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ICLEI South Asia E-News

February-March 2021



Emani Kumar
Deputy Secretary
General, ICLEI and
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Dear Friends,

Rajkot, an ICLEI South Asia member, has become the first city in the South Asia region to be declared compliant with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) requirements. GCoM is a global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 10,500 cities from 140 countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions. We congratulate the city of Rajkot for adding another feather to its cap and for cementing its position as a climate pioneer.

Other cities in the region too are taking significant steps in their march towards promoting sustainable lifestyles and achieving climate resilience. Kochi recently took a significant decision to set up a committee to oversee and integrate the urban freight sector in the city for improved urban mobility and development, a key focus of our EcoLogistics project. In Udaipur, senior city government officials attended a workshop, organised by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, which emphasised the role of behavioural change in urban planning and implementation, as part of the second phase of the Urban95 Programme.

We had also partnered with the European Union International Urban Cooperation project and World Resources Institute, India to organise a series of training webinars over five months for more than 220 city representatives on inclusive climate action planning. The series successfully concluded in February.

A couple of important resource materials that we released recently include a case study of the outstanding Illustrated Natural Asset Maps that have been developed for three cities under the INTERACT-Bio project, and a comprehensive policy brief on the significance of peri-urban areas in India. This edition has reports on all these developments, in addition to a blog on integrating circularity into plastic waste management.

Happy reading!

Latest developments

New Committee to Integrate, Regulate Urban Freight in Kochi City



The Kochi Metropolitan Transport Authority has approved the formation of an urban freight committee, the first of its kind in India, to integrate, plan and regulate urban freight in the city. The committee will address the issue of stakeholder fragmentation in urban freight, and shall assist the city not only to achieve economic growth, but also to support goals such as environmental sustainability.

[Read more](#)

Climate Pioneer: Rajkot Becomes First GCoM-Compliant City in South Asia Region

Rajkot has once again proved itself to be a climate pioneer by becoming the first city in South Asia to be declared compliant with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) requirements. The city has bagged both the mitigation and adaptation badges, having completed all the required steps under the mitigation and adaptation pillar of the GCoM, on the basis of the data it submitted on the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System in 2020.



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CDKN Asia Releases Policy Brief on Significance of Peri-Urban Areas

CDKN Asia released a policy brief titled “Peri-Urban Ecosystems: The Potential for a Planned Approach in India” during a webinar in February 2021. The policy brief, which was released by Dr. Anil K. Gupta, Head, Division of Policy Planning, National Institute of Disaster Management, Delhi, examines the importance of peri-urban ecosystems and outlines possible policy responses in India to preserve and manage these areas to contribute to sustainable and climate-resilient development.

[Read more](#)

Case Study Highlights Significance of Illustrated Natural Assets Maps

ICLEI South Asia has developed a case study to disseminate information about the use and the methodology for developing Illustrated Natural Assets Maps, such as the ones developed for Kochi, Gangtok and Panaji under the INTERACT-Bio project. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany, is supporting the project.



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Over 220 City Representatives Receive Extensive Training in Inclusive Climate Action Planning



More than 220 city and associated representatives from 18 states attended a series of 10 webinar trainings from October 2020 to February 2021. The webinars aimed to build the capacity of urban local bodies to develop their own greenhouse gas emissions inventory and manage the impact of climate change, and were jointly organised by the European Union International Urban Cooperation project, ICLEI South Asia and World Resources Institute, India, within the framework of the GCoM.

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Urban95-II Workshop Highlights Behaviour Change Focus as Key Factor for Success of Urban Planning

The Bernard van Leer Foundation conducted a seven-day workshop in March 2021, for the newly established Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Urban95 Phase-II Programme in Udaipur, including technical personnel from ICLEI South Asia and Ecorys India Pvt. Ltd. The workshop, held in collaboration with the US-based John Hopkins-Centre for Communication Programmes, focused on the importance of social and behavioural change.



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Blogs



Integrating Circularity into Plastic Waste Management – A Win-Win?

Globally, cities are dealing with the impacts of plastic pollution – both on aquatic life and terrestrial ecosystems – while trying to balance their utility and convenience, as well as the economy that is linked with the manufacture and use of plastic, writes Soumya Chaturvedula, Deputy Director, ICLEI South Asia.

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Announcements

New ICLEI Circularity Platform Facilitates Circular Economy Interventions at the Local Level

Circular development is one of ICLEI's five strategic pathways towards sustainable urban development. The new ICLEI Circularity platform offers cities concrete instruments and practical tools to kick-off their circular development journey.



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Upcoming events

ICLEI World Congress 2021

Hundreds of local, regional and national governments, international agencies, representatives of the private sector, academics and researchers, community groups and other partners from around the world will come together virtually to steer the global sustainable development agenda by enhancing action taken in urban areas worldwide. Join the first part of the ICLEI World Congress, to be hosted by Malmö, Sweden, from 13-15 April 2021, from the comfort of your own home or office. The second part will be a three-day, in-person event in Malmö during the second quarter of 2022.



ICLEI World Congress
Malmö, Sweden • 2021 - 2022

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More from ICLEI across the globe

- [New tool supports deep explorations on data and circular initiatives: here's what it means for African cities](#)
- [Betting on Multilevel Climate Action for COP26 in Glasgow](#)

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About ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a network of more than 1,750 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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