

# How modern cities can be eco-sensitive

## Sixth International Ecocity Conference begins

Staff Reporter

**BANGALORE:** Ecocities or cities in balance with nature are not only possible but also a reality in China, as the case of Beijing and Dafeng County have shown. Rusong Wang, president of Ecological Society of China and member of the Chinese People's Congress, says though China is changing and is on the super highway to development, it has a few experiments that demonstrate that modern cities can still be green and eco-sensitive.

Speaking at the inauguration of the four-day Sixth International Ecocity Conference, Dr. Wang said China and India face similar

ance development and environment.

"On the one hand, there is resources exhaustion, and on the other, material stagnancy or large quantities of waste that is not being disposed of at all," he said.

China has gone in for the "ecopolis idea". Rethink, Reform and Renovate are the three magic words that guided the experiment in Dafeng County, which started 25 years ago.

Since 1980, this county has adopted many innovative eco-friendly city management strategies, which actually saw the GDP increase 16 times, according to Dr. Wang



**FOR BETTER CITIES:** A. Ravindra (right), vice-chairman, Ecocity6 Committee, Kirstin Miller, executive director, Ecocity, Richard Register, founder, Ecocity International Conference Series and Ecocity Builders, and Rusong Wang, president, Ecological Society of China, at a conference in Bangalore on Monday.

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ment and infrastructure building caused the temperature to rise alarmingly and

Government went in for eco-zones, which were interspersed with these "heat is-

temperature. However, there is still a long way to go, and it is not easy to turn every city into an eco-city, because as in India, the Government in China has a "top-down" approach while the non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders argue in favour of the "bottom up" approach, Dr. Wang has said. Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Board and vice-chairman of the Ecocity6 Committee A. Ravindra said Bangalore, as the venue for the sixth conference on ecocities, was apt as it provided a test case for how a large and expanding city could be converted into an ecocity.

Bangalore's vehicle population is over 2.5 million and growing at 10 per cent annually, and managing the traffic and transportation has become the city's greatest