

Municipalika - International Conference and Exhibition on Good Urban Governance comes to an end in Ahmedabad

India's biggest event on Municipal & Urban solutions draws big response

Ahmedabad, January 30, 2010

The curtains came down on the 8th International Conference and Exhibition on 'Good Urban Governance for Safe, Healthy, Green & Smart Cities' at Gujarat University Exhibition Hall with the Valedictory and Awards function. The conference was attended by close to 500 delegates, who got the benefit of listening to 70 speakers in 7 technical sessions and 2 open spread over the three days. Over 2500 professional visitors from Ahmedabad and Gujarat visited the exhibition to interact with 75 exhibitors.

A consolidated report on the deliberations in the conference was presented in the Valedictory Session, alongwith recommendations arising out of the discussions. Awards were given away to the exhibitors for their displays in the exhibition. (List of Award Winners attached).

Municipalika 2010 was inaugurated in the presence of Shri Babulal Gaur, Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Surendra Patel, Member of Parliament and former Chairman of Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA), Shri Kanaji Thakore, Mayor of Ahmedabad, Shri I P Gautam, Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad, Dr Jatin V Modi, President, All India Institute of Local Self Government, Shri Mark Ginsberg, Sr. Executive Advisor to the Office of the Secretary of State for Renewable Energy, United States Department of Energy, Shri Popatlal S Patel, President, Gujarat Nagar Palika Parishad, Shri Sanjiv Agarwal, Founder Trustee of Good Governance Foundation, Organisers of Municipalika 2010, Shri V Suresh, Advisor, Good Governance India Foundation, and Conference coordinator (Former CMD - HUDCO), and a host of mayors, commissioners, senior urban development officials from the central State Governments, and Urban Local Bodies from all over India.

Smt Gauri Kumar, Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Urban Housing, Government of Gujarat, also attended the event, Chairing the Opening Plenary Session on "Urban Reform Agenda, Leading and Best Urban Practices.

The VIPs and delegates visited all the stalls in the exhibition and interacted with the technology and service providers.

The theme of "Good Urban Governance for Safe, Healthy, Green and Smart Cities" was adequately captured in the technical sessions over the 3 days covering Safety and Security, Water and Waste Water, Solid Waste, Energy Efficiency, Environment and Climate Change, Affordable Housing, E-Governance, and Partnerships etc.

Dr Mark Ginsberg spelt out the importance of energy efficiency for a futuristic vision of sustainable cities in his Vision Address. Shri I P Gautam presented the initiatives for making Ahmedabad a model city for balanced, inclusive, sustainable city development and governance.

Besides the technical sessions detailed above, the 2nd day had an Open House - Citizen's interface, where the participating Mayors highlighted their role, responsibilities and activities, and interacted with representatives of citizens groups, non-governmental organizations and the civil society at large.

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, the Host City, hosted the Inaugural Dinner for all the delegates at the Kankaria Lake, which provided an opportunity to showcase this wonderful initiative in the city. The delegates were taken to the Dinner Venue in the Ahmedabad BRTS, an international award winning project of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. The laser show, garba programme, and ethnic cuisine gave the delegates a taste and feel of Gujarat, and its hospitality.

The timing of Municipalika assumes greater significance, in the year of Swarnim Gujarat, the 50th anniversary celebrations of the State, and the 600th year of the founding of the historic city of Ahmedabad

With urbanization taking place at a rapid pace in the country, and the Central & State Governments increasing their focus and expenditure on development of urban infrastructure in a balanced, sustainable and inclusive manner, the three-day conference and exhibition highlighted and showcased the various initiatives and programmes at central, state and Urban Local Body (ULB) level. The deliberations and displays also evaluated and generated strategies and technologies for tackling urban challenges, and for providing better urban infrastructure and municipal services to citizens.

Municipalika 2010 Ahmedabad was supported by Government of India Ministries of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, and Communications and Information Technology ; Department of Urban Development and Urban Housing, Government of Gujarat. and other national and international stake-holder organizations. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation was the Host City, while Surat Municipal Corporation was the Partner City. Among the other urban local bodies participating in a big way were Bhopal municipal Corporation, as the Associate Sponsor, alongwith the US Department of Energy, and Brookhaven National Laboratory. Governance/E-Government Foundation was the Knowledge Partner of the event. The conference was organised in association with the All India Institute of Local Self Government. Among the other supporting organizations were the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), and City Managers Association of Gujarat (CMAG).

Elected office-bearers and bureaucrats from various Urban Local Bodies (ULBS), and from government departments connected with urban administration, representatives from industry, non-governmental organizations, national and international development agencies, project consultants, academic and research institutions, and other stake holders attended the conference and exhibition in large numbers.

Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand were some of the states who sent big delegations, besides of course a sizeable presence from Ahmedabad, and from Gujarat.

22 Mayors and 15 Municipal Commissioners took part in the deliberations. Over all Municipalika had over 500 delegates from 13 states, and from 53 Indian cities and towns, including Secretaries to Government, Municipality Presidents and Chief officers, and a large number of technical and administrative personnel from ULBs.

The concurrent exhibition, which was organised by Fairfest Media Limited, showcasing, various modern technologies, and solutions for urban development, management, and governance had participation from companies offering solutions and services in the fields of water & waste water management, solid waste management & recycling, cleaning technologies & conservancy, environment protection, pollution control, sustainability, urban infrastructure development, safety, security, disaster management, urban transportation & traffic management, urban e-governance & IT solutions and construction & building technologies. As a special feature, the exhibition also had Municipal Corporations of various cities showcasing their achievements, activities, projects and programmes.

Municipalika is the country's first and exclusive annual exhibition and conference that focuses on urban development, management and governance. Its objective is to usher in "Good Urban Governance for Making Cities Work". Before this first foray into Gujarat, Municipalika has over the last seven years been organized in New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata. Next year, in January 2011, it moves to Bengaluru.

Municipalika conference is organized by Good Governance India Foundation, while the exhibition is organised by Fairfest Media Limited.