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ICLEI South Asia E-News

June 2023



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

They say when the going gets tough, the tough gets going. Despite the drumbeat of alarming news on the climate front – that global warming is likely to breach the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold in the next five years, as the World Meteorological Organisation announced recently – many people continue to work hard to turn things around, offering hope and inspiration.

At ICLEI South Asia, we too are helping governments to deal with persistent problems such as air pollution, carbon emissions, threats to biodiversity and plastic waste. The efforts are aimed at introducing new perspectives and promising innovations that could help turn the tide. Recently, we organised two thought-provoking webinars that looked at the role of cities in revving up the demand for electric vehicles (EVs) and on making residential and office buildings EV-ready with charging infrastructure, under the project Supporting Indian cities to take leadership on electric mobility in India. These are crucial issues that need to be dealt with in the race to adopt EVs. Another highly riveting webinar was on accelerating gender and social inclusion in locally led climate actions to improve urban resilience, held under the Climate and Development Knowledge Network programme.

We also held a series of workshops in three cities of Bhutan under the KASpaces Ambassador Programme to improve collaboration among diverse stakeholders on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and to find innovative solutions for urban issues. And, in Udaipur, the third capacity-building workshop, held under the Urban95 programme, focused on project content and the tendering process.

In the meanwhile, the world awaits for a draft of United Nations treaty on plastics pollution, with another round of talks being held in Paris in

the early June. The negotiations have been contentious, but let's hope we can stem the tidal wave of plastic sooner than later.

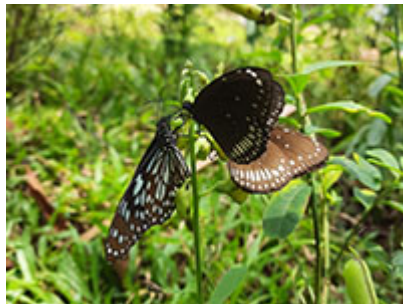
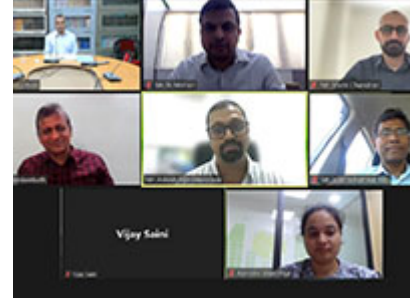
Happy Reading!

Latest developments

Webinar Highlights Role of Cities in Revving up Demand for Electric Vehicles

The webinar shed light on the importance of city-level action plans in accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs). The session featured the launch of e-mobility action plans for Kochi, Rajkot, and Surat, along with the introduction of a handbook aimed at mainstreaming e-mobility adoption in Indian cities.

[Read more](#)



International Day for Biological Diversity: Leveraging Special Tools to Build Back Biodiversity at the Local Level

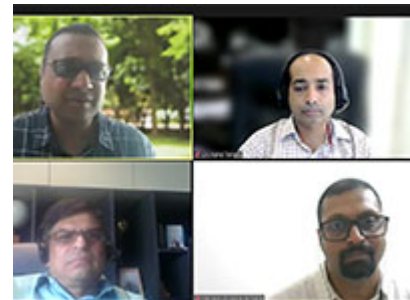
Explore this in depth article on the initiatives that are driving positive change and transforming Indian cities through biodiversity rebuilding and global target achievement, such as the City Biodiversity Index, Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans and People's Biodiversity Registers.

[Read more](#)

Managing EV-Ready Buildings: Webinar Focuses on Stakeholder Perspectives

As part of the e-mobility webinar series, a dedicated session took place focusing on preparing buildings for electric vehicle (EV) integration. The session addressed the challenges and way forward to establishing an efficient and sustainable ecosystem conducive to widespread EV adoption.

[Read more](#)



Urban95: Capacity-Building Workshop Spotlights Project Reports, Tendering Process

The third capacity building workshop, saw participation from government officials, private sector representatives, NGOs, academia, and college students and aimed to promote sustainable and inclusive neighborhoods for infants, toddlers, and caregivers.

[Read more](#)

Tier-II Cities are Driving India's Push for Electric Buses

Tier-II cities in India are gradually pushing for the electrification of buses in their public transport systems. ICLEI and the International Association of Public Transport, under the TUMI E-Bus Mission City Network, are helping 11 Indian cities in this endeavour.

[Read more](#)



Improving Air Quality: Key Insights Shared at Gurugram Workshop

ICLEI South Asia participated in an informative awareness workshop conducted by the Urban Environment Division of the GMDA and provided valuable insights into Gurugram's air quality trends and emphasised the need for urgent action to improve the situation.

[Read more](#)

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities in Bhutanese Cities

The KASpaces Workshops brought together urban planners, officials, leaders, architects, and experts, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange to address urban challenges, promote sustainability, and build resilient communities.

[Read more](#)



Empowering Change: Gender and Social Inclusion in Urban Climate Resilience

An insightful webinar highlighted pathways to accelerate the inclusion of marginalised stakeholders, including women, disabled individuals, and the urban poor. Experts shed light on the importance of acknowledging local practices, identities, and leadership capacities in fostering strong engagement for climate resilience action.

[Read more](#)

घटती हरियाली-बढ़ता पारा: कितना बदल गया...

भीषण गर्मी झेल रहे झीलों के शहर उदयपुर से एक रिपोर्ट



उदयपुर शहर इन दिनों तप रहा है। आम तौर पर पूरे राजस्थान में पड़ने वाली तेज़ गर्मी से उदयपुर अछूता रहा करता था और शेष राजस्थान के औसत तापमान से यहाँ का तापमान ५-७ डिग्री कम ही रहा करता था। पर अब हालात बदल रहे हैं। पूरे दिन झील के किनारे तक आग उगलते हैं, सड़कें- बाज़ार सूने रहते हैं।

[Read more](#)

Events



Restoration Techniques of the Seagrass Meadows in Chinese Taipei

Join this webinar to learn more about seagrass meadows, an overlooked ecosystem, and how their restoration is vital to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Experts from the Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei, will discuss the factors impacting this ecosystem, conservation efforts, and other related issues.

Date: June 13, 2023

Time: 11:30 – 13:00 (IST) | 14:00 – 15:30 (Chinese Taipei)

[Register](#)

Role of Private Sector in Promoting Electric Mobility in India

Register and save a seat for this engaging webinar in which experts from NITI Aayog will speak on EV policy adoption and the contribution of the private sector in driving electric mobility adoption in India.

Date: June 23, 2023

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (IST)

[Register](#)



More from ICLEI across the globe

- [Gyeonggi-do Unveils 'Gyeonggi RE100 Vision' for a Sustainable Future](#)
- [Cities in the Global Plastics Treaty](#)

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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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