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ICLEI South Asia E-News

April 2017



Emani Kumar
 Deputy Secretary
 General, ICLEI and
 Executive Director,
 ICLEI South Asia

Greetings!

The month of March marked the kick-off of one of our flagship projects and the closure of another. It is my pleasure to share that the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) supported CapaCITIES project was officially launched with the inauguration of e-rickshaws pilot initiative in Udaipur, one of the project cities. The project aims at achieving a lower greenhouse gas emissions growth path and increasing climate resilience in four partner Indian cities.

This month, a workshop was conducted to conclude the European Union funded AdoptUWM project that successfully introduced integrated urban water management in four cities of India. The workshop also launched a toolkit on integrated urban water management that can be used by Indian cities. The AdoptUWM workshop showed once again that efforts towards sustainability never come to a closure; they only mark new beginnings.

In the past month, we also conducted a peer-to-peer learning and exchange visit for Mongolian delegates in India. Workshops on clean energy investment and sustainable commodity production were organised in Bangkok, Thailand. ICLEI South Asia, a partner in the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development of UNESCO, participated in a review forum organised in Canada last month. We also represented local governments at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2017.

Read on to know more about developments from our work!

Latest developments



CapaCITIES project officially launched with inauguration of e-rickshaws pilot in Udaipur

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation supported CapaCITIES project was launched in Udaipur, Rajasthan, on March 17 in presence of The Swiss Ambassador to India and Bhutan, His Excellency Dr. Andreas Baum. The Mayor, Municipal Commissioner, and District Collector of Udaipur were also present at the kick off. On the same day, the city launched 18 e-rickshaws through a pilot initiative under CapaCITIES.

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ICLEI South Asia launches Toolkit for integrated urban water management at closure workshop of AdoptIUWM

ICLEI South Asia recently conducted a closure workshop to mark the successful implementation of European Union funded AdoptIUWM project in four cities of India – Jaisalmer and Kishangarh in Rajasthan, and Ichalkaranji and Solapur in Maharashtra, in partnership with ICLEI European Secretariat and Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG). At the event, Mr. Parmod Kumar, Director, Ministry of Urban Development, GoI, launched the IUWM Toolkit for Indian Cities.



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Rajkot takes forward discussions on Building Energy Efficiency

A workshop was recently organised in Rajkot city of Gujarat to discuss the 18-month plan for building energy efficiency under the Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA) project, funded by UNEP-GEF and in partnership with World Resources Institute. ICLEI South Asia is a technical consultant to guide the energy efficiency reforms for the city.

[Read more](#)

ICLEI South Asia participates at Review Forum of Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development

Held in Canada, the Forum emphasized the central theme of teachers and teacher training as well as the practical aspects and implementation of ESD. The partners of the UNESCO GAP Partner Network 5, of which ICLEI South Asia is a part, have developed a Flagship Project in the form of a Policy and Action Pact. The PN5 member proposed that ICLEI, in its role as an association of local governments, should take forward the message of this Pact to all its Member cities.



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Urban Nexus: Mongolian delegates visit Nagpur for knowledge exchange

In a peer-to-peer learning event recently organised in Nagpur under "Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus", delegates from Mongolia visited the city to know more about its pioneering initiatives like Smart Strip and an upcoming wastewater treatment plant. The project is being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

[Read more](#)

Officials from Ministry of Urban Development visit HRIDAY sites in Amaravati, give recommendations

Amaravati is one of the 12 pilot cities selected under Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana or HRIDAY Scheme of Government of India, with an aim to bring together urban planning, economic growth and conservation of heritage in the city. The visiting team expressed its satisfaction over the progress of the project in the city and its adherence to City HRIDAY plan developed by ICLEI South Asia and IHCNF.



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High level regional meetings on enabling private sector investments in clean energy and climate-smart commodity production organised in Thailand

The Asia LEDS Partnership Secretariat supported USAID in organising two workshops in Bangkok - Enabling Private Sector investments in Clean Energy in Southeast and South Asia (27-28 March 2017) and Convening Private Sector Investment in Climate-Smart Commodity Production in Southeast Asia (29 March).

[Read more](#)

LEDS GP supports country assistance to Bangladesh for its green growth strategy

With joint collaboration between Bangladesh Planning Commission and LEDS Global Partnership, an in-country assistance programme was carried out recently in Bangladesh. As a part of Asia LEDS Partnership initiative, the visit was aimed to help Bangladesh Planning Commission in defining next steps and a framework to overcome challenges in developing and implementing a Green Growth Strategy.



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Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2017

The fourth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, organised by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, was organised between 29-31 March, 2017, in Bangkok. A data portal and a few knowledge products on goals and a thematic report were released at the event.

[Read more](#)

Announcements

[Supporting sustainable urban transport and built](#)

environment in four Indian Smart cities

ICLEI South Asia, together with its partners Sandeep Gandhi Architects, has worked with and supported four Indian smart cities during 2015-16, through funding support from Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation. The collaboration is now moving to a second phase to develop and showcase an integrated and comprehensive approach to address urban transport issues and promote sustainable built environment.



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ICLEI South Asia to elect its new Regional Executive Committee soon

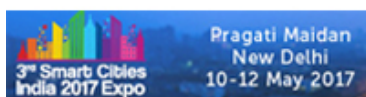
ICLEI South Asia is set to elect its new Regional Executive Committee (REXCom) for the 2018–2021 tenure. The elections take place every three years throughout ICLEI's nine regions to elect a group of representatives from its membership. The representatives serve as the regional representation and policy making body of the region and together make the ICLEI Council that represents ICLEI membership at a global level. Watch out for more!

EcoMobility World Festival and Congress

In October 2017, the City of Kaohsiung in Chinese Taipei will host the 3rd EcoMobility World Festival. The event will be a live demonstration of how cities can create a forward-thinking urban transportation culture through ecomobility. To know more and join as a participant, exhibitor or partner, visit www.ecomobilityfestival.org or email: ecomobility.festival@iclei.org.



3rd Smart Cities India 2017 Expo



Developing citizen-friendly and economically viable cities is an urban initiative by the Government of India. Recognizing smart cities as an important platform to drive progressive change, the 3rd Smart Cities India 2017 expo will be supported by four other co-located expos to create "One Mega Event" that will be held from 10-12 May 2017, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

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Actors of change

An Interview with Mr Sonam W Bhutia (WBCS-Exe), Commissioner, Siliguri Municipal Corporation

Siliguri, a city in the foothills of north-eastern Himalayas, is facing various challenges that come from rapid and unplanned development. *"We realise that by building capacities of the officials, we can help to take the message of sustainability forward. We are also encouraging increased private sector participation in offering municipal service delivery,"* says the official.



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Blog: Sustainability and lessons from India's past

In this era of globalization, we seem to have left behind the solutions that worked many centuries ago. Through a series of blogs, our colleague Rithika Fernandes makes an effort to revisit the patterns and practices that are now lost in our quest for "development" and "technological advancement". Check out the introductory piece and keep following for more!

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Publication

ICLEI-ACCRN Engagement Building Projects

As a part of five-year ACCRN programme, funded by Rockefeller Foundation, ICLEI established a grant-making fund available to the "ICLEI-ACCRN" cities to deepen engagement and partnerships between various city stakeholders during the early stages of the resilience planning and project identification process. Sixteen grants were subsequently awarded. This booklet provides a snapshot of each grant project.



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About ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

Over the years, ICLEI has grown to become the world's leading association of over 1,500 cities, local and metropolitan governments committed to building a sustainable future. ICLEI Members include local and regional governments of all sizes, municipalities, towns, cities and counties to mega-cities, prefectures, provinces, regions and city-states.

By helping our Members to make cities and regions sustainable, low-carbon, resilient, ecomobile, biodiverse, resource-efficient and productive, healthy and happy, with a green economy and smart infrastructure, the association impacts over 20 percent of the world's urban population.

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