



Jan - March 2013

Point of view



Greetings Readers!

We are happy to bring to you the first e-newsletter of the year 2013.

This year is going to be packed with a number of activities, especially as ICLEI South Asia has recently signed different Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs): 1. with the European Commission to India, to carry out "Integrated Urban Water Management" projects with four cities in the states of Maharashtra and Rajasthan; 2. with the Department of Urban Development, Government of Gujarat, India, on the sidelines of Vibrant Gujarat, to help cities in Gujarat advance on a low carbon development path along with the Centre for Environmental Education; and 3. with the Rockefeller Foundation to support 20 cities in India and Bangladesh on Resilient City Planning.

In addition to these latest promising initiatives, ICLEI South Asia will keep supporting local authorities in the region on the various issues of urban sustainability, non motorized transport, biodiversity, waste management, Sustainable Habitat Mission and much more.

We promise this year, as we did in the previous ones, to continue working with as many local authorities, provinces, national ministries and other partner agencies as possible, to build capacity, support and strengthen them, so that we can, jointly, achieve more and more sustainable goals.

Emani Kumar, *Executive Director*

'Vibrant Gujarat' sets the stage for MoU signing with ICLEI South Asia

During the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, that took place on 11-13 January 2013 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, India, ICLEI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Urban Development and Urban Housing, from the Government of Gujarat, together with the Centre for Environment Education (CEE). The objective of this MoU is to establish innovative partnerships between the parties, with the goal to develop, demonstrate and share action plans and good practices related to low-carbon and resource-efficient urban growth. ICLEI South Asia signed an additional MoU with the State of Gujarat, formalizing the collaboration in "Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in the Emerging Economy Countries (Urban LEDS)" and the involvement of the City of Rajkot in the project.



Tailored initiatives related to the areas of urban mobility, urban greening, biodiversity strategy and action plans, and resource-efficiency for urban areas will be carried out in several cities in Gujarat. The lessons learnt from these pilot interventions will become best practices to be shared at national and international fora, thus providing opportunities for mutual learning and sharing for urban local bodies.

Thane and Rajkot pioneers of low carbon development strategies



In the first weeks of March, the cities of Thane and Rajkot, India, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ICLEI, officially becoming model project cities for the European Commission funded project Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in the Emerging Economy Countries (Urban LEDS). This project would enable project cities to further the implementation of their solar city master plans, in addition to linking other large scale Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) initiatives to national and international reporting and financing mechanisms.

Together with six other satellite cities in India (Gwalior, Shimla, Nagpur, Coimbatore, Pimpri Chinwad, and Panaji) and over 25+ cities in Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa, Rajkot and Thane will pioneer a low emission development model, creating good practices that will be disseminated and replicated globally, to further promote and foster emission mitigation measures in urban development. [Read more...](#)

The future of urban water management in India tested in Rajasthan and Maharashtra

Supported by the European Union (Delegation to India), "Adopting Integrated Urban Water Management in Indian Cities" (AdoptIUWM) is being implemented by ICLEI South Asia in 4 cities in Rajasthan and Maharashtra, in partnership with the ICLEI European Secretariat and the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities. The project is supported by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.



Project cities will test the implementation of the contextualized and adapted Indian version of the 'SWITCH – Managing Water for the City of the Future' toolkit, to be developed under this project. This toolkit enables cities to integrate often isolated sectors of water supply, sewerage and storm water drainage and adopt IUWM practices in the planning and implementation of 8 pilot projects. Building capacity of municipal officials and other key stakeholders in pilot cities and dissemination of the IUWM tool-kit are key components.

The project will be officially launched in May this year. [Read more...](#)

Waste segregation and awareness raising initiatives get the local community involved in SUNYA project cities



Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) hosted the second partner meeting of SUNYA-Towards Zero Waste in South Asia in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 18-20 February 2013. The cities involved in the project (from Nepal, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) met with the partner organizations to take stock of the considerable progress already achieved and plan the next steps.

Most cities have formed local project coordination units and are successfully carrying out a wide range of local activities, from waste segregation and collection initiatives, awareness raising campaigns, rag-pickers capacity building, education programmes in schools and more. This was possible also thanks to the identification of key stakeholders, within the local community, who are involved in the development of the project activities, bringing in their perspective and expertise. [Read more...](#)

ICLEI and GIZ study helps Panjim and Barisal cities to assess their vulnerabilities

Following a methodology jointly developed with ICLEI Oceania Secretariat,

ICLEI South Asia, with the support of GIZ (German International Cooperation), and in collaboration with each of the city governments, has undertaken a vulnerability assessment study in Panjim, India, and Barisal, Bangladesh. A stakeholder consultation methodology referred to as Shared Learning Dialogues (SLDs) was adopted to engage not only various departments within the city government but also other local stakeholders. Specific tools developed as part of the ICLEI [Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network \(ACCCRN\)](#) Process were used to facilitate discussions and information sharing at the SLDs.



Comprehensive reports identifying the key current and future vulnerabilities in terms of sectors, geographical areas and social groups of both cities will soon be finalized. [Read more...](#)

ICLEI South Asia brings climate resilience perspective at Municipalika conference

ICLEI South Asia was one of the supporting organizations for “Municipalika – Making Cities work”, the 11th International conference and Exhibition on Good Urban Governance for Safe, Healthy, Green, Inclusive and Smart Cities, that was held in Delhi from the 13-15 March 2013. The conference brought together different organizations, agencies, city and state governments, and companies to exhibit their journey towards sustainability.



In addition, ICLEI South Asia organized a component on ‘Cities Adapting to Climate Change’ on 14 March, in association with GIZ (German International Cooperation). The session offered insights to the way climate resilience could be approached in urban centers in India. It brought together available knowledge on various approaches of mainstreaming, strengthening capacities and participatory planning towards climate resilience in urban areas. For more information about the outcome of the event, visit <http://www.municipalika.com/municipalika/index.html>

ICLEI ACCCRN toolkit will guide cities in planning for resilience



ICLEI South Asia, in collaboration with ICLEI Oceania, and the support of the Rockefeller Foundation’s Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) program, has developed a toolkit, referred to as the ICLEI ACCCRN Process, to enable local governments to assess their climate risks and formulate corresponding resilience strategies. The tools in this process have been divided across four phases – Engagement, Climate research and impact assessment; Vulnerabilities assessment; and Resilience strategy development. This toolkit, which will soon be made available, has already been tested in three Indian cities – Shimla, Bhubaneswar, and Mysore, it has been evaluated by other ACCCRN partners and has accordingly been further refined.

Now, with additional support from the Rockefeller Foundation, the ICLEI ACCCRN Process is to be upscaled to approximately 40 cities across four countries, namely India, Bangladesh, Philippines and Indonesia. This exercise will now include ICLEI’s Southeast Asia Secretariat as well. The upscaling process will be undertaken in a phased manner and the first batch of cities in each of the countries have already been identified.

For more information about the project, visit: <http://www.acccrn.org/>

Supporting Urban Sustainability workshops engage stakeholders in Rajshahi and Thimphu

As part of the Supporting Urban Sustainability Professional Development Programme, ICLEI South Asia, together with Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development (SWEDES) and the Centre of



Environment Education (CEE), organized the First Engagement Workshops in Thimphu, Bhutan, and in Rajshahi, Bangladesh, on 7-8 February 2013 and 14-15 February 2013 respectively. The SUS programme enables stakeholders in the city to come together and jointly learn about the linkages between poverty and services provided by urban ecosystems, make suitable plans based on this learning and act upon these plans.



The workshops introduced the programme to the Municipal Corporation and included an extensive orientation for a small group of stakeholders that the cities had previously been selected on the basis of their work on environmental issues, ecosystem services or urban poverty. The stakeholders meeting was used to identify current issues, that will be further explored in the current year, with the goal to identify and implement ecosystem services related measures that will help achieve poverty alleviation in the two cities. [Read more...](#)

Final Local Events present the results of the DReAMS project in Guntur, Thimphu and Rajshahi



With the EU funded Realising DReAMS project coming to a close, the partner cities of Guntur (India), Rajshahi (Bangladesh) and Thimphu (Bhutan) organized the Final Local Event in their cities to present to their citizens results achieved during the project, including the ecoBUDGET master budget and the Poverty Database Monitoring System (PDMS) developed in the past three years, highlighting the benefits of these tools for the municipalities.

The events took place in Guntur on 22 January, in Thimphu on 6 February and in Rajshahi on 13 February, and were attended by local government officials, NGO representatives and other relevant local stakeholders. During the events, representatives from ICLEI South Asia presented the follow-up programme of Supporting Urban Sustainability, that will be conducted in the 3 cities and will use the results of the DReAMS project to motivate the city corporations and local stakeholders to work on ecosystem services for poverty alleviation. [Read more...](#)

Latest from Access Sanitation project

The ACCESSanitation project is in its final stage of implementation. Pilot projects are under construction in Vikarabad, Tiruppur, Hosakote and Vasai Virar and will be completed by the end of April. In the coming week, draft City Sanitation Plans for Vasai Virar, Vikarabad, Hosakote and Rajahmundry will be submitted to the local authorities and members of respective City Sanitation Task Force for final approval and subsequent submission to the MoUD.



The project closure workshop will be held on 7-8 May, 2013 in New Delhi. [Read more about the project.](#)

Stakeholder consultations advance low carbon growth in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu



Stakeholder consultations held in Jaipur on 15 March and in Chennai on 3 April brought together the main actors around the issue of local low carbon growth in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The participant discussed the recommendations currently prepared by ICLEI South Asia, under the project "Integrating Urban Climate Guidelines through Clean Technologies (RE & EE) at the State and City level to build sustainable low carbon cities, Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu", funded by the British High Commission.

In addition to a "Framework for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Low Carbon Actions for

Local Government”, providing details on how to formulate a MRV framework at the city level and helping cities assess their progress towards a low carbon development, ICLEI South Asia is developing “State level urban low carbon policy notes for Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu states”. The successful formulation of urban low carbon policies at the state level will set an example for other Indian states and cities to follow. Stakeholders from the state government, municipal corporations, entrepreneurs, civil society, academic institutions, innovators and practitioners, non-governmental organizations and institutions and project cities representatives met in Jaipur and Chennai and provided inputs to these policy notes.

The final international conference will be held on 18 April 2013 in Delhi, and will serve as a platform to disseminate the outcomes of the project and share the State level Urban Low Carbon Policy Notes for Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu states

For more information, click [here](#) or write to iclei-southasia@iclei.org or kavita.singh@iclei.org

Congratulations to New Delhi, National Earth Hour Capital!



On 19 March, at the Earth Hour City Conference in Malmö, Sweden, the winners of the Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) have finally been unveiled: while Vancouver was recognized as the Global Earth Hour Capital, New Delhi stood out among Cochin and Coimbatore and was crowned “National Earth Hour Capital”! A similar title was awarded to Forli (Italy), Oslo (Norway), San Francisco (USA) and Uppsala (Sweden).

In New Delhi, the mandatory requirement for the bus fleet and autorickshaws to run on CNG since 2004 has played a significant role in reducing air pollution and release of emissions. The Delhi Metro Rail, which carries close to 2 million people everyday, has helped in reducing private cars on the roads and bringing down pollution levels by 630,000 tonnes every year.

The Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) is a global initiative by WWF and ICLEI designed to encourage cities to present their plans for low carbon development and to increase the use of sustainable, renewable and efficient energy in the future. In this past edition, Italy, US, Canada, Norway and Sweden participated in the event.

Our congratulations to New Delhi!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 18 April 2013, New Delhi, India: **“Integrating Urban Climate Guidelines through Clean Technologies (RE & EE) at the State and City Level to build sustainable low carbon cities”** International Conference
- 7 – 8 May 2013, New Delhi, India: **ACCESSanitation International Closure workshop**
- 31 May – 2 June 2013, Bonn, Germany: [Resilient Cities – 4th Global Forum on Urban Resilience & Adaptation](#)

MEMBER CITY NEWS

- [Coimbatore to go all out to tap solar energy](#)

CHECK OUT

How are Indian cities doing when it comes to eco-mobility?

Find out at <http://ecomobilitynmt.blogspot.in>: ‘Connecting the dots... Are India's cities ready to implement non-motorized transport initiatives?’!

Follow the blog and share with us your feedback, ideas or information about local eco-mobility initiatives!

Any questions, comments, suggestions?

Please contact iclei-southasia@iclei.org

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