Euro one can apply for three Euros development funds! Also donation in kind is included in this.

Deutsche Bank Frankfurt
Bank code number 500 700 24
Account-No. 092 885 300 with the reference „Village of the Future“.
For international money transfers:
IBAN DE72 500 700 240 0928853 00

Certificates of donation accepted by the tax authorities are issued by the charitable association “India Care” in Berlin.

With immediate effect we are looking for experienced operational craftsmen, scientists and teachers from different fields as well as physicians and nursing staff who are willing to construct and configure this „Village of the Future “ for some months under expert guidance - starting from October 2010. Accommodation and vegetarian board plus some pocket money are ensured.

For more information please contact the coordinator of the project Dipl.-Ing. Architekt Udo Heimermann (www.heimermann.de) by mail: heimermann@t-online.de
SPONSORS and DONORS
Enterprises as well as private people interested in trendsetting ecological areas of application can find more information on possibilities to support the project as investors and/or as sponsors under the aforementioned email-address and the website: www.heimermann.de.

Objectives:

1. The ideal population structure

At this point the project comes in. The goal for the population distribution according to age levels is to come away from the so-called pyramid to a parabola. That means primarily fewer children in order to reduce the overpopulation.

It is also important to pay attention to an appropriate ratio of arable land to the total population. The improved medical supply is to help secure a survival rate at the high level of western countries.

Without overpopulation the malnutrition can more easily be abolished. The hygienic conditions for each individual can clearly be improved and a sufficient old-age pension is more easily to be guaranteed. All these activities will finally lead to a parabola curve in the depiction of the population distribution.
2. The regional structure

For India a regional system is intended, which is based on a Mandala design. The city is placed in the centre as metropolis, circularly surrounded by “Villages of the Future”. In the metropolises there are trades, industry, universities, hospitals, etc. Technologies and finished goods are delivered from the city to the villages. At the same time the villages provide for their own supply of basic food and provide renewably produced energy for the city. Each village also exports a fixed amount to the central city, where energy production and ecological agriculture are not sufficiently possible.

3. The local structure

Even the local structure of the village is reminiscent of an Indian Mandala.

On the one hand it symbolizes the world, but on the other hand it can as well be transferred to a region or a settlement. The Mandala is an expression for a positive energy and thus at the same time symbol for the goals of the „Village of the Future“!

The symmetrical structure of the Mandalas is characteristic. In the core the meeting or market place is to be found, the centre point of the village. It is surrounded by the public buildings as the first ring, the suppliers as second ring and thirdly there are the residential areas. The farmhouses and grain camps form the edge of the settlement. Finally the grounds are framed by a small forest, which - according to the Mandala - shows four expansions as entrances into the four directions.
4. The ideal surface structure

In order to determine the surface structure the computation of the necessary zones for food and energy production is required.

The base value is a village with about 1,150 inhabitants. Based on a soil of medium quality, this requires a total area of approx. 355 ha (hectare) per village, divided into the following zones:

- 288 ha Agricultural zone
- 12 ha Forest area
- 12 ha Photovoltaics
- 3 ha Biogas production
- 2 ha Storage area and school
- 13 ha Village area
- 13 ha Roads, footpaths, farm tracks
- 12 ha Street planting

Each village aims at an overproduction of agricultural goods of at least 25%. Thus food from controlled ecological cultivation can be supplied to the central city. Depending upon situation and climate the quantity specifications can be subjected to strong fluctuations. This is to be considered.

5. The ideal energy production

The energy production is consistently supported by renewable energies. Depending upon regional characteristics the distribution keys are adapted, in order to achieve the necessary energy production. Energy production could be carried out by:

- Wind wheels
- Photovoltaics
- Geothermal energy
- Small biological gas facilities
- Collector plants
- Energy plants

The village needs approx. 3 MW for its own supply. Even here, an overproduction of min. 25% in each village should be aimed at. Then up to 1MW can be exported to the central city - regional fluctuations are to be considered.
The overproduction of agricultural goods and renewable energies guarantees a source of income to the villagers right from the beginning. These funds are to secure the maintenance and regular renewals of the necessary infrastructure of e.g. schools and roads.

6. **Some ideal types of buildings for Rajasthan**

The settlement consists of different types of buildings, which are exclusively constructed with ecological regional building materials, like loam and natural stones.

Exceptions are permitted in the range of the plinth area, concrete because of termite danger. Energy-complex classical building materials are only accepted, where natural building materials - for different reasons - can not be used.

Type A are public buildings, like school and administration.
Type B are residential buildings with integrated service sector.
Type C are solely residential buildings for small and extended families.
Type D are farmhouses.

Because of the midsummer heat periods the buildings are aligned to the position of the sun, so that the south side is most strongly shaded. In interaction with air circulation and humidity adjustment as well as pleasant sizes of the rooms within the private sector, a superior climatic comfort is achieved.

Each house has sanitary facilities with washing and showering places, water-saving compost and chemical toilets as well as collector plants for the warm water production and support of the heating system. According to tradition cooking places are available outside and inside. These are beaconed by fermentation gas, vegetable oil or by renewable current, for example.
Dipl.-Ing., Architekt Udo Heimermann
Projektplanung und technische Leitung
www.heimermann.de

Dipl.-Ing. Paulus Johannes Lehmann
Koordination und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
www.oekohaus-achberg.de

Status: 15th April 2010