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ICLEI South Asia E-News

August 2019



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

Greetings readers!

It has been a month of notable developments.

ICLEI South Asia, over the last fourteen years, has been tirelessly working with cities, provinces and national governments in India and the region to build capacities, hand-hold, create an evidence base for policy and thereby further the cause of climate-resilient development.

In India, we initiated the climate journey in cities way back in 2002 at a time when climate change actions were still not recognised as immediate and urgent. ICLEI engaged with cities on resource efficiency, while still talking about climate change adaptation and mitigation, which were then seen as altruistic approaches. Cities recognised the co-benefits and were willing to engage on mitigation actions, since they also made economic sense. Climate change adaptation then became a necessity and ICLEI supported cities on climate-resilient interventions. The benefits of preparing GHG emissions inventories and identifying vulnerable communities were recognised by a few forward-thinking cities, who now are leaders championing the cause of sustainable development. For the first time, with our support, 54 South Asian cities released their GHG emissions inventories in 2009.

With financial assistance from several international development partners, ICLEI was able to engage with cities and work alongside to develop comprehensive climate-resilient city action plans – which neatly tied in all aspects of sustainable development – efficient and environment friendly mobility, enhanced biodiversity, increased green-lung space, integrated water resource management, shift to clean energy through energy efficiency and renewable energy, inclusive urban development approaches and the like.

It is of immense pride today that that all this experience of city climate action and sectoral interventions substantially contributed to the formulation of the Climate-Smart City Assessment Framework, that has been adopted and rolled out by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. We consider it a personal achievement that ICLEI's silent action with our members all these years has initiated a country-level shift to address climate resilient urban development in right earnest.

Our passion for environment conservation also throws up rare and pleasant surprises. The first-ever bird sighting of the European Bee-Eater in the Lahaul-Spiti district by Ishaan Rashpa, Project Associate,

ICLEI South Asia, and Guru Rana, a wildlife enthusiast, created tremendous excitement among ornithologists. It was the second-ever sighting in the state.

In a promising development, the leaders of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand approved the Sustainable Urban Development Framework (SUDF) prepared by ICLEI for 32 provinces and states of the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

Two of our projects, PROMISE and Smart Cities Project Phase II, which have come to a close with productive outcomes, are featured in this edition.

Don't miss out on our latest blog on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus!

Latest developments



SHIFT Working Groups Discuss Strategies to Promote EcoMobility

The second SHIFT Working Group meetings, organised in Visakhapatnam and Ludhiana under the Cities SHIFT: Capacity Building and Networking for Sustainable Urban Mobility project, provided training to stakeholders on the planning aspects of the EcoMobility initiative, and completed the SHIFT assessment using the SHIFT methodology. The working group members discussed the priority action areas to promote EcoMobility, along with the data gaps. There was also capacity building training on sustainable mobility.

[Read more](#)

Putting Children First: Udaipur Workshop Shares Peer Cities' Experiences

An Urban95 Peer Cities Learning Workshop was organised in Udaipur. This was the first of a series of workshops, planned under the Urban95 Programme, which will be held in partner cities in the coming months. The objectives of the workshop were to introduce tools to measure the needs and experiences of young children and their caregivers, share and learn from the data collection and analyse the experiences of partner cities, and to introduce social and behavioral change concepts and tools in the Urban95 initiatives.



[Read more](#)



IMT-GT Summit Leaders Approve Sustainable Urban Development Framework

The leaders of three countries, meeting at the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) summit, approved and endorsed the Sustainable Urban Development Framework (SUDF) in Bangkok. ICLEI South Asia had provided technical support for the preparation of the SUDF, which addresses the unique development status of the cities and provinces/states of the IMT-GT.

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Plastic Waste Management in Hyderabad - Gap Analysis Highlights Key Issues

A comprehensive baseline and gap analysis of the plastic waste management system in Hyderabad was conducted as part of the project, "Holistic Strategy and Action Plan for Plastic Waste Management in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)". In meetings of ICLEI South Asia and IGES teams with senior officials of the GHMC, a pilot project, which would address the issue of single-use plastics comprehensively within a selected area, was also discussed and finalised.



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EU-Funded Project Ends with Fulfilled PROMISE

The European Union-supported "PROMOTION of Inclusive, Sustainable Growth and Diversity to Strengthen Local Governments" project, which was implemented in four smart cities – Karnal, Ajmer, Jabalpur and Warangal - has come to a close. The three-and-a-half-year project's major output - the [PROMISE tool](#) - was developed by the project team to assist municipalities in project prioritisation. The responses of the people, based on their needs and aspirations, along with the existing service levels and future plans of the urban local bodies were used to develop the tool.

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Smart Cities Project Phase II Concludes with Tangible Results

The second phase of the Supporting Sustainable Urban Transport and Built Environment project has been successfully completed in four Smart Cities: Udaipur, Ludhiana, Gwalior and Visakhapatnam. The project teams worked very closely with urban local bodies, while other parastatal agencies provided technical solutions on mobility aspects in the cities. As part of the support being given to build environment and mobility initiatives under the Smart Cities Mission, the project team provided technical support on non-motorised transport, public transport, intermediate public transport and parking. The experiences and learnings from all the project cities have been documented in the form of reports and webinars.



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Kurunegala Workshop Lays Groundwork for CRCAP

ICLEI South Asia, with support from the Kurunegala Municipal Council, convened a Shared Learning Dialogue (SLD) in Kurunegala, Sri Lanka. This workshop was convened as part of the ongoing Asia LEDS Partnership: Scaling Up Lessons from CapaCITIES project. Kurunegala's ClimateResilientCITIES Action Plan (CRCAP) is being prepared under the project.

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ICLEI South Asia Emphasises Sustainable Freight Strategy at Kochi Conference

The Kerala government invited ICLEI South Asia to initiate a discussion on sustainable urban freight management with the objective of greening the freight sector in the state. The discussion on “Greening the freight” was held as part of ‘Evolve: Kerala E-Mobility Conference and Expo 2019,’ at Kochi. This followed a capacity building workshop in Kochi, organised in early June by ICLEI South Asia on sustainable urban freight. The workshop sensitised more than 175 stakeholders from government agencies (city, state and national) and the private sector.



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European Bee-Eater Spotted for the First Time in Lahaul-Spiti District

The European Bee-Eater (*Merops apiaster*) was sighted for the first time in the Lahaul-Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh. This is the first sighting of the bird in the district, and only the second-ever in the state. The sighting and the photographic evidence will help to revise the distribution map of this species. ICLEI South Asia is conducting bird and mammal surveys in the Lahaul and Pangi landscapes under the SECURE Himalaya project.

[Read more](#)

Blogs

Water-Energy-Food Nexus – Applying an Inter-Sectoral Lens to Meet Growing Needs

Ritu Thakur, member of the CDKN-Asia team and ICLEI South Asia, describes how an inter-sectoral development approach in Nashik, the “backyard of Mumbai”, is helping to meet people’s growing needs for water, energy and food.

[Read more](#)



Announcements

ICLEI South Asia Releases Handbook on E-Rickshaw Deployment in India

The Handbook: E-Rickshaw Deployment in Indian Cities, funded by Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, is [available online](#). The handbook provides a basic understanding of e-rickshaws and assists cities in developing a model/framework to promote the vehicle.

Upcoming events

[CDKN Knowledge Accelerator Project Country Engagement Workshops](#)



ICLEI South Asia is organising national-level engagement workshops in Nepal, Bangladesh and India on the 8th, 24th and 29th of August 2019 respectively. The workshops will discuss CDKN's activities in the three countries, with reference to the thematic priorities of CDKN.

[Read more](#)

More from ICLEI across the globe

- [ICLEI Members are Leading Climate Emergency Movement](#)
- [ICLEI Secretary General Gino Van Begin elected to SLoCaT Board of Directors](#)

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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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