SUDSC WEBINAR SERIES 5

Harnessing Data for Urban Transformation

Time	Date	Mode
15:00 to 16:30 Hrs	6th December, 2023	Online

Background

In order to ensure effective governance in a rapidly growing world, there is an imperative need to implement smart solutions supported by a robust data ecosystem. To effectively steer urban transformation, integration of data and technology is crucial for making intelligent decisions that facilitate inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development. India has taken significant strides towards transforming urban management through digital interventions with the launch of the Smart Cities Mission in 2015.

Further, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs released the Data Smart Cities Strategy (DSCS) in February 2021 under the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) to address complex urban challenges across 100 smart cities through their Urban Local Bodies (ULB). With an intent to foster the data-driven culture and to simplify decision-making processes within the urban ecosystem, the DSCS focused on cultivation of a culture of open data, leading to increased data exchange and utilisation in urban governance. The DSCS aims at promoting greater efficiency, accountability, and

transparency in city governance while facilitating civic engagement, co-creation, and innovation in problem-solving. Further to effectively execute this initiative, the Data Maturity Assessment Framework (DMAF) was introduced to encourage cities to improve their data infrastructure and assess their readiness and maturity in handling data.

The webinar on "Harnessing Data for Urban Transformation" intends to bring together experts, policymakers, urban planners, and researchers to discuss the potential of data-driven approaches with which cities can unlock the benefits of urban data and build more efficient and livable urban environments. Discussions will also focus on innovative solutions developed by cities to address challenges faced by the cities while harnessing high-quality data from various institutions, by considering parameters such as data quality, interoperability, security and privacy of data, rightful use, potential bias and stakeholder engagement.

About the Webinar

NIUA has entered into a strategic partnership with GIZ for the **Sustainable Urban Development -Smart Cities II (SUDSC II)** programme, which is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Under this project, NIUA and GIZ have jointly initiated the "SUDSC-II Webinar Series" to support setting up of Communities of Practice.

The webinar series is a set of curated dialogues focusing on urban topics related to the municipal finance, climate resilience, digital innovations for urban governance.

The fifth webinar in the Series, titled as "Harnessing data for Urban Transformation" will focus on the use of data and technology to drive positive changes and improvements in urban governance. The webinar will delve into data collection methods, analysis techniques, and their application in urban planning, aiding decision-makers in areas such as infrastructure development, transportation, and public services. Furthermore, the webinar will focus on issues related to sustainability including discussions on how data can address environmental challenges, help in supporting policy decision on matter related to energy consumption, green urban initiatives, water conservation, urban transport, among others along with engaging community and other stakeholders.

Session	Speakers	
Introduction (5 mins)	Moderators	• Introduction to SUDSC-II project and the webinar series along with a brief on the topic.
Plenary I (20 mins)	**Mr Chand Kaushil** Head (ICT – Innovations and Solutions), United Nations	• Importance of integrating data collection and analysis in urban policy planning, emphasizing its role in informing decisions related to infrastructure, transportation, and public services.
Plenary 2 (20 mins)	**Mr Subhadarshi Mishra** Founder and CEO SPARC	• Data collection methods, analysis techniques, and their application in urban planning, aiding decision- makers. • How data-driven initiatives can address environmental challenges, reduce energy consumption, and promote green urban initiatives, focusing on measurable outcomes.
Case Study (20 mins)	**Dr Anant Maringanti** Executive Director Hyderabad Urban Labs	• Case study on data driven approach for Urban Transformation and improvement of overall urban quality of life.
Discussion (25 mins)	Moderated Discussion and Q & A Session	

Case Study: Hyderabad Urban Labs

Hyderabad Urban Lab Foundation: As an evolving experiment in urban research, Hyderabad Urban Lab, has been developing collaborative projects involving media professionals, planners, technologists, academic researchers and legal professionals. These broad based collaborations are key to deepening our understanding of the very large informal economies that underpin contemporary cities. Generating data and curating it to make the larger context visible is central to Hyderabad Urban Lab's core strategy.

Profile of Panellists

Mr Chand Kaushil
Head (ICT – Innovations and Solutions)
United Nations

Mr Chand Kaushil is currently serving as the Head of the India Technology Hub of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) and the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (UNOICT)
A technology professional with over 25 years of experience in the international development sector with the United Nations; Mr. Kaushil has made noteworthy contributions in leveraging technology for educational development, capacity building and fostering innovation to address global challenges. Currently, he is spearheading various projects on capacity building and promoting innovative ICT solutions, which are reaching out to 130+ member states.

Mr Subhadarshi Mishra
Founder and CEO
SPARC

Mr Subhadarshi Mishra, Founder and CEO, SPARC Private Limited has more than 30 years of experience as a techno-entrepreneur. Starting his professional journey with IT Enabled Services in 1991, he founded SPARC as a Geo-spatial technology consulting company in 1997. Today, with 300+ Geo-ICT professionals and 150+ customers, SPARC is a leading IT-SME in India, specializing in Gov-tech & Sustainability; offering innovative digital solutions and advisory services in urban management, forestry, environment & climate change, mining, agriculture and disaster risk management. During his illustrious professional career, He is B. Tech in Civil Engineering (Gold medalist) from National Institute of Technology,Kurukshetra, in 1991.
Mr. Mishra has conceptualized, guided, and implemented several path-breaking Geo-ICT projects of national and international importance.

Dr Anant Maringanti
Executive Director
Hyderabad Urban Labs

Mr Anant Maringanti is the executive director of Hyderabad Urban Lab Foundation.A geographer with a PhD from University of Minnesota, he has taught graduate and undergraduate courses at the National University of Singapore, University of Hyderabad and the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Hyderabad. His research and teaching interests centre on questions of urbanization and globalization from the South Asian vantage point. He is widely published in national and international academic journals on social movements, politics of development and urbanization.

Moderators:

Mr Raman Kumar Singh
Senior Urban
Development Specialist
NIUA

Mr Vignesvar J
Urban Management Expert
NIUA