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ICLEI South Asia E-News

August 2021



Emani Kumar
Deputy Secretary
General, ICLEI and
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Dear readers,

Ours is a sector of optimists and solutionists, thankfully. We believe that 'better' is always possible and this optimism drives us to work towards happier ends, even in a dramatically changing world.

The recently released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report has warned that South Asia is on the front lines of the climate crisis and could face hotter weather, longer monsoon seasons and increased droughts in the near future. However, we believe that increasing regional cooperation by governments, academics, the private sector, civil society and also communities across borders will boost the response needed to fight these challenges. The commitment of these stakeholders to find appropriate solutions for climate resilience was evident at the KASpaces webinars, organised by the South Asia and South-East Asia offices of ICLEI in 10 Asian countries in July and August, with support from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Singapore.

The fact is cities are already reporting some success in combatting climate change. At the Asia-Pacific Climate week 2021, South Asian cities showcased their success stories at the "Implementation of Transformative Climate Action in Cities" session, which was organised by the Asia LEDS Partnership and ICLEI South Asia, together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

This edition has reports on these events, in addition to developments in our Urban95 programme in Udaipur, the EcoLogistics project and the SECURE Himalaya project. There are also three insightful blogs

that provide key perspectives on dealing with urban challenges, in addition to an article in Hindi on Udaipur's success in solid waste management.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition!

Latest developments



KASpaces 10-Nation Webinar Series Puts Focus on Sustainable Solutions for Urban Development

The KASpaces webinars organised in Sri Lanka, India, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh, as well as the Philippines, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia and Cambodia – focused on sustainable solutions for urban development, including issues of internal migration, climate resilience, affordable housing, open spaces and sustainable transport, linked to the Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read more](#)

Cities Share Best Practices and Learnings from Climate Initiatives at APCW 2021

The Asia LEDS Partnership and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia, together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the National Institute of Urban Affairs, organised a virtual session on “Implementation of Transformative Climate Action in Cities” at the Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021 (APCW 2021). Key success stories from selected South Asian cities, which have been made possible by national and sub-national policies on combating climate change, were highlighted at the event.

[Read more](#)



EcoLogistics Cities Show Way Forward for Government's Freight Smart Cities Initiative

With the growing demand of urban freight and the consequences it has on public health and local economies, there is a need to improve urban logistics in Indian cities. To discuss the development of the Freight Smart Cities Initiative in India, a national-level meeting was organised with urban local bodies, state governments, and relevant stakeholders.

[Read more](#)

Lahaul Pasturelands: Stakeholders Hold Final Stage of Talks on Restoration Plan

A detailed site visit to Lahaul valley in Himachal Pradesh was undertaken to hold the final round of stakeholder discussions with local officials for developing a restoration plan for high-altitude grasslands, under the UNDP SECURE Himalaya project. The interactions helped to develop a site-specific and in-depth understanding of the issues related to pastureland degradation.



[Read more](#)



Shimla Shares Freight Sector Plans at EcoLogistics Peer-City Exchange

The participants of the second peer-city exchange, held under the EcoLogistics project, focused on cycle logistics. The participants were apprised of the interventions that have been identified for improving urban freight in Shimla, such as parking management through road signage, awareness drives, capacity-building of the freight sector stakeholders, and transportation of goods on public buses.

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ऐसे ही साफ़ नहीं हुआ मेरा शहर

उदयपुर में ठोस कचरा प्रबंधन: सफलता की कहानी



साल २०२० में राजस्थान में १० लाख से कम आबादी वाले सबसे स्वच्छ शहर के रूप में जब उदयपुर को चुना गया तो यह हर एक उदयपुरवासी के लिए गौरव का क्षण था। यह एक ऐसी उपलब्धि थी, जिसका इंतज़ार हम पिछले कई सालों से कर रहे थे। पर यह सब एक रात में हुआ बदलाव नहीं था, इसके पीछे एक सम्मिलित पहल थी, जिसमें उदयपुर नगर निगम और उदयपुर स्मार्ट सिटी लिमिटेड के साथ-साथ

इकली साउथ एशिया (ICLEI South Asia) का भी बड़ा योगदान रहा। यह उपलब्धि इसलिए बड़ी थी क्योंकि उदयपुर ने इस से पहले इस प्रकार की कोई "स्वच्छ" रैंकिंग हासिल नहीं की थी।

[Read more](#)

Blogs

Strengthening Heat Resilience in Cities – Insight from India

There is an emerging need for heat-resilient city systems – Indian local authorities are considering how to achieve this, report Shwetha Kutty, Mrunmayee Velukar and Priyesh Salunke of TARU Leading Edge.

[Read more](#)



How Child-Centred Urban Design and Management is Good for Everyone's Wellbeing

City-dwellers in India have suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic, even as they deal with other multiple shocks and stresses. This takes a toll on families' resilience – not least, that of young children. Avantika Arjuna of ICLEI South Asia describes how the lives of young children in cities have changed in the past year – and what could change for the better.

[Read more](#)

Opinion: What will our post-pandemic environment be like?

Tikender Singh Panwar, former Deputy Mayor of Shimla, from India's Himachal Pradesh state, reflects on sobering lessons from the pandemic about the weaknesses of India's cities, and also on how they can build back better and more sustainably from it.

[Read more](#)



Events

Asia LEDS Partnership Forum 2021

The ALP Forum 2021: 'Advancing NDC implementation and Strengthening Long Term Strategies' is to be held from August 23 to September 9, 2021. The Forum brings together policymakers, donors, practitioners and other experts involved in enabling low emission and climate-resilient development in the Asia-Pacific. Some Asian



countries have already embarked on the ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions and a long-term low emission development path to achieve the climate change goals. The Forum will showcase thought leadership, innovative and integrated approaches, insights on important trends, and the challenges and lessons learnt from key Asian countries to enable peer learning, and sharing and replication of good practices. Stakeholders will discuss opportunities, tools and models for effective low-carbon policies and projects, and explore opportunities for collaboration on building resilience and lowering emissions. **To register for individual sessions, click [here](#).**

[Register here](#)

More from ICLEI across the globe

- [New IPCC report lays out the scientific basis of the climate emergency](#)
- [How cities are fostering sustainable lifestyles with urban partnerships](#)

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About ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

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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