



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues, Partners, Friends,
I am delighted to present to you our first issue of the C-Cube Newsletter!

For more than a decade, NIUA has been providing comprehensive support to cities and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India in undertaking policy and implementation action towards sustainable and climate resilient habitats. The new Climate Center for Cities (C-Cube) has been established to consolidate all programs of NIUA at one place and align our response through our mandate to mainstream climate actions at local level. The Center will focus on strengthening capacities of cities to understand, implement and monitor the actions needed for addressing climate change impacts in their local context. With this weekly newsletter, we intend to reach out to partner organizations, cities and practitioners and keep you all updated with the ongoing urban climate initiatives at C-Cube and India, at large.



I hope you will enjoy reading it and find this informative. Your suggestions and feedback are welcome. Share them at c-cube@niua.org

Hitesh Vaidya

CLIMATE CENTER FOR CITIES LAUNCHED AT NIUA

The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) has set up a first of its kind 'Climate Center for Cities' or C-Cube with a vision to build climate action in Indian cities. Instituted with support from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India under its Smart Cities Mission, C-Cube was launched by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (IC), Government of India on NIUA's 40th Foundation Day and the 5th Anniversary of National Urban Missions, 25 June 2020. C-Cube will serve as a one stop shop for bringing together diverse skills, resources and knowledge to support cities in implementing local actions towards climate resilience and improved quality of life. The Center will also act as the strategic support unit for all activities to be implemented under MoHUA's Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) and the National Secretariat for the ClimateSmart Alliance.

Speaking at the occasion, Shri Puri stated that "India has undertaken one of the most comprehensive planned urbanization programmes in the history of the world. The vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister of a New India is closely intertwined with our flagship programme achievements. CSCAF is a key enabler for the Smart Cities Mission, driving the future course of action based on data driven performance management, urban innovation and institutional capacity building". Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA said that "The Climate Centre for Cities has been set up to consolidate, institutionalize & mainstream the learnings from experiences in our cities on climate change for a better future & healthy environment".



Find out more about the C-Cube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nYf7SAIJ4Q&feature=youtu.be>

Read more about the launch event at: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1634268>

CLIMATESMART ALLIANCE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT ESTABLISHED AT NIUA

The ClimateSmart Cities Alliance was initiated by MoHUA in 2019 with a vision to mobilise collaborative effort at all levels of government and among all stakeholders to implement climate action in cities. In order to take this vision forward and leveraging partnerships for sustained climate actions in India's Smart Cities, C-Cube has been formally designated and started functioning as the National Secretariat for the Alliance. To that end, as of date, C-Cube has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with national and international organizations including the Global Resilient Cities Network, University of British Columbia, International Urban Cooperation (India), ICLEI South Asia and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in India. Besides, more than 20 national and international organizations, networks and departments have also come on board and shared their intent for sharing knowledge and providing support to cities towards implementation of the CSCAF 2.0. C-Cube welcomes partners, organizations and practitioners, to join hands in mainstreaming urban climate resilience in India.



Find out more about the ClimateSmart Cities Alliance at: <https://smartnet.niua.org/csc/national-csc-alliance.html>

C-CUBE ORGANIZES VIRTUAL CONSULTATIONS ON BUILDING RESILIENCE TO URBAN HEALTH RISKS

The COVID-19 outbreak has severely impacted cities across the globe. In India, cities including Mumbai, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Indore and Pune have reported some of the highest number of people affected by the outbreak in the country and been at the frontline in battling the pandemic. Besides the public health impact, mitigation measures to prevent the spread have also resulted in large scale socio-economic impacts and affected the overall economic activities in our cities.

With an intent to create a discourse on multi-stakeholder coordinated efforts for strengthening resilience to climate change & public health risks in Indian Cities, C-Cube organized two high level virtual consultations in the months of May and July, 2020. The High level Round-Table on India's Urban future Post COVID-19 on 6th May, 2020 was a closed group virtual event with 14 senior experts from India and beyond who provided their insights & recommendations on the topic. The Virtual Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) on 'Role of multi-level governance for managing pandemics and building resilience of Indian cities' as part of COVID19 Series #2 of the World Urban Campaign of the UN Habitat was organized on 30th July, 2020. More than 75 participants from India and EU countries including urban practitioners, researchers and academicians from fields of disaster management, urban resilience, international affairs, social media and digital policy participated in the event. Organized in partnership with Sushant School of Planning and Development at Ansal University, US Green Building Council, European Urban Knowledge Network, Regional Studies Association, Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the UTC brought together experiences and collective learning from various cities across the globe.



Find out more about the UTC at:

<https://www.worldurbancampaign.org/discussion-role-multi-level-governance-managing-pandemics-and-building-resilience-indian-cities> View UTC video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNMCmokyV0I&feature=emb_logo

KNOWLEDGE HUB

1. NIUA and AIILSG Policy Paper on "Local Response to Global Pandemic" (available at: https://smartnet.niua.org/sites/default/files/resources/local_response_to_global_pandemic3.pdf)
2. UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) Report on "City-to-City Partnerships and South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Sustainable Urban Development" (available at: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/climate/city2city/>)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for the Launch of ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0 on Friday, 11th September, 2020. Watch out for more details on our Twitter Handle (@NIUA_India #CCube)