



Press Release

Municipalika 2013 draws up blueprint for Sustainable Cities

New Delhi, 15th March, 2013: Municipalika 2013 covering the 11th International Conference and Exhibition was held at Greater Noida - Delhi NCR, India Expo Centre from 13rd to 15th March 2013, it had the participation over 850 delegates from 112 cities within the country and abroad representing Mayors, Municipal Commissioners, Secretaries to Government dealing with Municipal Administration, Local Self Government, Urban Development, Housing and Infrastructure Development,, Water Supply, from mega and metro cities, small and medium towns and all urban professionals, technology and service providers, academia and other stake holders including civil society groups.

Municipalika 2013, Conference and Exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Sudhir Krishna, Secretary, Urban Development, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India and presided over by Mr. Arun Kumar Misra, Secretary, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. The Presidential Address was delivered by Mr. Arun Kumar Misra and the Inaugural Address by Dr. Sudhir Krishna.

It had the distinguished participation of Dr. G.S. Sandhu, Additional Chief Secretary, Housing, Urban Development and Local-Self Government, Government of Rajasthan, Dr. Kulwant Singh, UN Habitat, Ms. Karthiyayini, Mayor, Vellore Municipal Corporation and Mr. Baljit Singh, Mayor, Bhatinda Municipal Corporation, Mr. Claudy Lebreton, President, Assembly of French Departments. The Theme Address was delivered by Mr. Rick Fedrizzi, Chairman, World Green Building Council.

The Municipalika Exhibition showcasing technologies, services, products, equipment, machineries and managerial systems incorporated into a common space of over 7000 sq.mts. was highly appreciated by all. It had 100 exhibitors including 15 city authorities.

In an effort to give a platform to the bright and young minds from schools of planning and architecture and engineering colleges and IITs for tapping their innovative and exciting ideas in the development of housing and urban infrastructure, Municipalika

2013 introduced a new competition called Urban Innovation Challenge, in collaboration with UTC and Ethos.

There were four categories in this competition for Post Graduate and Under Graduate levels covering macro and micro dimensions of the built environment – “Sustainable Cities and Townships” and “Green Buildings and Habitats”.

Conference

Each of the sessions highlighted the challenges, major initiatives and actionable agenda needed for creating vibrant, dynamic, low carbon based sustainable and inclusive cities, duly respecting the historic districts within. The 10 sessions had over 120 presentations by expert speakers followed by high quality floor interventions.

DAY-1 – 13th March, 2013

CS 01 – Progressive and Working Cities - Urban Reform Agenda-Policies and Strategies, New JnNURM and Best Practices

CS 02A – Safe, Secure and Resilient Cities - Disaster Mitigation and Mitigation Strategies

CS 02B - Safe, Secure and Resilient Cities - Gender Sensitive Public Safety

Vision Addresses - Future Cities

DAY-2 – 14th March, 2013

CS 03A - Healthy Cities - “Water Supply”

CS 03B - Healthy Cities - “Urban Sanitation and Waste Water Management”

CS 04 - Healthy Cities - “Solid Waste Management”

CS 05 – Green Cities – (Connected Cities) - “Sustainable Urban Transport and Traffic Management

CS 06 - “Green Cities - “Low-Carbon - Energy - Efficient Sustainable Built Environment and Communities”

CS 07 – Vibrant Cities - “Living Heritage” (coordinated by Indian Heritage Cities Network)

Open House – Special Interactive Session

DAY-3 – 15th March, 2013

CS 08 – Inclusive and Humane Cities - Affordable Housing for all and Slum-less Cities

CS 09 - Smart Cities - “Next Level E-GOVERNANCE Solutions and Geospatial Technologies”

CS 10 – Integrated and Self-Contained Cities - Integrated Township Development, Including New-Towns, SEZs etc

Vision Addresses

The three Vision Addresses were delivered by:

Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Chairperson, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

Mr. Rick Fedrizzi, Founder - President & CEO of US Green Building Council, Chairman - World Green Building Council

Mr. T. Nanda Kumar, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India

Open House

One of the significant segments of the event was the Open House providing an opportunity for the citizens to raise their concerns with Mayors and City Managers. In this interface session many issues related to association of citizens in city development process as well as ensuring timely services delivery by local bodies came up for debate. The need for active collaboration and cooperation with citizen’s group in solving challenges of cities came into sharp focus.

The following major points of observations and recommendations emerged:

JNNURM Phase II should concentrate on a programmatic approach, giving impetus to capacity building in the cities at various levels.

Cities with vision documents and CDPs have been the ones that have come forward with best practices and well-conceived projects under the JNNURM. The vision document guides the action plan and a sustained support should be provided for actualizing the plans.

It is desirable to analyze the unfinished reform agenda for 2013 to see that these are completed within the timeframe and take up next generation reforms by the time Phase II begins.

New innovations need to be brought in for city master planning, including an inclusive and humane approach covering the needs of all groups. The **urban design** tools for threedimensional master-planning has also become a felt need. Further, it should integrate low-carbon technologies for developing sustainable urban infrastructure.

Cities have emerged over centuries. It is desirable to take care of the built environment of earlier years in the historic districts and take up heritage and conservation initiatives to retain the “*soul of the city*”.

The success stories presented by many Indian cities stand as good examples for the leadership they have shown in implementing the reforms agenda under JNNURM. These need to be disseminated very widely across not only states but also the cities so that they can adopt or adapt to benefit from these successful initiatives.

The need for Civic participation to be an integral part of the process in order for the reforms to be effective was recognised to be crucial.

The deliberations clearly stressed the need for incremental sustenance and the role of the private sector and communities to bring in resources, technology, management and improved innovations for housing and infrastructure development. The new mantra for development has to be **Public-Private-People’s Partnership (PPPP)** as against **Public-Private-Partnership (PPP)**.

The potential of decentralization is immense and should involve stakeholders at the local/micro level and monitoring and execution of projects in the decentralized mode with intense community participation.

There should be a uniform code of selection and conduct for mayors, city managers for all local governments including common cadre for City Managers

The need to strengthen the local level leadership by fully implementing 74th Constitutional Amendment Act was stressed. It was the unanimous view that the existing leadership at the [political, administrative and technical levels need to be given the right level of administrative and financial authority if they are to be called upon to deliver the various responsibilities under the 74th Constitutional Amendment.

Professionalism and transparency of functions is required for efficient city management through capacity building programme. Use of e-governance technologies should be part of the mandatory reform agenda. This would also take care of reduction of corruption and complaints.

Urgent and major awareness building measures are required to citizens at all levels regarding vulnerability of all cities for various hazards and calamities so that appropriate mitigation from disaster situations is ensured for reduction in loss of property and lives and economic development.

All governing departments (local and state) need to work in an integrated manner with the disaster management authorities in incorporating safety measures at planning, implementation and maintenance stages of development along with city disaster management plans.

This would also need a techno-legal and techno-financial regime (Building rules and codes to be responsive to disaster threats and responses).

Inclusive Planning to provide for the marginalised, poor and disadvantaged is a major message for future city planning – include the Master Plan for Slum free housing in the CDP – for creating inclusive and humane cities.

Keeping in view the limited land and high costs, high density development has become necessary. The optimal and intense utilisation of land has become necessary either through vertical or horizontal urban sprawl growth.

As part of the slum development strategy under JNNURM, IHSDP and BSUP and now energised under Rajiv AwasYojana, urgent efforts are called for in creating action plans for slumless cities and for providing adequate and affordable shelter and basic services. In this equal attention should be given for poverty alleviation, skill development and employment generation by integrating in the plan process.

Cities to be humane and inclusive should cover all groups – have-nots as well as haves. This can only happen when the social housing needs (50%) are also taken along with the affordable housing (LIG & lower MIG -30%) and premium housing needs (MIG & HIG – 20%) through sustained planning and integrated development. All incentives – physical, financial and fiscal should be made available and think out-of-the-box to find practical solutions which can be implemented in the immediate and short term time frame.

30 cities have been credit rated. Municipal bonds are a good source of raising resources. This has to be expanded and for smaller local bodies pooled bond scheme should be launched.

Access to public and community toilets which are safe, clean, hygienic and , socially, culturally acceptable should be provided at all public places and also to take care of gender sensitive needs.

The session on urban sanitation threw light on several relevant issues related to the subject. India is country where large sections of urban and rural population do not have access to clean, hygienic toilets with disposable systems. The conference strongly endorses the need for providing sanitation for all in all cities as one of the fundamental action areas **AT ANY COST**. A major citizenry drive would be needed for making 100% sanitation a reality.

While some cities have sewerage systems, many still lack sewage treatment plants. Still worse is the lack of efforts for waste water recycling. Except for Bangalore, India does not have a single city with waste water recycling system, excepting some oasis initiatives in the private sector townships and few public new town development entities. Further a major sewage and sewerage management plan is to be

taken up for efficient operation and maintenance of the capital-intensive sewerage system and STPs.

Emphasis was made on the emergent need for solid waste management initiatives including composting, scientific landfills, waste to energy, bio gas etc. The motto should be ***waste to wealth, refuse to resource and trash to cash.***

In the session, the need for waste water recycling plant in every city was exhorted. Almost every speaker emphasized the need for maintenance of existing sewerage system with periodic clean up and the need for removal of trap gases as part of the overall sewerage management plan.

Keeping in view the large scale automobile revolution in cities, there is urgent need to encourage and strengthen public transportation modes and using less polluting and energy efficient public transportation modes.

Mobility management including strategies to avoid / address crowding / congestion need to be addressed on a priority basis including the pedestrian and disadvantaged section movement needs.

Application of Low Carbon city master planning at both macro and micro level to improve resource efficiency is required. The source book released should be disseminated for sustainable planning efforts.

Considering the larger impact of global warming and climate change, there is a major need to adopt, technologies and practices, which will contribute to creating, environment friendly, ecologically appropriate and energy efficient and saving and built environment.

A major attitudinal change of mind, body, heart and soul is needed in this connection – a paradigm shift. The need for creation of “integrated green and healthy (from environmental perspective) cities” has clearly emerged for which all encouragement should be green through integrated water management, site management and energy management.

The potential of land as a resource has to be fully tapped for enhancing the resource base as well as providing equitable and inclusive solutions benefiting all groups. **There is a clear need for doubling the urban land foot print from the present 3% to 6% for the needs of doubling of urban populations.**

Considering the limited availability of land, there is sufficient scope to increase FAR/FSI including innovative TDR commensurate with infrastructure addition.

There is an imminent need for institutionalizing the housing data preparation for assessing the housing demand in various locations and cities and also for interventions from the supply side including information on housing starts from urban local bodies, HFIs and Real Estate Consultants and portals.

e-Governance is to be given top priority attention in the reform agenda for cities to bring in transparency, information sharing, provision of services to the citizens in user friendly and efficient manner - ***taking service delivery to the door steps of the people.***

Modern tools of GIS/GPS and Remote Sensing to be utilized for city based information system and properties, natural resources and planning for development and infrastructure both above and below grounds.

There is an imperative need to strengthen local bodies through capacity building at the level of mayors, councilors, city managers, service providers to deal with the multi-dimensional development needs to make cities work.

Appropriate training module suiting each group has to be evolved.

The need for Urban Services Regulator for ensuring quality of services and appropriate pricing has emerged as one of the recommendations.

Municipalika 2013 also strongly endorsed the need for sustainable city development in different parts of the India and also to strengthen the initiatives for creating sustainable green and smart and inclusive cities. Few pilots taken up should serve as models for creating the integrated and self-contained and inclusive townships development initiatives.