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ICLEI South Asia E-News

April-May 2021



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

Dear readers,

Ms. Atishi Marlena, Member of the Legislative Assembly, National Capital Territory of Delhi, India, has been elected as the Vice President of ICLEI's Global Executive Committee. This is the first time that ICLEI has elected its Vice President from South Asia. Following her election at the ICLEI World Congress 2021-22, Ms. Marlena said, "Sustainable development that can take the environment and people along together is what we need to put our minds together for." She is also serving on the ICLEI Global Executive Committee as the Chair of the Resilient Development and Risk Management Portfolio.

In the past two months, we continued our project activities, albeit limited to some extent because of extensive lockdowns in several states in the country, including Delhi. We supported our Knowledge Partner TARU Leading Edge in the development of knowledge materials on heat resilience and disaster preparedness under the Climate Development and Knowledge Network programme. The toolkit and the handbook will be handy in preparing for natural calamities such as heat waves, especially in South Asia.

We have also developed a pollinator garden and a herbal garden in Kochi's Subhash Bose Park, under the INTERACT-Bio project. The gardens were inaugurated by none other than the well-known actor Padma Shri Bharat Mammooty.

Among new initiatives, we are kick-starting the Alliance + ICLEI Developing Plastic Waste-Free Cities programme, in which ICLEI's South Asia and Southeast Asia secretariats will provide technical support in the development of a plastic waste management plan. The cities of Warangal and Surat have been selected from India for this project.

And surprise! Our newsletter is turning bilingual. It will be our endeavour to present you with content in both English and Hindi from this month. We would love to have your feedback on this.

Happy reading!

Latest developments



ICLEI South Asia Launches Peer-to-Peer Learning for Enhancing Resilience in South Asian Cities

Based on the realisation that learning and sharing are the key to enhancing climate adaptation and resilience building, the event provided an interactive platform for the cities, urban practitioners and experts to facilitate knowledge exchange and experiences. The workshop series, under the CDKN Knowledge Accelerator (KA) project, was aimed to promote climate action in cities of priority countries i.e. Bangladesh, India, and Nepal.

[Read more](#)

Kochi's New Attractions: Pollinator and Herbal Gardens

A pollinator garden and a herbal garden have been developed in Subhash Bose Park, Kochi under the INTERACT-Bio project that is funded by the Germany's Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. These gardens were inaugurated by well-known actor Padma Shri Bharat Mammooty, in the presence of Hon'ble Mayor Advocate M Anil Kumar and other dignitaries.



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CDKN Asia, TARU Develop Knowledge Materials on Heat Resilience and Disaster Preparedness

Under the CDKN KA project, TARU Leading Edge Pvt. Ltd. has developed a City Heat Resilience Toolkit to sensitise and capacitate urban local bodies on risks and impacts of excessive heat events. The toolkit builds on the primary learnings from the city of Surat along with secondary literature, which is elaborated in the Demonstration Packet. In addition, a handbook on Emergency & Disaster Preparedness for Urban Schools has also been developed.

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ICLEI South Asia, BRAC University to Conduct Urban Vulnerability Research in Mongla Port

The Department of Architecture at BRAC University, Bangladesh, and ICLEI South Asia will jointly conduct a study on "Investigating Spatial Attributes of Urban Vulnerability using Climate Change Hotspots (CCHs) Mapping Approach: A Case Study of Mongla Port Municipality, Bagerhat, Bangladesh". ICLEI South Asia will be an external partner and contribute its technical and field-based expertise during the one-year research period.



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EcoLogistics Project: Kochi, Panaji, Shimla Set up Stakeholder Committees to Streamline Urban Freight Management

To promote coordinated urban freight movement, the EcoLogistics initiative assisted the local governments in Kochi, Panaji, and Shimla to constitute a multi-stakeholder committee each, for sustainable urban freight management. The committee anchored under the local government will address the issue of stakeholder fragmentation in urban freight as there is the absence of any single nodal department responsible for efficient management of freight movement within the city.

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Rajshahi Revs up Efforts to Conserve Open Green Spaces

The city of Rajshahi in Bangladesh is taking several measures to improve and better manage its open green spaces, create awareness about biodiversity, promote outdoor activities, and also encourage active participation, social interaction, and better physical and mental well-being among its residents. The initiative is supported by the Urban-LEDS II project, which is funded by the European Commission.



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Warangal, Surat Selected for Alliance+ ICLEI Developing Plastic Waste-Free Cities Programme

The Indian cities of Warangal and Surat and three Southeast Asian cities (Iloilo City in the Philippines, IRDA in Malaysia, and Jambi City in Indonesia) have been selected for the "Alliance + ICLEI Developing Plastic Waste-Free Cities" Programme. Under the project, ICLEI South Asia and ICLEI Southeast Asia will provide technical support to the selected cities for the development of a plastic waste management plan.

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Narayanganj Promotes Low-Mission Development Through Innovative Pilot Projects

Narayanganj city in Bangladesh is committed to improving its air quality and contributing to the national government's goals of increasing the use of renewable energy sources. Taking concrete steps to implement climate-resilient actions on-ground, Narayanganj is introducing sensors for monitoring air quality and rooftop solar photovoltaic (Solar PV) systems through two pilot projects under the Urban-LEDS II project.



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Singra, Dhulikhel Launch Voluntary Local Review of SDG-linked Development Initiatives



Singra Municipality, Bangladesh initiated their first-ever Voluntary Local Review (VLR), and the core team with support from ICLEI South Asia and UNESCAP has completed the collection of information on projects linked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A similar initiative is being conducted in Dhulikhel, Nepal with support of UNESCAP and ICLEI South Asia. A virtual core team meeting was conducted in Dhulikhel, Nepal to discuss and finalise SDG targets and indicators for VLR reporting. This initiative is taken up under the CDKN Knowledge Accelerator project.

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जुब्बे को सलाम

कोरोना में बिना थके जुटी हैं आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता



उदयपुर। कोरोना की दूसरी लहर में जहाँ डॉक्टर्स, नर्सिंगकर्मी और पुलिस अपनी जिम्मेदारी निभा रहे हैं और हम सब अपने घरों में “लॉक” हैं, वहीं हमारी आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता बहनें और आशा सहयोगिनियां हर एक गली-मोहल्ले की निगाहेबान बनी हुई हैं। बिना किसी शिकायत वे पिछले एक साल से भी ज्यादा वक़्त से हर एक बच्चे, गर्भवती एवं धात्री महिला के घर पहुंच कर उनके हाल- चाल पता कर रही हैं, उन्हें ज़रूरत का सामान पहुंचा रही हैं और बीमार होने की हालत में खुद की जान की परवाह किये बगैर उनका इलाज भी करवा रही हैं। वे छोटे बच्चों के परिवार वालों को RT-PCR टेस्ट करवाने और वेक्सीन लगाने के लिए भी प्रेरित कर रही हैं।

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Upcoming events

ICLEI World Congress 2021-22

Starting in April 2021, we connected online for the Virtual Launch of the ICLEI World Congress 2021-2022. Throughout the rest of 2021, we will explore critical topics in sustainable urban development in a virtual

event series, The Road to Malmö, building our momentum to 2022. We will then gather in person in Malmö, Sweden, for The Malmö Summit, from the 11th to the 13th of May 2022 – as far as the global health crisis permits – to exchange with and inspire one another on the best practices in local sustainable development, and learn firsthand from the City of Malmö's wealth of sustainability initiatives.



ICLEI World Congress
Malmö, Sweden • 2021 - 2022

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More from ICLEI across the globe

- [ICLEI President Cownie on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead](#)
- [Greening in a drought-prone city: An urban oasis in Dodoma flourishes](#)

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About ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a network of more than 2500 local and regional governments, supported by a team of global experts, driving sustainable urban development worldwide. Active in 100+ countries, we impact over 25 percent of the global urban population.

ICLEI firmly believes that sustainable cities are the foundation of a just and sustainable world. We create systemic change in urban areas through practical, integrated solutions and spark city-to-city and city-to-region connections. ICLEI brings a strong urban component to national and global sustainability policy and translates global policy into action. Through our collective efforts, ICLEI is building a sustainable urban world to shift the trajectory of global development.

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