german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India

URBAN CONFERENCE AND LAUNCH OF COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

25 April 2023 | Hybrid format | 'Mantra', The Park, New Delhi

Concept Note

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

India is witnessing one of the largest urban growth spurts in history. As per the NITI Aayog–ADB report titled 'Cities as Engines of Growth' (2022), the number of inhabitants in Indian cities is estimated to have increased almost fourfold between 1970 and 2018, from 109 million to 460 million. Already the second-largest urban community in the world, the country is expected to add another 416 million people by 2050 and have an urban share of population of 50 percent. In terms of economic contribution, cities drive the nation's prosperity by accounting for nearly two-third of India's GDP. However, rapid and unplanned urbanisation is severely challenging the governments to provide adequate and sustainable provisioning of basic services, including affordable housing, water and sanitation, transport, among others. The Government of India, in order to address the problems of urbanisation, has introduced various missions, such as the Smart Cities Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, National Urban Livelihood Mission, among others.

While such initiatives are leading to changes on the ground, increasing frequency and intensity of climate-induced disasters, such as floods, cyclones, heat waves, etc. are having adverse impacts on the social and economic well-being of citizens across the country. In particular, the urban poor and the vulnerable groups are severely impacted from the loss of livelihood and assets, increase in health cost, etc. In fact, the Global Climate Risk Index Report 2021 ranks India 7th in terms of global vulnerability, based on the recorded number of fatalities and monetary losses due to climate change. For cities to progress towards sustainable development (including achieving SDG targets, New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement), it is imperative to develop new models for urbanisation that are inclusive, resilient, and integrated to address its dynamic needs.

However, lack of resources - financial, technical, knowledge; changing aspirations of citizens; misgovernance among others, pose risks to the sustainable development of cities. For India, which is envisioning to transform itself to a knowledge-based economy, it is prudent to create an ecosystem for knowledge creation and dissemination that not only contributes to the global good but aligns to the G20 mission of India ('Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth, One family, One future'), which is being hosted this year (2023).

Link to join the event: https://community.connective-cities.net/node/1345

Against this backdrop, the project "Sustainable Urban Development – Smart Cities II" (SUDSC II), which is being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), seeks to address the challenges arising from climate-related disasters in partner states and cities.

One of the key components of the project is to establish and support **Communities of Practice (CoP)** to facilitate knowledge sharing from the local, state, national and global experiences on the various initiatives undertaken to address disaster risk and climate resilience. CoPs are created to catalyse innovative practices and ideas on building sustainable and resilient cities by institutionalising cross-sectoral deliberation, cooperative learning and action among the various urban stakeholders including practitioners, institution, academicians, researchers, policy makers, and officials from state and cities among others. It is envisaged that the creation of such communities will enable exchange of international best practices on disaster risk reduction in cities and provision of an integrated approach towards climate-resilient cities.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE: AN OVERVIEW

The Communities of Practice (CoP) will work as the knowledge exchange platform that brings local, national, and international knowledge and experiences on various topics within the three thematic areas identified by MoHUA:

- **Municipal Finance for Urban Governance**
- **Digital Transformation for Sustainable Urban Development**
- **Climate-Resilient Infrastructure**

Such CoPs trigger a collective learning process, which generates knowledge from shared experiences that are evolving continuously; develop professional skills of stakeholders involved; contribute to policy dialogue for context specific needs that are beyond administrative, organisational, and geographical boundaries; build new products, services, and innovative solutions; develop new channels for cooperation and collaboration, etc.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

In this regard, SUDSC II proposes to organise a day-long hybrid event to exchange state-of-the-art knowledge and experiences with national and international experts on these three urban topics and then continue the conversation with all partners in the three Communities of Practice (CoPs) on the above-mentioned thematic areas.

The event aims to bring together city and state officials, national and international experts, academic, think-tanks, practitioners among others to share their experiences and knowledge.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Exchange state-of-the-art knowledge, experiences, and best practices with national and international experts on the three identified thematic areas.**
- **Initiate processes to constitute the knowledge exchange in CoPs as a platform.**
- **Develop a road map for knowledge exchange on the three identified thematic areas.**
- **Develop recommendations for knowledge products on the above-mentioned thematic areas.**

Link to join the event: https://community.connective-cities.net/node/1345

URBAN CONFERENCE AND LAUNCH OF COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

25 April 2023 | Hybrid format | 'Mantra', The Park, New Delhi

Agenda

TIME	DETAILS
09:30 – 10:00	**REGISTRATION**
10:00 – 11:00	**INAUGURAL SESSION**
	Welcome remarks **Dr. Teresa Kerber** Programme Director, SUDSC II, GIZ India
	Keynote address **Mr. Satinder Pal Singh, IPS** Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt. of India
	Special address **Mr. Rajendra Ratnoo, IAS** Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)
	Mr. Hitesh Vaidya Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)
	Mr. Ernst Doering Director & Cluster Coordinator, Sustainable Urban and Industrial Development, GIZ India
	Vote of Thanks **Mr. Dinesh Kapila** Economic Adviser (Housing-I), MoHUA
11:00 – 11:20	**TEA/COFFEE BREAK** (Pre-function area of 'Mantra' Hall)
11:20 – 12:20	**SESSION 1: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

SESSION 1: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (11:20 – 12:20)

Moderated by:
Dr. Teresa Kerber
Programme Director, SUDSC II

Panel discussion:
Prof. Florian Bemmerlein-Lux
International Expert on Resilient Sustainable Cities and Digital Transformation

Mr. Peter Sailer
Project Director, International Smart Cities Network

Mr. Sebastian Hoffman
International Expert on Digital Transformation for Sustainable Urban Development

Mr. Luigi Cipolla
International Expert on Smart & Sustainable City Planning

Dr. N. Satyanarayana, IAS
Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration, Govt. of Telangana

SESSION OBJECTIVES

Discussion on leveraging digital technologies and tools to aid informed decision-making for sustainable urban development.

QUESTIONS

- How digital technologies can be utilised for creating citizen interface and in promoting people centric decision-making?
- What strategies are needed for transforming urban governance using digital technologies?

12:20 – 12:30	**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

TIME	DETAILS

12:30 – 13:20 | **SESSION 2: MUNICIPAL FINANCE FOR URBAN GOVERNANCE**

Moderated by:
Mr. S. Ramamoorthy Iyer
Senior Vice President, SBI Capital Markets

Presentation on best practices:
Dr. Michael Thoene
International Expert on Municipal Finance, University of Cologne, Germany

Panel discussion:
Dr. N. Satyanarayana, IAS
Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration, Govt. of Telangana

Ms. Shalini Agarwal, IAS
Commissioner, Surat Municipal Corporation, Gujarat

Mr. Pradeep Ramakrishnan
General Manager DDHS, SEBI

SESSION OBJECTIVES

Sharing of international and national experiences on municipal finance from across the globe and its linkages to future urban development, with a focus on Indian cities.

QUESTIONS

- What are the global and national status, trends, and future of municipal finances?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for new and innovative approaches?

13:20 – 13:30 | **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

13:30 – 14:30 | **LUNCH BREAK** (Pre-function area of 'Mantra' Hall)

14:30 – 15:30 | **SESSION 3: CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE**

Moderated by:
Prof. Santosh Kumar
Professor, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

Presentation on best practices:
Mr. Mario Donga
International Expert on Disaster Risk Management and Resilient Cities

and

Ms. Magdalena Hoerst
International Expert on Disaster Risk Reduction

Panel discussion:
Dr. Karl Heinz Gaudry
Advisor, Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management

Mr. Gagandeep Singh Bedi
Principal Secretary and Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, Tamil Nadu

Prof. Amit Bose
Director, DDF Consultants, New Delhi

SESSION OBJECTIVES

Discussion on international experiences in resilient cities and the role of resilient infrastructure in addressing climate-induced disasters; role of institutions and municipal bodies in addressing disaster in cities in India.

- Importance of resilient cities for sustainable urban development
- Disasters and Indian cities - social and economic impact; and need for integrating risk-informed, resilient and integrated urban planning of Indian cities

QUESTIONS

- What are the global experience on climate-induced natural disasters, resilient infrastructure/cities?
- How are Indian cities adopting/developing resilient plan to address challenges posed by natural disasters — role of institutions and need for reforms?
- What are the policy lessons for improving climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure?

15:30 – 16:30 | **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

TIME	DETAILS
16:30 – 17:15	**CLOSING REMARKS**
	Mr. Gaurav Kumar Jha Joint Director (Housing), MoHUA, Govt. of India
	Mr. Nilesh Rajadhyaksha Programme Director – Urban Strategy Unit, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)
	Dr. Garima Aggarwal Senior Consultant (RID), NIDM
	Dr. Umamaheswar Rajasekar Urban Resilience Specialist, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
	Dr. Teresa Kerber Programme Director, SUDSC II, GIZ India
17:30 – 19:00	**HIGH TEA** ('The Aqua', pool side)