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ICLEI South Asia E-News

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Greetings readers!

ICLEI South Asia has always aimed at raising and increasing awareness about ways to make our cities more sustainable and liveable. At the SUNYA International Conference on Solid Waste Management for South Asia in March, we witnessed our cities showcasing remarkable initiatives being taken to move towards a state of zero waste. A workshop was recently organised in Cochin to resolve transport issues of the city and to identify prospective solutions. We, like last year, are also partners for the All India Environment Journalism Competition 2015, for which the details can be found below. These workshops, conferences and numerous events not only increase awareness but also highlight the various steps, ideas and actions that can be taken to make our world a better place to live in.

Our member city Thane was also announced as the National Earth Hour Capital 2015 due to its myriad actions on aggressive renewable energy targets, energy efficiency and multiple solar energy projects. We are proud of all work that our cities are undertaking to advance towards sustainability. Read on for more updates from the South Asia region and beyond.

Happy reading!

Local sustainability actions

Risk award to support slum dwellers in Pune



Activities for risk reduction must integrate the people at risk and make use of their traditional coping techniques and knowledge. All the key drivers of risk are present in the Indian city of Pune where 25,000 people living in ten slums will benefit from a project by the All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG) which has won the 2015 Risk Award and a grant of €100,000 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The project reduces disaster risks faced especially by women and children in a slum population.

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Official Statement of Local and Regional Authorities Major Group at UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

A statement was read out by Mayor Illiza Saaduddin Djamal of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on behalf of the Major Group on Local and Regional Authorities, and their global networks United Cities and Local Governments and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 17 March 2015. This statement will further feed into the 2015 Sendai outcome.

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Aiming towards creating a climate friendly future for Pune at the Green Energy Fair



More than 500 people visited the Green Energy Fair, organised in Pune city on 4 March 2015, with support from Pune Municipal Corporation and WWF – India, as part of the Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) project. The aim of this program was to enhance stakeholder awareness regarding the city's actions towards low carbon development, energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy.

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Latest from our projects



Thane wins "National Earth Hour Capital 2015"

After a rigorous exercise of deliberating and assessing the sustainable activities reported by the finalist cities under the Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC), an expert jury panel has declared Thane as the winning sustainable city from India this year, recognizing the city's focused actions on aggressive renewable energy targets, energy efficiency and multiple solar energy projects.

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Brainstorming towards an integrated transport system in Cochin



A two day workshop on sustainable transport solutions was held in Cochin, India to resolve transport issues of the city and to identify prospective solutions. The workshop, organised as a part of the <u>SOLUTIONS</u> project, was attended by representatives of various organisations from the city, who discussed various solutions that could be implemented as short, medium and long term measures and reiterated the advantages of current density patterns as an add on for providing better public transport.

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South Asian cities collaborate towards creating a zero waste region

Mayors, Municipal leaders and myriad esteemed experts from South Asian countries – India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, were present at the International Conference on Solid Waste Management for South Asia, hosted by ICLEI South Asia, endorsed by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India and the National Institute of Urban Affairs and financially supported by the European Commission on the 9-10 March 2015.

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The 6th Resilient Cities Congress 2015



The 6th edition of the Resilient Cities congress series will take place June 8-10, 2015 in Bonn, Germany. The congress offers a number of sessions and events on a wide variety of topics among which were urban risk data and indicators, ecosystem-based approach, resilient urban logistics, urban agriculture, smart infrastructure, financing the resilient city, community-based adaptation and many more.

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All India Environmental Journalism Competition 2015

To steer the public and other stakeholders towards the path of sustainable development and to encourage environmental journalism in India, GIZ India along with IFAT India, and under the patronage of the German Embassy, has been organising the All India Environmental Journalism Competition since 2013. The third All India Environmental Journalism Competition 2015 is being organised in association with IFAT India, ICLEI South Asia, The Third Pole and Asian College of Journalism..

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Snippets from ICLEI's world

- Advancing SDGs at the local and subnational level: Input to UN negotiations on Post2015 development agenda
- ICLEI partners with new global program "Renewable Cities"
- Johannesburg to ban cars for one month in CBD

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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, lowcarbon; 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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