ICLEI

Local Governments
for Sustainability
SOUTH ASIA

ICLEI South Asia E-News   May 2023

Emani Kumar
*Deputy Secretary
General, ICLEI and
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ICLEI South Asia*

Dear Friends,

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you that in April, ICLEI South Asia completed 18 years of its journey in promoting sustainability and resilience in our cities and communities. Through our various initiatives, we have collaborated with local governments, community-based organisations, and civil society groups to help build climate-resilient and low-carbon cities. We have also facilitated knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy advocacy to promote sustainable urbanisation. As we reflect on our journey, we remain committed to our vision of creating a sustainable future for all and look forward to continued partnerships and collaborations.

Last month was full of events and activities, ranging from capacity building and trainings in cities such as Meerut, Udaipur and Chennai, to insightful webinars, policy dialogues and conferences, including one that convened national and international partners to discuss mainstreaming of climate action in cities in an effort to shape G20 priorities and develop next steps for accelerating climate action in India and beyond. Hon'ble Shri K T Rama Rao, Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development of Telangana was in attendance as our team released Hyderabad's City Biodiversity Index and Illustrated Natural Asset Map.

I would specially like to draw attention to an engaging and timely webinar that focused on the increasing susceptibility to heat stress and the measures being taken by cities in South Asia to address it. Rapidly escalating global temperatures have led to a surge in heat-related socio-ecological risks, which is one of the most pressing challenges faced by our planet. We at ICLEI South Asia have been at the forefront of efforts to address the threat of heat by developing heat action plans in several cities, providing technical assistance, and

facilitating peer-to-peer learning. Additionally, we have been promoting the use of nature-based solutions such as green roofs and urban forests, which can help reduce urban heat island effects and provide cool and comfortable spaces for citizens. By taking proactive steps to address extreme heat, cities can enhance their resilience and create more liveable environments.

Warm regards!

Latest developments

Training Session for Meerut Officials on Tackling Road Dust and Vehicular Pollution

ICLEI South Asia organised a training session in Meerut Municipal Corporation to help city officials and other stakeholders understand the impact of transportation emissions and road dust on air pollution under the project Building City Leadership on Clean Air Action in Delhi-NCR, funded by the Clean Air Fund.

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CapaCITIES II: Workshop Primes Urban Local Bodies on Preparing Climate Action Plans

Under the CapaCITIES phase II project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), a training workshop was conducted on the issues of climate action planning and climate financing for engineers from 18 urban local bodies (ULB) and the Commissionerate of Municipal Administration in Chennai.

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Jammu, Srinagar Develop Strategic Focus on Biodiversity Conservation with New Action Plans

Shri Arun Mehta, Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, released the Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (LBSAPs) for the cities of Jammu and Srinagar at an event in Jammu on 25 April, 2023. The LBSAPs have been developed by ICLEI South Asia in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council, as part of the INTERACT-Bio project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUV).

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Hyderabad's City Biodiversity Index, Illustrated Natural Asset Map Released

The City Biodiversity Index and Illustrated Natural Asset Map of Hyderabad have been developed under a project that assessed the biodiversity, tree population and green cover under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The index and the map were released by Shri K T Rama Rao, Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development of Telangana, at an event held on 18 April, 2023 in Hyderabad.

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CDKN Asia Discusses Phase 3 Opportunities with Nepal Stakeholders

An ICLEI South Asia team visited Kathmandu, Nepal, to explore opportunities for engagement with the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) of the Government of Nepal, the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN), and other organisations to strengthen climate resilience, gender, equality and social inclusion (GESI), and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in the country, as part of the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) programme.

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Webinar Highlights Heat Stresses in South Asia, Solutions to Mitigate Them

ICLEI South Asia, the GCoM South Asia Technical Coordinator, with support from the Delegation of the European Union to India and the GCoM India Coordinator, organised a webinar on 'Rising Vulnerability to Heat Stress: Actions and Strategies for South Asian Cities' on 27 April, 2023 that highlighted the need to improve cities' capacity to safeguard human lives by implementing building and urban design solutions to reduce the urban heat island effect.

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क्या हमारी जिन्दगी सिंगल–यूज प्लास्टिक के...

हवा और पानी के बाद हमारे जीवन में सर्वव्यापी और सर्वज्ञ कुछ है तो वो प्लास्टिक ही है। अगर आपको ये गलत लग रहा है तो, चलिए-एक सुबह को याद कीजिये। सुबह उठकर ब्रश करने से लेकर नहाने के दौरान शैम्पू की बोतल, नाश्ते में टेट्रा या पॉलीथीन पैक्ड दूध की चाय, जिसे प्लास्टिक में पैक होकर आई चाय पत्ती और शक्कर डालकर उबाला गया हो। प्लास्टिक के ही लंच बॉक्स, जिसमें प्लास्टिक बैग में आये आटे से बनी चपाती, प्लास्टिक थैली में आई सब्जी, जिसमें प्लास्टिक के पाउच में आये मसालों का सम्मिश्रण वाला भोजन, जिसे पैक करके उसे एक पॉलीथीन की थैली में अच्छे से ढका गया है, ताकि सब्जी के तेल से ऑफिस बैग खराब न हो जाए...... प्लास्टिक कहाँ नहीं है !!

Read more

Events

Importance of E-mobility Action Plan for a City for Accelerated EV Adoption

Join us for a webinar to gain insights from the Delhi EV Cell, and government officials from Kochi, Rajkot and Surat on city-level action plans developed under ICLEI South Asia's initiative of Supporting Indian Cities to Take Leadership on EVs.

Date: 10 May, 2023

Time: 11:00 AM- 12:00 PM IST

Register

More from ICLEI across the globe

- **G7 Ministers announce historic commitment to work with cities on subnational climate action**
- **Reflections on Copenhagen Climate Ministerial**

ICLEI South Asia Secretariat

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Connect with Us:

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.