

ALTERNATIVES FORUM PUNE

Brief report of 6th Meeting 11th October 2013

Venue: Lokayat, Law College Road

Present: Shiba Desor, Meenal Tatpati, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Neema Pathak Broome, and Ashish Kothari (KV), Sanjana Singh (FLAME), Shrenik Mutha (Ferguesson College), K. J. Joy (SOPPECOM), Abraham Samuel, Nagmani Rao, Mukesh Choudhari and Sanskriti Menon (CEE), Jyotsana Teto (NCAS), Ranjith Babu (NCAS), Shubham, Rainer Hoerig, Suhas Kolhekar (NAPM).

Key Points

The meeting began with a round of introductions and Sanskriti Menon introduced the forum.

The main item of discussion was a presentation by Rainer Hoerig, German journalist and writer based in Pune, on alternative initiatives in Europe. He described:

Roots of the search for alternatives, including key historical events

Early and ongoing experiments in collective living (including occupying unoccupied houses), collective enterprises, biofood, producer-consumer cooperatives, bicycling and carpooling, local currencies, and renewable energy.

Commercialisation of some of these initiatives, including their co-option by the dominant economy and corporations.

A lively discussion during and after the presentation focused on issues of how much these experiments challenge the dominant economic and political structures, what extent of Europe's population was engaged, the role of education and consumer movements, role of the German Green Party, and other aspects.

Rainer agreed to share further resources (websites, readings etc) with Forum members.

Next Meeting: 18th November 2013

Venue: Lokayat, Law College Road

Time : 4pm to 6 pm

Agenda: Bhaveshbhai of Urban Setu, Bhuj, will present the work they are doing.