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ICLEI South Asia E-News

September 2021



Emani Kumar
Deputy Secretary
General, ICLEI and
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Dear readers,

In a month's time from now, the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will open in Glasgow, against the backdrop of a relentless pandemic, frequent weather disasters and increasing clamour for decisive climate action. The Parties are expected to announce enhanced ambitions, but the world as a whole is already falling short of the Paris goals, with implementation being one of the key weaknesses. Countries need to become bolder in their emissions reduction targets and resilience measures.

Building climate resilience has been the objective behind some of our recent project activities too, such as developing training modules for GIZ's CRISC programme in Bangladesh, helping Thane city implement a flood warning system, supporting Rajkot city to pilot an urban cooling plan and organising a virtual training programme for Nepal's municipalities.

There are also reports in this edition on our support to the cities of Jammu and Srinagar for developing their city biodiversity index and local biodiversity strategy and action plans, and to Shimla for improving its freight sector .

I hope you enjoy going through this edition and send us your feedback.

Latest developments

Jammu, Srinagar Initiate Development of City Biodiversity Index, Local Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plans

ICLEI South Asia, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council, has initiated the development of the City Biodiversity Index and Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (LBSAP) for the cities of Jammu and Srinagar. The development of the City Biodiversity Index is supported by UNDP through the SECURE Himalaya project and the development of the LBSAPs is supported by the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the INTERACT-Bio project.



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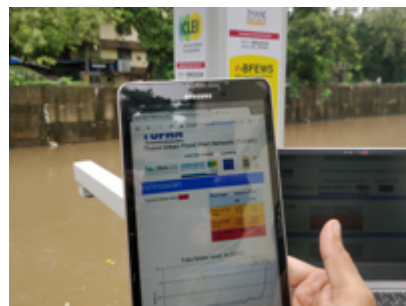
ICLEI South Asia Develops Training Modules for GIZ's CRISC Programme

ICLEI South Asia has developed training modules to support GIZ Bangladesh in improving the capacities of national and local actors in five cities in climate-resilient planning under GIZ's Climate Resilient Inclusive Smart Cities (CRISC) programme. The training will cover identification of climate risks, assessment of vulnerabilities, and incorporation of climate resilience in urban development plans.

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TUFAN: Thane's Pilot-Scale Flood Warning System Augments City's Climate Resilience

Thane city has implemented an early warning system called the Thane Urban Flood Alert Network (TUFAN), to help better address incidence of waterlogging and flooding in the city through the Urban-LEDS II project. When water levels exceed threshold flood levels, the concerned officials are informed through the TUFAN system. All data is communicated through an IoT platform and analysed at the Integrated Command and Control Centre of Thane Municipal Corporation, using a model developed under this project.



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Rajkot Becomes First Indian City to Pilot Global Urban Cooling Action Plan



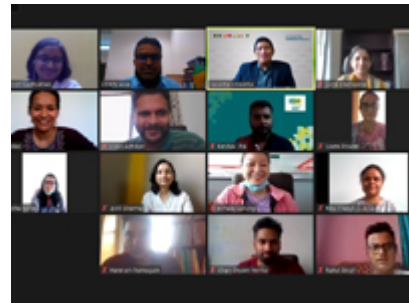
Rajkot will be the first city in India to pilot a global methodology under the Urban Cooling Plan for Rajkot Project. The city's surface and atmospheric urban heat profile will be prepared through GIS mapping and Air Quality Analysis to identify hotspot wards under the project, based on the highest urban heat island intensity values. The methodology has been prepared by the UNEP-led Cool Coalition, which plans to coordinate and integrate municipality-led action on extreme heat and sustainable cooling. ICLEI South Asia is the technical partner to UNEP in this endeavour.

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CDKN Training Boosts Nepal Municipalities' Capacity to Build Climate Resilience

ICLEI South Asia and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) jointly organised a virtual training programme on "Planning of Climate Resilient Strategy" under the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Royal Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)-supported CDKN Knowledge Accelerator Project. The training was designed for planners, engineers and technical and administrative officials from Nepal's urban and rural municipalities.

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EcoLogistics Baseline Report Proposes Key Changes to Improve Shimla's Freight Sector

The baseline report of Shimla, being prepared by Development Initiatives with assistance from ICLEI South Asia under the EcoLogistics project, has made some recommendations to improve the city's freight sector. These proposals include using the Lift, an elevator from Cart Road to The Mall, in non-peak periods for vertical transportation of consignments; exploring the use of e-tugs for moving loads to make deliveries in the core zone; and shifting of wholesale markets.

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Blogs

Plastic waste management in Hyderabad, India – From a linear to a circular economy

Anuradha Adhikari of ICLEI South Asia describes how the pilot installation of 'reverse vending machines' for

PET bottles in Hyderabad is providing multiple environmental and community benefits.

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Events



Daring Cities 2021

Join us for five jam-packed days of high level speakers, in-depth trainings and thought-provoking engagements, all in a virtual conference-like setting, with ample opportunities for networking and exchange. Daring Cities 2021 takes place on Hopin, a virtual conference platform from the 4th - 8th of October 2021. The two-step registration process will give you access to Hopin and a ticket to Daring Cities 2021.

[Register here](#)

ReCAP21 Bangladesh Resilient Recovery Training

The virtual training series aims to build capacity in cities to better identify and develop initiatives and actions that will support a resilient recovery from COVID-19. Rajshahi and Narayanganj cities from Bangladesh will be introduced to the concept of urban resilience and insights will be shared on how they can better address shocks and underlying stresses exposed by the pandemic as they plan for recovery. The training is being organised by ICLEI South Asia, Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities) and Cities Alliance, with support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The training sessions will be held on the 11th and 12th of October 2021.



More from ICLEI across the globe

- [Statement from ICLEI on the IPCC report, Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis, which demonstrates the scientific basis for the climate emergency](#)
- [Integrity can put cities back on path to achieve clean water and sanitation for all](#)

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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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