



ICLEI South Asia E-News

November 2023



Dear readers,

Our world is becoming increasingly urban, with 60% of the global population expected to live in cities by 2030. These cities will have to offer urban services, jobs, and education to their people, and work towards building climate-resilient communities.

However, the road towards improving urban sustainability and resilience is lined with problems such as lack of access to funds and inadequately inclusive governance systems. To highlight these issues, the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) Asia, jointly with partners, organised insightful sessions at the Eighth Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF) in Suwon, South Korea, where locally led adaptation practices and the importance of Voluntary Local Reviews were highlighted. Additionally, on the sidelines of the forum, we signed memorandums of understanding with Dhulikhel Municipality in Nepal and the Municipal Association of Bangladesh under the CDKN programme. Dhulikhel and other selected municipalities in Nepal will be supported in developing a gender-inclusive Local Adaptation Plan of Action, and in training and capacitating municipal officials in making and implementing such plans. In Bangladesh, CDKN Asia will support the development and implementation of capacity-building training and climate-induced Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plans for cities.

We also organised, jointly with ICLEI Japan, ICLEI Indonesia and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), a session at the APUF on 'Strengthening G7 and G20 Urban Groups Partnership on Sustainable Urbanisation and Multilevel Climate Action: Lessons and Experience from the Asia Pacific Region', which highlighted the role of stakeholders in localising the global development agenda, among several other key issues.

In another initiative, we launched a new project, RESET South Asia: Renewables for Sustainable Energy Transition in South Asia, funded by USAID, to support five cities across India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan in mainstreaming Sustainable Energy Transition. The focus on renewables is in alignment with G20's push, under India's presidency, for renewable energy and clean tech, as well as the efforts towards formulating a roadmap for a pragmatic global energy transition at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties or COP 28, which will commence at the end of this month.

I hope that the summit, coming at the end of a year of extreme weather events in which many climate records have been broken, offers potential agreements that can drive critical climate action.

For more updates about our activities, feel free to follow us on social media and also drop a comment to say hello!

Emani Kumar

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

Latest developments

RESET Project to Support South Asian Cities in Mainstreaming Sustainable Energy Transition



ICLEI South Asia has initiated a two-year project, RESET South Asia: Renewables for Sustainable Energy Transition in South Asia, to support local governments in mainstreaming Sustainable Energy Transition at the local level. The project, funded by USAID through its South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP) programme, will cover five cities across India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan.

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CDKN Asia Promotes Locally Led Adaptation Practices at Asia Pacific Urban Forum

CDKN Asia organised several sessions, highlighting the critical role of locally led adaptation in enhancing resilience, at the Eighth Asia Pacific Urban Forum held in South

Korea from October 23 to 25, 2023. One of the sessions was on ‘Investing in locally led adaptation for bottom-up approach to urban resilience,’ in which policy makers, urban practitioners and community leaders discussed the pivotal role played by communities in initiating and scaling up locally led adaptation interventions.



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CDKN Asia Inks Memorandums of Understanding with Partners in Nepal, Bangladesh



CDKN Asia formalised commitments with its local partners in Nepal and Bangladesh, on the sidelines of the Eighth Asia Pacific Urban Forum. Mr. Emani Kumar, Executive Director of ICLEI South Asia and the Asia coordinator for CDKN, signed two memorandums of understanding with the Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality Mr. Ashok Byanju and the President of the Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) Mr. Dewan Kamal Ahmed, for strengthening their commitment towards enhancing gender and socially inclusive climate resilience.

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APUF Session Highlights Role of Stakeholders in Localising Global Development Agenda

ICLEI South Asia, in association with ICLEI Japan, ICLEI Indonesia and the National Institute of Urban Affairs, organised a session on 'Strengthening G7 and G20 Urban Groups Partnership on Sustainable Urbanisation and Multilevel Climate Action: Lessons and Experience from the Asia Pacific Region' at the Eighth APUF held in South Korea. The session highlighted the role of stakeholders in localising global development agenda, and in making urban financing more innovative and flexible.



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ALP Exchange Forum Supports COP28 Efforts to Facilitate Energy Transition



The Fourth Exchange Forum on Asia LEADS Partnership (ALP) echoed the upcoming 28th Conference of the Parties' efforts to strengthen the global decarbonisation process. At the event, organised in Taipei by Chinese Taipei's Ministry of Economic Affairs, Mr Emani Kumar, Secretary General of ALP and Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, shared ALP's recent initiatives in building low-carbon capacity and ICLEI's efforts in moving towards net-zero carbon in the Asia Pacific region.

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वायु प्रदूषण और छोटे बच्चे

२३ अक्टूबर को मौसम विभाग ने चेताया कि अभी नवम्बर भी नहीं लगा और राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र की हवा दिन-ब-दिन खराब होती जा रही है। २३ अक्टूबर को नॉएडा पूरे देश में सबसे अधिक प्रदूषित क्षेत्र था; वहीं दिल्ली दूसरे नंबर पर थी। एनर्जी पालिसी इंस्टिट्यूट एट द यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ़ शिकागो के अनुसार भारत दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे प्रदूषित देश है और राजधानी दिल्ली देश के सबसे प्रदूषित शहरों की सूची में सबसे ऊपर है।



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Events



Join us at COP28 in Dubai

ICLEI South Asia will be at COP28 in Dubai from November 30, 2023 to December 12, 2023. We will be organising several events with partners and experts to advance climate action – we hope to see you there.



Virtual training on Navigating Key Considerations for Developing a Green Hydrogen Landscape

Join us for a virtual training to explore the economic potential of Hydrogen in local contexts and get insights on approaches such as the Hydrogen Considerations Tree. [Register here](#).

Date: December 13, 2023