UTOPIAS FROM ASIA

An International and Interdisciplinary Symposium in Santiniketan

On the Occasion of the 150th Birthday Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore

An Asian Impact Activity

In memoriam Momoyo Okura

16-17 November 2011

Visva Bharati University
Art Centre of the Santiniketan Society of Visual Art and Design

Santiniketan • India
Research on utopia has predominantly dealt with Western concepts of utopian thinking, touching on Asian impulses only marginally. It therefore seems promising to dedicate a symposium specifically to Utopias from Asia, concentrating and further elaborating on the Asian impact of utopian thinking on the Western hemisphere. The Institute of Indology of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, in collaboration with the ASIATICUM: Society for the Promotion of Studies East and West, the Visvabharati University, and the Art Centre of the Santiniketan Society of Visual Art and Design, India, take the occasion of the 150th birthday anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore to organise an international and interdisciplinary symposium on Utopias from Asia at Santiniketan, the world-renowned centre of culture and learning, founded by the eminent Nobel laureate, Tagore, himself.

Programme

16th November 2011 (Wednesday)

9.30 hrs • Opening addresses
Prof. Sushanta Duttagupta, Vice-Chancellor (Visva Bharati University)
Prof. Dr. Udaya Narayana Singh, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Visva Bharati University)
Prof. Jogen Chowdhury, Director (Art Centre of the Santiniketan Society of Visual Art and Design)
Prof. Dr. Konrad Meisig (Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz)

Messages from
The Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kolkata
The Directorate General Cultural Heritage Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany
German-Indian Round Table (GIRT), Frankfurt

10.00 hrs
Keynote address
Prof. Dr. Konrad Meisig (Mainz)
‘Utopia – A Definition’.

10.30 hrs • Tea break

Chair person: Dr. Martin Kämpchen (Santiniketan)

10.45 hrs • Prof. Dr. Swati Ganguly (Visva Bharati University)
‘Rabindranath’s ashram experiment in Santiniketan’. (Working title)

11.30 hrs • des. Dr. Kasturi Dadhe (Mainz)
The concept of a feminine-self: veiled and unveiled, in Rokeya Sakhawat’s ‘Hassain’s Sultana’s Dream’, ‘Padmarag’ and ‘Abarodhbasini’.

12.15 hrs • Lunch

Chair person: Prof. Dr. Swati Ganguly

14.00 hrs • Dr. habil. Luong Van Ke (Hanoi)
‘From Utopia to Reality: Some Experiences on Political Transformation in Viet Nam’.

14.45 hrs • Tea break

15.00 hrs • Dr. habil. Marcus Stiglegger (Siegen)

16.30 hrs: Annual General Meeting of the ASIATICUM – Society for the Promotion of Studies East and West

Evening: Performance of the Tagore dance drama ‘Valmiki Pratibha’
Arrangement: Dr. Amartya Mukherjee

17th November 2011 (Thursday)

Chair person: Dr. Ivo Ritzer

9.00 hrs • Dr. Sonja Wengoborski (Mainz)
‘Exploring the space between the possible and the impossible: Observations from contemporary South Asian literature’.

9.45 hrs • Prof. Dr. Masako Sato (Tokyo)
‘Seeking Utopia beyond Modernization – A Movement in the Asian Structural Change in the 20th Century’

10.30 hrs • Tea break

10.45 hrs • Prof. Dr. Kumkum Bhattacharya (Visva Bharati University)
‘Utopia in praxis’.

11.30 hrs • Dr. Marion Meisig (Mainz)

12.15 hrs • Lunch

Chair person: Dr. habil. Marcus Stiglegger

14.00 hrs • Dr. Ivo Ritzer (Mainz)

14.45 hrs • Prof. Soumik Nandi Majumdar (Visva Bharati University)
‘Rabindranath Tagore’s Utopia Visualised in his Paintings’

15.30 hrs: Tea break

15.45 hrs • Prof. Dr. Konrad Meisig (Mainz)
‘Buddhist Utopias’.

Cultural Programme