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ICLEI South Asia E-News

December 2023



Dear friends and colleagues,

As we approach the end of 2023, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey we have undertaken in the face of a rapidly changing climate and other ongoing climate and sustainability threats. Our commitment to local action has never been more crucial, and throughout the year, ICLEI South Asia's robust network of cities, towns, and regions demonstrated incredible resilience and determination.

We began the year by providing key on-ground technical support to Ahmedabad city, which hosted the U20 Sherpa Meeting, an engagement group under the Group of 20 forum. The meeting emphasised the role of cities in advancing the global agenda for sustainable development through collaboration.

Our focus on climate action and sustainability led to successful partnerships and advancements in various aspects of our work. From continuing our flagship programmes, working on Green City Action Plans for several cities in Malaysia, conducting extensive studies such as on air quality and the usage of public spaces by children, bolstering renewable energy solutions in Bhutan, nurturing urban forests through the Miyawaki technique, to assisting in the decarbonisation of mobility in cities – we have been at the forefront of driving positive change. Several cities in our network garnered praises and accolades for their work, while we also signed memorandums of understanding with Dhulikhel city in Nepal and the Municipal Association of Bangladesh for supporting them in building capacities and in developing local adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction plans.

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Among our key accomplishments was the launch of the Ahmedabad Climate Resilient City Action Plan, developed by ICLEI South Asia, at the U20 Mayoral Summit in the city. We organised and hosted the UrbanShift Asia Forum 2023 in Delhi, which brought together city governments from over 25 countries. In addition to our local efforts, we engaged with key climate actors at the 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (APAN Forum) in Incheon, South Korea, followed by the 8th Asia Pacific Urban Forum in Suwon, South Korea, and more recently at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai, UAE. Our presence and advocacy underscored the importance of local voices in shaping global climate policies.

As we look ahead to 2024, an ever-changing global landscape makes it clear that our work has become more challenging. The urgency of our mission has never been more apparent, and ICLEI South Asia invites our supporters and partners to continue to work with us in building a world that is inclusive and resilient.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Emani Kumar

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

Latest Developments

Local Climate Finance Initiatives Take Centre Stage at Key Asia-Pacific Climate Week Session

An insightful session on 'Investing in Locally-Led Adaptation for Enhancing Resilience', organised by ICLEI South Asia at the Asia Pacific Climate Week (APCW) in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, focused on funding challenges and opportunities for Locally-Led Adaptation initiatives. The discussion delved into supportive mechanisms aimed at facilitating the flow of finances for community-based adaptation efforts.



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ALP Session Highlights Collaborative Strategies for Achieving Climate Targets in Sustainable Mobility

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In a PCW event, the Asia LEDS Partnership (ALP) convened a session on 'Empowering Sustainable Transportation: Clean Mobility Solutions in Asia-Pacific,' highlighting the need for collaborative efforts to find clean and sustainable mobility solutions. The session stressed swift collective action, especially in the transport sector, for a net-zero emission system by 2050.



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Spotlight on Transformative Impact of Green City Action Plans

The 'Implementing Green City Action Plans (GCAP) for a Climate-Resilient Future' session at APCW provided insights into the impact of GCAP implementation and the importance of private investment in these initiatives. ICLEI South Asia is supporting the Government of Malaysia in the development of GCAPs for Malaysian cities as lead technical partner to the Asian Development Bank and the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand-Growth Triangle Joint Business Council.



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CRISC Project Concludes Successfully, Building Capacities, Bridging Policy Gaps and Advancing Climate Resilience

The Climate Resilient Inclusive Smart Cities (CRISC) Project, with support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and GIZ Bangladesh successfully incorporated climate risks into urban planning, developed resilient master plans, and aided knowledge exchange. The project helped to develop comprehensive training modules, capacity-building sessions, peer-to-peer exchange events, and national dialogues.



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Welcome Onboard

**Divya Prakash Vyas, Associate Director**

“With over 20 years in urban development and a focus on climate positive action, I'm excited to join ICLEI South Asia. I anticipate collaboration with international think tanks, NGOs, and governments and to focus on empowering team members for higher impact, fostering cross-team collaboration, and leveraging collective knowledge to address global challenges in climate change and urban development. I aim to maximize individual potentials while navigating uncertainties and scaling actions for sustainable outcomes.”

**Nisarg Shah, Manager (Energy & Climate)**

“I bring over 10 years of renewable energy experience, and have a PhD in Solar Energy with a background in electrical engineering and a history of advising state, central ministries, multilateral agencies, and private stakeholders. I've joined ICLEI South Asia to translate micro-central level policies and NDCs into city-level schemes. I aim to create a model sustainable city in India, inspiring others to develop their sustainability action plans and to drive sustainable urban development across the region.”

**Saiely Shirvankar, City Associate (Biodiversity)**

“ICLEI South Asia provides an ideal platform, where I can contribute my skills toward environmental betterment while gaining insights into sustainability and biodiversity. As I embark on this journey, my goals include deepening my understanding of various environmental facets and their role in sustainability. I aim to enhance my knowledge through practical experience, and learning from experts here. Excited about the prospect of contributing meaningfully to environmental initiatives, I look forward to the learning and growth ahead.”

अस्पताल जाने से डरते हैं “वे”

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रौशनी (बदला हुआ नाम) की त्वचा पर इन्फेक्शन हो गया था। अपनी अलग पहचान के चलते वह सरकारी अस्पताल में भर्ती जाना चाहती थी। उसने शहर के एक बड़े निजी अस्पताल जाने की राह चुनी। लेकिन निजी अस्पताल के रिसेप्शन से ही उस डाक्टर के उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाया जो वह सलाह देना चाहती थी। जबकि वह समय (अपोइन्टमेंट) लेकर गई थी। ऐसा व्यवहार उसके साथ बार बार हुआ। रौशनी एक ट्रांसजेंडर है।


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More from ICLEI Across the Globe

- [ICLEI and IFRC partner to empower communities and scale climate action](#)
- [Local youth voices going global: Uganda's youth-led stocktake](#)



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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

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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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