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ICLEI South Asia E-News

December 2021



*Emani Kumar  
Deputy Secretary  
General, ICLEI and  
Executive Director,  
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Dear friends,

The world has made some progress on climate action this year, even though it might seem slow and complex. We remain optimistic in the light of the large numbers of individuals, governments and civil society that are advocating for transformative and sustainable change on a global scale.

There are good practices happening in the climate-vulnerable, developing countries too, even though they might be facing several critical challenges. These initiatives were the focus of a session on “Global South Commitment to Climate Action”, which ICLEI South Asia and partners organised during the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021. There were also presentations during the event on some of the initiatives being implemented under our CapaCITIES project and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) programme.

Climate was also the focus of a webinar that we organised in the past month, the subject being the Government of India’s ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework, in addition to a Talanoa-style dialogue on climate action in Bangladesh. We also hosted a KASpaces regional webinar on sustainable cities and resilient communities, as well as CDKN training on climate resilience planning for six city corporations and municipalities in Bangladesh. There are also interesting reports on Shimla city’s approval of the baseline report on urban freight that we prepared under the EcoLogistics project, and on Udaipur becoming the only Indian city to be selected for a unique “Designing Streets for Kids”

training. I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

With the year 2021 winding down, I take this opportunity to say thank you for your support and to wish you the very best for the New Year.

## Latest developments

### Focus on CDKN, CapaCITIES Initiatives at COP26 Session on Global South Commitment to Climate Action

ICLEI South Asia, supported by partner agencies, conducted a key session on the “Global South Commitment to Climate Action” during COP26. Distinguished speakers, representing national governments, development agencies and non-government organisations from across the world, discussed the barriers and challenges faced by subnational and local governments in the Global South for implementing climate action, as well as examples of how they overcame them.



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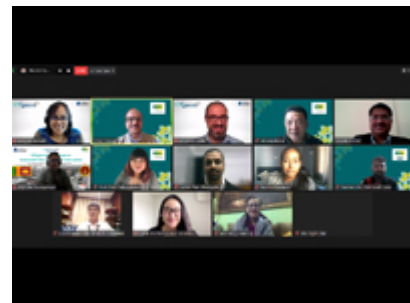
### Six Bangladesh Cities Learn Climate Resilience Planning in CDKN Training Sessions

An in-person training programme on “Planning of Climate Resilient Strategy” was organised for city corporations and municipalities in Bangladesh under the CDKN-Knowledge Accelerator project. The training aimed to enhance the climate resilience knowledge of the city officials and to improve their capacity to develop climate action plans.

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### Successful Sustainability Solutions Emerge from KASpaces Regional Forum

The “KASpaces Regional Webinar on Sustainable Cities and Resilient Communities”, held virtually in November, highlighted key learnings from the 10 KASpaces country-level webinars on sustainable cities, held across South and Southeast Asia between July and September 2021. The session saw vibrant discussion by representatives from the regions’ national and subnational governments, civil society and private sector organisations on successes, best practices, opportunities, challenges and priorities in action towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11.



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### Talanoa-Style Dialogue Calls for Climate Action through Multi-Level Governance in Bangladesh

ICLEI South Asia, in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Resilient Cities Network and Cities Alliance, organised the “Talanoa-Style High Level Dialogue for Climate Action in Bangladesh”. The discussion focused on initiatives that are required to push multi-level governance towards achieving Nationally Determined Contributions, while also throwing light on the learnings from COP26.

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### Mainstreaming Climate Action into Urban Development: Learnings from India’s Innovative ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework Initiative

A webinar on ‘ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) – India’s innovative subnational climate reporting initiative’ sought to explore the relationship between showcasing best practices and facilitating subnational reporting. Hosted by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia with support from India’s Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the National Institute of Urban Affairs, the webinar was one in a series produced by UrbanShift, a project that supports integrated urban development.



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### EcoLogistics: Shimla Approves Baseline Report on Urban Freight

Shimla Municipal Corporation has approved the baseline report on urban freight in the city, prepared by ICLEI South Asia, following incorporation of feedback and a review. The baseline analysis will help the city to understand the urban freight sector and the progress being made under the EcoLogistics project.

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### Udaipur Becomes First Indian City to Receive Global ‘Street for Kids’ Training

ICLEI South Asia, with support from Udaipur Municipal Corporation and the National Association of City Transportation Officials' Global Designing Cities Initiative (NACTO-GDCI), recently hosted the 'Street for Kids' International Training Programme for Udaipur. Following a competition launched in mid-2019, Udaipur became the only Indian city among 12 cities selected globally by NACTO-GDCI to participate in the training.



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## Project Videos



### Watch: EcoLogistics Drives Sustainable Innovations in Urban Freight Transport

Urban freight transport is growing and adding to air pollution, congestion, and other problems in India. The EcoLogistics project looks at both simple and complex solutions that Kochi, Panaji, and Shimla can adopt for better road freight management. Watch these videos and find out more about that one solution that is the best of all.

[Watch videos](#)

## Events

### ICLEI World Congress 2021 – 2022: The Malmö Summit

Join the Congress onsite in Malmö or virtually to learn about innovative strategies and cutting edge solutions in sustainable and equitable urban development, exchange good practices, get inspired and connect beyond borders with leading experts and sustainability champions from around the globe. The summit will be held from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. Registrations are open now.



ICLEI World Congress  
Malmö, Sweden • 2021 – 2022

[Register here](#)

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- [New York City Becomes 200<sup>th</sup> City to Join Global CitiesWithNature Initiative](#)

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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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