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ICLEI South Asia E-News

April 2023



Emani Kumar
Deputy Secretary
General, ICLEI and
Executive Director,
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Dear Readers,

As you may already know, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently released the Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment (AR6) on the state of the global climate. It summarises five years of reports on global temperature rises, fossil fuel emissions, and climate impacts. The report paints a stark picture of the current and future impacts of climate change and underscores the urgent need for action to mitigate its effects.

At ICLEI South Asia, we believe that local governments have a critical role to play in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. The IPCC Synthesis report confirms the need for urgent action at all levels of government, and local governments are uniquely placed to take bold and innovative steps to mitigate the effects of climate change and build resilience in their communities.

The report makes clear that the world is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, and that these impacts will worsen in the coming decades. The report underscores the urgent need for rapid and far-reaching reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and to achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century.

Local governments have a critical role to play in achieving these goals. We have been working closely with our members and partners to develop and implement ambitious climate action plans, increase the use of renewable energy sources, promote energy efficiency in buildings and transport systems.

We have also helped develop climate-resilient infrastructure, enhanced natural and green infrastructure, and developed early

warning systems and emergency response plans which is an important aspect in adaptation to the impacts of climate change, which are already being felt in many parts of the world.

The report also highlights the importance of nature-based solutions in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. We have been working with cities across the region to promote urban green spaces, conserve and enhance biodiversity, and develop sustainable urban agriculture systems. These efforts not only help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also provide a range of co-benefits, including improved air and water quality, and enhanced community well-being.

As we move forward into the year, we remain committed to supporting our members and partners in their efforts to address the challenges posed by climate change. We will continue to provide technical assistance, capacity building, and advocacy support to help cities across the region achieve their sustainability goals.

Warm Regards!

Latest developments

Diversity of Grass Species in Grasslands of Goa Documented

ICLEI South Asia has documented 48 grass species in the grasslands of Goa, with the support of the Goa Forest Department. The species have been classified, site-wise, into palatable and non-palatable categories, and in accordance with the International Union for Conservation of Nature classification.



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Clean Air Action: Officials, Academicians Brainstorm Pollution Control Measures

Under the Building City Leadership on Clean Air Action in Delhi-NCR project, a roundtable discussion was held between officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority and academicians from several educational institutions to seek comprehensive solutions to tackle the air quality management-related issues.

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CDKN Phase 3: Workshop Identifies Synergies, Partnership Strategies for Regional Programmes

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) programme organised a three-day intensive implementation workshop from the 6th to the 8th of March 2023, in Cape Town, South Africa. All partners and donors of the programme attended the workshop, which focused on highlighting the work plan for each region, namely Africa, Latin America and South Asia, for the 2023-25 period under CDKN Phase 3.



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ALP Webinar Highlights Achievements of Asian Countries in Energy Sector

The Asia LEDS Partnership organised a session at the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) on the 30th of March 2023, to highlight the achievements and success stories in the energy sector from Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Philippines.

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Urban95: BvLF Team Reviews Project Interventions in Udaipur

Ms. Rushda Majeed, Global Head, Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF), and the new BvLF India team visited Udaipur to review the Urban95 programme activities and their impact, and also visited a newly opened Anganwadi centre and primary healthcare centre.



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ICLEI South Asia, ICLEI Southeast Asia, ADB and IMT-GT Joint Business Council Malaysia Join Hands to Prepare and Implement Green City Action Plans in Malaysia

ICLEI South Asia along with ICLEI Southeast Asia, IMT-GT Joint Business Council (JBC) Malaysia, and the Asian Development Bank organised meetings from 13th to 23rd of March 2023 to deliberate on the implementation of the Green City Action Plan (GCAP) under subproject 1 in the Malaysian cities of Penang, Langkawi, Kota Bharu, and Kuching.

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शहरों में बिगड़ती हवा और बच्चों का स्वास्थ्य



हम सभी जानते हैं कि एक छोटा बच्चा किसी व्यस्क की तुलना में ज्यादा बार सांस लेता है। जहाँ एक व्यस्क एक मिनट में १२-१६ बार सांस लेता है, वहीं ०५ साल का एक बच्चा इसके तीन से चार गुना अधिक बार सांस लेता है। उसके फेफड़े किसी व्यस्क की तुलना में अधिक कोमल होते हैं। बच्चों की लम्बाई कम होने से उनकी नाक धूल और प्रदूषण के ज्यादा करीब होती है। अब ज़रा कल्पना कीजिये कि हवा में मौजूद धूल और ज़हरीली गैसों किसी व्यस्क की तुलना में किसी बच्चे को कितना अधिक नुकसान पहुंचा सकती है ? यहाँ तक कि मां के पेट में पल रहे शिशु भी इस बिगड़ती हवा से प्रभावित हो रहे हैं।

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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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