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ICLEI South Asia E-News

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New Year Greetings!

We are happy to bring the newsletter back to you and regret that it had to be discontinued for a few months. While this bulletin carries some important developments at ICLEI South Asia in the past three months, it also offers a sneak peek into the Second Resilient Cities Asia Pacific Congress, set to be hosted at Melaka, Malaysia, in March 2016.

In the first newsletter of this year, we want to acknowledge that the Paris Agreement that emerged from COP21 in 2015 was a momentous step in uniting all nations for action on climate change. Last year also saw the adoption of a Sustainable Development Goals 2030, taking us a step forward in our journey to build sustainable cities. Later, at COP, the Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory Report on Melaka, the first of 14 Malaysian states to have such inventory, was released. The report was prepared with support from ICLEI South Asia and ICLEI Southeast Asia. Also, the case of Indian city Gwalior was presented under the Transformative Actions Program (TAP).

Meanwhile in India, the Central government has just announced a list of cities selected for the first phase of its Smart City Mission. ICLEI South Asia is proud to note that it has been in close association with most of the chosen cities. Also, the Union and state government of Andhra Pradesh have recently launched projects to boost tourism and urban infrastructure of Amravati, and ICLEI South Asia is one of the implementation partners of the same. You will find more on this and other projects in the newsletter.

Besides, the bulletin also features Vivek Narayan Shejwalkar, Mayor of Gwalior city in Madhya Pradesh, India, talking about his city's initiatives to make it more sustainable and how its residents have responded to them.

Enjoy reading more!



Melaka, Malaysia to host Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2016 in March



Organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the Congress will be hosted by the Melaka State Government and is expected to attract more than 500 delegates from across the Asia-Pacific region and other parts of the world to talk about climate resilience and adaptation in urban areas. The Prime Minister of Malaysia will attend a high-level segment at the Congress that will be inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of the country. Members from a high-level delegation of the United Nations will

also be present.

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Smart City Mission: ICLEI congratulates first batch of selected cities

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia is proud to note that it has been in close association with most of the 20 cities selected for the first phase of Indian government’s “Smart Cities Mission”. Of the 20 cities that will be developed under the first phase of the government-led mission, 11 are ICLEI’s member cities. The organisation has been working with many other selected cities under projects that range from transport and water management to solid waste and mapping of carbon emissions.

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COP 21 acknowledges role of cities in building resilience



The Conference of Parties in Paris (COP21) that saw historic commitment of 185 nations was also remarkable for strong presence of cities, together with their networks and partners. Moreover, the Conference was complemented by the Cities & Regions Pavilion – TAP2015. Gwalior’s case under the Transformative Actions Program (TAP) was presented at the Pavilion. At the side event, a greenhouse emissions inventory report on Melaka, the first of 14 Malaysian states to have its baseline GHG emission inventory, prepared with support from ICLEI South Asia, was also released.

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South Asia family gets bigger and stronger

If you dream of a sustainable, resilient and better world and wish to contribute to the cause, ICLEI could be the place for you. Meet our colleagues who have joined us in the past few months and bring with them a pool of talent and experience. We welcome the new sustainability champions and wish them luck!

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Gwalior’s quest for a sustainable future: an interview with Mayor Vivek Narayan Shejwalkar



Meet Vivek Narayan Shejwalkar, the mayor who is confident that the optimism and enthusiasm of the residents of his city, along with the efforts of local government, will help it make a better place. Talking about his collaboration with ICLEI and one of its flagship programme, the official adds, *“It is through Urban-LEDS programme and continuous support through exchange of ideas and best practices that Gwalior city has had the opportunity to join the premier cities league in the Global South, to address some of the common environmental challenges of our time.”*

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Ten Indian cities take first step towards global Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC)

The Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) 2015-2016 is an initiative by ICLEI and World Wide Fund (WWF) to promote renewable energy and prepare for climate change. In this year-long competition promoted across the world, 10 cities from India participated through submission of their greenhouse gas data. Stakeholder meetings have been held for five of these cities and a national and world Earth Hour capital will soon be chosen.

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Kolkata builds capacities to achieve climate resilience



Councillors and other government officials of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), West Bengal went through a series of training workshops that sensitized them about the need to develop Kolkata as a low carbon and climate resilient city. Funded by British Deputy High Commission Kolkata, the emphasis of the training was also on getting more information on engaging communities for climate action and on mainstreaming climate action in planning and development of the city.

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Urban Development Minister and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh launch HRIDAY scheme in Amaravati

The Ministry of Urban Development, along with the Government of India and Andhra Pradesh state government, launched projects under National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD), in Amaravati in Guntur district. The Rs 47.25-crore plan for Amaravati, prepared by ICLEI South Asia and Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation (IHCNF), outlays Rs. 20.33 crore under HRIDAY while the remaining will come from PRASAD scheme. Now, ICLEI South Asia, with its partners, is working as a city anchor for three cities – Amaravati, Ajmer and Badami. Their role as a city anchor includes planning, advising, and supporting the City Mission Directorate at the city level for successful implementation of the scheme.

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District Energy Systems: Towards efficient cooling for buildings in India's cities



ICLEI South Asia, in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has initiated a project to help Indian cities accelerate their transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development through modern District Energy Systems (DES). To kick off the project, five cities in India were selected for rapid assessments to understand their potential for implementing DES (cooling) initiatives and prepare the ground for developing a pilot-scale bankable, viable district energy project proposal.

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**IUWM: ICLEI holds water use training for students in two cities of Rajasthan**

Under Adopt Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) project, ICLEI organised a sensitization training for students in Kishangarh and Jaisalmer cities of Rajasthan, in collaboration with the local authorities. For the purpose of workshop that was organised to encourage water recycling, reuse and recharge, tools of information, education and communication were used. Training for plastic waste management was also held in selected ward/area in Jaisalmer.

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- [President Benigno S. Aquino III Supports National Launch of Compact of Mayors in Philippines](#)
- [ICLEI Launches Smart Cities Conference and invites input](#)
- [Local Climate Leaders Circle delegation makes an impact in the US](#)

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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, low-carbon; 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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