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ICLEI South Asia E-News

November 2020



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

Dear Readers!

This edition of our newsletter brings you reports on the sessions we organised during the three-week long Daring Cities event, a global, action-oriented virtual forum organised by ICLEI to empower urban leaders around the world to tackle the climate crisis. ICLEI South Asia was an active participant, and organised several sessions on knowledge brokering, climate resilience, climate finance, the role of sub-national governments, circular economy and the importance of high-altitude pasturelands.

There were presentations and intense discussions between representatives of national and sub-national governments, international organisations, academia, civil society and the corporate world. Members of the global audience also actively interacted with the experts during the Q&A sessions.

In a significant development, we have entered into a partnership with the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) to assist local governments in identifying and enabling deployment of solutions that can help them to sustainably manage the plastic waste problem. We will collaborate with the AEPW in pilot projects in two Indian cities and three Southeast and East Asian cities.

There are also reports in this edition on a dialogue that was held to garner expert feedback on a draft policy brief on 'Supporting Climate Action through Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Nepal', the release of Kochi's Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and on the development of Gangtok's City Biodiversity Index.

We are pleased to announce the names of the newly elected members of the ICLEI South Asia Regional Executive Committee for the 2021-24 period. Please see the announcement section below for more details. We are very grateful to those members who have served their terms and now leave the REXCOM with our appreciation. And we are delighted to welcome the new members, whose experience will allow us to remain at the forefront of advancing regional and global sustainability through local initiatives.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Latest developments



CDKN Webinars Highlight Knowledge Brokering, Climate Finance, Frontline Experiences

ICLEI South Asia and SouthSouthNorth, under the Climate Development Knowledge Network-Knowledge Accelerator project, organised three Daring Cities sessions to discuss possible ways to strengthen the knowledge brokering programme to be able to support informed and evidence-based decisions.

[Read more](#)

Climate Fight: Involve Sub-National Governments in Each Step of Policy Development

ICLEI offices in South Asia, South-East Asia and other offices in the Asia-Pacific organised the Daring Cities [webinar](#) on the 'Role of Sub-national Governments in Advancing National Climate Goals and Beyond', with support from the Global LEADS Partnership. In her keynote speech, Ms. Anand Sog, Climate Change Policy Specialist, Ministry of Environment And Tourism, Mongolia, said, "The Paris climate agreement gives us a chance to set right our erring actions....We have to give more attention to the actual implementation, especially at the sub-national levels."



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Managing Waste: Create a Circular Economy for Plastics

The Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) and ICLEI South Asia organised the Daring Cities [webinar](#) on 'Enabling Circular Economy through Reduction and Scientific Management of Plastic Waste' to discuss the opportunities offered by circular economy measures to address the growing plastic waste menace. In his special address, Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI, focused on the catastrophe caused by plastic pollution that necessitated a call to action from a wide range of key actors and stakeholders.

[Read more](#)

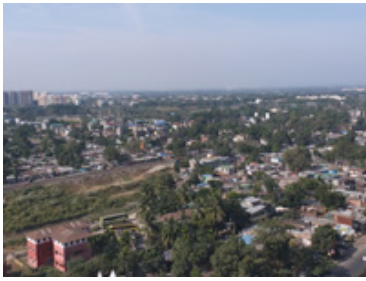
AEPW, ICLEI South Asia Join Forces to Combat Urban Plastic Pollution

AEPW and ICLEI South Asia have entered into a partnership that will address the needs of urban local governments in identifying and enabling deployment of solutions for sustainable management of plastic waste. Under the project, ICLEI South Asia, along with other ICLEI offices in Asia, will provide technical support for the development of a plastic waste management strategy and the preparation of Project Information Notes for pilot projects in two Indian cities and three Southeast and East Asian cities.



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Participatory Governance is Necessary for



Building Climate Resilience

The [CapaCITIES project](#) organised a [panel discussion](#) on “Climate Resilient Cities Action Planning and Implementation Lessons” during the Daring Cities forum. Senior representatives from agencies at national, sub-national and local levels discussed challenges, lessons learned and good practices with respect to climate action planning and implementation, and also showcased the climate actions that have been successfully implemented in Indian cities, especially under the CapaCITIES project.

[Read more](#)

Moving Back to Greener Pastures: Why We Need To Protect High-Altitude Pasturelands

The Daring Cities [webinar](#) on Healthy High Altitude Pasturelands for Sustainable Development in Downstream Cities focused on the importance of high-altitude pasturelands. At the session, several experts from international organisations and institutions in India and Nepal highlighted the multi-faceted significance of these pasturelands and the measures needed to protect them.



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Kochi Becomes First Indian City to Have Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) of Kochi, which has been prepared by ICLEI South Asia under INTERACT-Bio project, has been accepted by the City Council and released by Mrs. Soumini Jain, Hon'ble Mayor, Kochi Municipal Corporation. Kochi is the first city in India to have developed a scientifically informed and participatory LBSAP, which sets out a framework and a plan of action for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and an equitable sharing of the associated benefits.

[Read more](#)

CDKN Policy Dialogue Calls for More Gender-Responsive Budgeting to Reduce Gender Inequality

CDKN Asia organised an online dialogue with experts to discuss a draft policy brief on ‘Supporting Climate Action through Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Nepal’. The experts highlighted several issues, such as a lack of awareness about gender-responsive budgeting, lack of gender auditing and monitoring systems, women’s lack of capacity and meaningful representation in decision-making bodies and the risks of gender-neutral budgeting.



[Read more](#)

Gangtok Develops its City Biodiversity Index



Gangtok has developed its City Biodiversity Index (CBI), with support from ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia, under the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety-supported INTERACT-Bio project. Its robust score in the CBI shows that Gangtok has a large number of native species, and practices good governance in the management of biodiversity.

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Announcements

We are pleased to announce the names of the newly elected members of the ICLEI South Asia Regional Executive Committee for the 2021-24 period: **Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha**, President, Municipal National Association of Nepal; **Mr. Kinlay Dorjee**, Mayor, Thimphu Thromde, Bhutan; **Mr. A. H. M. Khairuzzaman (Liton)**, Mayor, Rajshahi City Corporation, Bangladesh; **Ms. Fathimath Afshan Latheef**, CEO, Local Government Authority of Maldives; and **Ms. Atishi Marlena**, Member of Legislative Assembly, Government of National Capital Territory, Delhi, India. **Ms. Satya Kaundal**, Mayor, Shimla, India; **Mr. Sunil Uniyal Gama**, Mayor, Dehradun, India; and **Ms. Yasmin Kidwai**, Councillor, South Delhi Municipal Corporation, Delhi, India would be acting as **Special Advisers** in the South Asia Regional Executive Committee.



Mr. Kinlay Dorjee



Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha



Mr. A. H. M. Khairuzzaman (Liton)



Ms. Fathimath Afshan Latheef



Ms. Atishi Marlana



Ms. Satya Kaundal



Mr. Sunil Uniyal Gama



Ms. Yasmin Kidwai

Upcoming events



ICLEI World Congress 2021
12 - 16 April • Malmö, Sweden

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 event, hosted by Malmö, Sweden, 12-16 April 2021, from the comfort of your own home or office. The ICLEI World Congress 2021 is all online.

[Read more](#)

More from ICLEI across the globe

- [Daring Cities closing balances bold initiatives with challenges that lie ahead](#)
- [In response to COVID-19, cities focus on nature and innovation to ensure a green recovery.](#)

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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.

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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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