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**ICLEI South Asia E-News** 

March 2022



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

Dear readers,

I hope life is getting back to near-normal in your cities and towns. One of the biggest challenges to building a better normal, however, is the problem of air pollution that affects a large part of the region. With more and more cities showing a desire to prepare clean air action plans, ICLEI South Asia is going forward to work on improving ambient air quality, after extending technical expertise for developing climate action plans for over a decade.

We have launched new projects with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and four municipal corporations in Delhi-National Capital Region (Delhi-NCR) to strengthen their efforts under the National Clean Air Programme. In Ahmedabad, we will support the city to prepare a micro action plan for hotspots, establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms, and in capacity building of various stakeholders, among other activities. Under the Building City Leadership on Clean Air Action in the Delhi-NCR project, actions will be initiated to improve air quality, create awareness and to facilitate coordination between different implementing agencies to develop replicable approaches through pilot projects.

Among other activities in the past month, the Asia LEDS Partnership (ALP) organised two webinars, one on clean logistics with a focus on Bangladesh's freight sector, and the second on an emission reduction tool that has been developed for Mongolia's Trade and Development Bank. This edition has reports on all these developments as well as a Hindi blog on the guidelines that have been issued for the reopening of anganwadis and day-care centres in Rajasthan.

I hope you have been following our activities on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. It is my pleasure to announce our next chapter on social media. We launched our shiny new Instagram account (@iclei\_southasia) on International Women's Day. Follow us on our social media handles to stay updated and don't forget to give us a like!

Stay safe and keep in touch.

### Latest developments

# **Workshop Reviews Bangladesh Freight Sector, Good Practices in Clean Logistics**

The ALP organised a hybrid session on clean logistics, with the in-person session being held in Dhaka. Speakers from different countries shared their experiences of implementing clean logistics, with experts and senior officials from Bangladesh discussing their concerns regarding the transport and logistics sectors in the country.



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#### Mongolia Bank Spotlights New Emission Reduction Assessment Tool at ALP Session

The ALP organised a peer-learning webinar, in which an emission reduction assessment tool, developed for the Trade and Development Bank, Mongolia (TDBM), was presented. The ALP, with technical expertise from the South Pole, has helped TDBM to develop the Excelbased tool, which allows easy tracking of project baselines and helps to assess potential energy/emission reduction of projects funded through the bank's Green Loan Programme.

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# **New Initiatives Support Municipal Corporations** in Improving Air Quality

ICLEI South Asia has initiated two projects on improving air quality, with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, and with four municipal corporations in Delhi-NCR. Ahmedabad is the nodal city for strategising air quality improvement in other cities (i.e. Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot) of Gujarat too. The Delhi-NCR project aims to improve air quality and facilitate coordination between different implementing agencies through pilot projects.



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राजस्थान में आंगनवाडी और डे केयर सेंटर फिर शुरू: गाइडलाइन जारी



पहला मामला: भूपेन और सुनीता पहली बार अभिभावक बने थे। उन्होंने अपनी बेटी ख़ुशी को मार्च २०१९ में पास ही के प्री-प्राइमरी स्कूल में भर्ती करवाया ही था कि कोविड के चलते लॉक-डाउन लग गया। स्कूल खुलने के १ महीने में ही बंद हो गए। इसके बाद ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं शुरू हुई किन्तु ख़ुशी, जो कि केवल २.५ साल की थी, के लिए ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं लेना मुश्किल हो रहा था। हालाँकि भूपेन और सुनीता इन्टरनेट के माध्यम से शाला पूर्व शिक्षा की अवधारणा को समझ रहे थे और उस को अप्लाई करते हुए ख़ुशी को घर पर पढ़ा रहे थे, किन्तु उन्हें सबसे बड़ी चिंता थी कि बच्चे अपने हमउम्र बच्चों के साथ रहकर जो सीखते हैं, उस से उनकी बेटी वंचित है।

दूसरा मामला: भंवरी और रूपिसंह की बेटी माही ३ साल की है और अभी तक कभी आंगनवाडी केंद्र नहीं गयी। कोविड-१९ के चलते केंद्र बंद थे। आज वह आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र की शाला पूर्व शिक्षा से वंचित है। भंवरी की मुख्य चिंता है कि कहीं इस वजह से माही के आने वाले जीवन पर कोई नकारात्मक असर न पड़े!

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### **Announcements**



### **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.



Register here

### More from ICLEI across the globe

- Partnership during a pandemic: Insights from a resilience recovery guide
- You Can't Manage What You Don't Measure. How Climate Reporting Tracks
  Progress and Secures Investment.

**ICLEI South Asia Secretariat** 

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#### **Connect with Us:**









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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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