



For Favour of Publication

International Conference on Karl Marx Day-4

Patna, June 19. In this era of globalisation, the destructive side of capitalist production such as degradation of forests, global warming, disrupting of nitrogen cycle and extinction of species have made ecology one of the central fields of Marxism today. This was said by Kohei Saito, Associate Professor, Osaka State University, Japan, on Tuesday at the International Conference on Karl Marx being organised by the Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI). The five-day conference comes to an end on Wednesday.

Saito was delivering the Gyorgy Lukacs Memorial Lecture on the topic 'Marx and Engels: The Intellectual Relationship Revisited from an Ecological Perspective'. Saito said Western Marxism never developed a Marxist critique of ecology because of less than a clear perception of "intellectual relationship" between Marx and Engels. Western Marxism regarded natural science as the domain of Engels' expertise.

According to Saito, Marx was very much conscious of the danger of serious global disruption in the inter-dependent processes between 'social metabolism', that is production, circulation and consumption, and the natural world.

Since capitalist production cannot fully take into account complex dimensions of the social and natural metabolism, it destroys nature, annihilates the possibilities of co-evolution of humans and nature and even threatens human civilization. All that capital cares about is whether accumulation can be somehow achieved, so it does not really matter even if most part of the earth becomes unsuitable space to live for humans and animals. So, instead of waiting for the collapse of capitalism thanks to nature's revenge, it is indispensable that individuals confronting the global ecological crisis take a measure for the conscious and active control over the metabolism with their environment.

Delivering the Pablo Neruda Memorial Lecture, Roberto Massari, President, International Che Guevara Foundation, Italy, said Che Guevara was never intoxicated with power. Massari traced the journey of Che from medicine to communism as he realised that the problems of Latin American people could be solved only through a revolution. When Che was the minister of industries in the Cuban government, he visited factories and lived with workers to understand their problems.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

BSIDC Colony, Off Boring-Patliputra Road, Patna - 800 013, Tel. : 0612-2575649, Fax : 0612-2577102
E-mail : adripatna@adriindia.org / adri_patna@hotmail.com, Website : www.adriindia.org



The expert on the revolutionary said Che was a harsh critic of the New Economic Policy of the Soviet Union and his book on the subject was kept secret till 2006. Che maintained that we cannot advocate violence against those who speak against us, Massari added. The topic of his lecture was 'Che Guevara and Marx'.

Other key speakers on the day included Elvira Concheiro, Professor, UNAM, Mexico, who delivered the Georgi Plekhanov Memorial Lecture. Her topic was 'Notes on a Dispossession: How Have we Read Marx'.

Michael Brie, Senior Fellow, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin, delivered the Michal Kalcki Memorial Lecture on the topic 'Marx's Capital as Future-Oriented Science for Practical Purposes'.

Shapan Adnan, Associate, Contemporary South Asian Studies Programme, University of Oxford, delivered the Leon Trotsky Memorial lecture on the topic 'Marx's Innovative Notion of Primitive Accumulation and its Contemporary Relevance'.

The Henri Lefebvre Memorial Lecture was delivered by Ramaa Vasudevan, Associate Professor, Colorado State University, US on 'Marx, Money and Capitalism'.

Five papers were presented during the day. The speakers were Paula Rauhala, Helene Fleury, Maryam Aslany, Kumari Sunitha V and Alessandra Mezzadri.

Anjani Kumar Verma

(Anjani Kumar Verma)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

BSIDC Colony, Off Boring-Patliputra Road, Patna - 800 013, Tel. : 0612-2575649, Fax : 0612-2577102
E-mail : adripatna@adriindia.org / adri_patna@hotmail.com, Website : www.adriindia.org