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ICLEI South Asia E-News

April 2016



**Emani Kumar**  
Deputy Secretary  
General, ICLEI and  
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*Greetings!*

After the successful completion of Resilient Cities Asia Pacific 2016, the team at ICLEI South Asia is busy steering various other projects that define our efforts to achieve sustainable cities.

We are proud to announce that from this year, ICLEI South Asia, in partnership with ICLEI Southeast Asia and ICLEI East Asia, would function as the secretariat of the Asia LEDS Partnership, thus making it the first ever pan-Asia project for ICLEI in the region. The partnership will soon convene leaders from across the globe for Asia LEDS Forum 2016.

Meanwhile, our involvement in the Government of India's smart city programme has intensified as we gear up to consult some cities on their transport and mobility plans, among other initiatives. Also, we are honoured to welcome two new members to the ICLEI family – Mandi from Himachal Pradesh in India and Samdrup Jongkhar Thromde from Bhutan. We look forward to a great experiential learning with the two cities.

Global events and conferences have always been a great networking platform for associations like ICLEI. A representative from South Asia recently participated in the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD 2016) where challenges and priorities that outline implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in the region were discussed in detail.

This month's newsletter also features a budding official from ICLEI South Asia, sharing what inspires his journey.

Read on for more updates from the region and beyond.

Thank You!

## Latest developments

### Smart City Mission: ICLEI supports four cities on mobility and building energy efficiency solutions

India's Smart Cities Mission is an opportunity to envision, plan and develop projects for improving

livability in the selected cities. To strengthen its involvement in the programme, ICLEI South Asia, along with Sandeep Gandhi Architects (SGA), has now begun providing hand holding to four cities – two each in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. The support is being provided under a new project that would include activities ranging from awareness programmes and technical guidance on smart mobility and building energy efficiency and is being supported and funded by Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF).

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### HRIDAY cities strive to improve access to heritage sites

Amravati, an ancient and historic city in Andhra Pradesh, India, is cruising to improve its heritage asset-related infrastructure and additional urban infrastructure, under the Government of India's Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY). Earlier, HRIDAY's plan for Amaravati, prepared by ICLEI South Asia and IHCNF, had been accepted by HRIDAY Nationally Empowered Committee (HNEC) to improve infrastructure and amenities.

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### IUWM campaigns promote water conservation and solid waste management

Under Adopt Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) project, ICLEI South Asia recently organised a catchment cleanliness drive with support from Solapur Municipal Corporation to promote "Ground Water Recharge through Abandoned Bore wells". Such drives have been widely appreciated across member cities in India. Besides, the team for this project, supported by European Commission, is also busy implementing a pilot project on plastic waste management in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.



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### Building resilience in informal settlements

For many cities in developing countries, much of the urban growth is unplanned and informal. Such settlements are, therefore, more vulnerable to climate vagaries and other related challenges. With this understanding, ICLEI South Asia, and ICLEI Southeast Asia have undertaken a new project to mull the issues related to informal settlements in four cities of Asia. Presently, the teams are preparing a solutions basket for the problem areas that were identified after a detailed research. The exercise is a part of a Misereor-funded project Urban Resilience and Informality.

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[Coimbatore sets a Guinness World Record](#)



ICLEI South Asia has been recognized for its contribution and participation in the “largest recycling lesson” that was attended by 12,994 participants and organised by Coimbatore Municipal Corporation. The event was organised under project SUNYA: Towards zero waste in South Asia, funded by European Union. The campaign that was organised with the objective to create a better understanding about community involvement in source segregation, litter collection, waste handling and disposal achieved many desired outcomes.

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### ICLEI South Asia to manage the Secretariat of the Asia LEDES Partnership

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability - South Asia, in partnership with ICLEI South East Asia and ICLEI East Asia, has just been awarded the management of Asia LEDES Partnership Secretariat. The Asia LEDES Partnership, funded by USAID, is a voluntary regional network of individuals and organisations from the public, private, and non-governmental sectors active in designing, promoting, and/or implementing low emission development strategies (LEDS) in Asia. ICLEI is excited to take on this new role to advance the development of country-led strategic plans in the Asian region.

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### Samdrup Jongkhar, Bhutan’s oldest town, joins hands with ICLEI

Samdrup Jongkhar recently became a member with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia. The town in Samdrup Jongkhar is one of the oldest in Eastern Bhutan and has seen gradual development over the years. It is by far one of the largest urban centres in eastern Bhutan and lies at elevations ranging from 200m to 3,500m.

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### Mandi, the Kashi of Himachal, is also an ICLEI member now

Mandi, formerly known as Mandav Nagar, situated in India’s northern state of Himachal Pradesh, is also a new member with ICLEI South Asia. Mandi is one of the leading cities of the state, with a municipal council in Mandi District. Since June 2014, ICLEI South Asia has involved the city in the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) programme, supported by Rockefeller Foundation and targeted at integrating climate resilience into the city planning process.

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### Meet Vijay Saini, a sustainability champion at ICLEI



Mr Saini, who has been with ICLEI South Asia for nearly three years now, shares how his experience with ICLEI has influenced his journey. Talking about why sustainability is relevant to every human, he says, *“Ultimately sustainable lifestyle will be a key for the development. It is about transforming our societies and living in balanced natural environment. All our choices and actions – whether at home or at work – urban services, transport, energy use, food and waste contribute to sustainable lifestyles.”*

Edited excerpts from his interview:

<http://southasia.iclei.org/newsdetails/article/meet-vijay-saini-an-actor-of-change-at-iclei.html>



### APFSD 2016: Delegates from Asia-Pacific meet to discuss regional priorities for implementation of SDGs

The third season of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD 2016), organised by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, was held from April 3 to 5, 2016, at the United Nations Conference Centre, in Bangkok, Thailand. A representative from ICLEI South Asia participated in the event and presented ICLEI's stand. “The SDGs will pave the way for a fully transformative agenda if they are considered as the floor, not the ceiling, and if the ambitions of today are mainstreamed as the norms of tomorrow in every community and jurisdiction,” said Monalisa Sen, senior manager at ICLEI South Asia.

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### Asia LEDS Forum 2016: Financing Implementation of Priority Mitigation Actions



In the last week of June, the Asia LEDS Partnership will convene LEDS leaders from across Asia for three days of regional exchange and action planning on mobilizing finance to support countries in implementing priority mitigation actions. The forum aims to help member countries better understand the level of financing needed for implementing priority actions, financing sources, policy instruments, and financing instruments.

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### Resilient Cities 2016: The 7th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation

Resilient Cities - The Annual Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation – is the global platform for urban resilience and climate change adaptation – hosted in Bonn, Germany, every year. This year, the congress will be held from July 6 to July 8 and will offer a number of sessions and events on a wide variety of topics that include urban risk, resilient urban logistics, financing the resilient city, urban agriculture and food, smart infrastructure, among others.

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## Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III



The third session of the Preparatory Committee of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) will be held in Surabaya, Indonesia, from Monday, July 25 to Wednesday, July 27, 2016. The event would also host some important side events that will provide a platform for governments, civil society organisations, private sector, community representatives, and others to debate, showcase, or present their views on housing and sustainable urban development.

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- [ICLEI Calls for Innovation and Scaling Up in Urban Financing Ahead of Habitat III](#)
- [Join the Global District Energy in Cities Initiative](#)
- [African Local Governments Step up to Earth Hour City Challenge](#)
- [Smart CITIES 2.0 to Feature Perspectives from Cities around the World](#)

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### About ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is the world’s leading association of more than 1000 metropolises, cities, urban regions and towns representing over 660 million people in 86 countries. ICLEI promotes local action for global sustainability and supports cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource-efficient, biodiverse, low-carbon; to build a smart infrastructure; and to develop an inclusive, green urban economy with the ultimate aim of achieving healthy and happy communities. ICLEI promotes local action for global sustainability and supports cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource- efficient, biodiverse, low-carbon; to build a smart infrastructure; and to develop an inclusive, green urban economy with the ultimate aim to achieve healthy and happy communities.

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