

July 2019



URBAN RESILIENCE UNIT



Dear Readers,

Firstly, we would like to thank you for the extensive support and endorsement that we have received from you as we started and continue our resilience journey. I am happy to note that in the last one year we have grown into a strong community of 500+ resilience practitioners, partners and champions across India. This is our strength and opportunity as we move ahead in our endeavor towards resilience building of India cities.

The last few months have been quite eventful for India – politically and economically - with the general elections, some expected and some not so expected policy and budget announcements. On the other hand, the temperature extremes, delayed monsoons and related heat wave, water scarcity and flooding situations have also been a big concern in urban as well as rural areas. At the Urban Resilience Unit, we are continuously working towards comprehensively addressing these challenges for risk-resilient and climate-smart cities.

With this latest issue of our newsletter we bring to you an update on some of our key activities. Please follow us to [learn more](#) and collaborate with us in our ongoing endeavors.

Best wishes,

Dr. Umamaheshwaran Rajasekar
Chair, Urban Resilience Unit
National Institute of Urban Affairs

URU organizes consultation workshop on mainstreaming resilience in the National Urban Policy Framework



The Government of India is preparing a National Urban Policy Framework (NUPF) to outline an integrated and coherent approach towards the future of urban planning in India. Upon

releasing a draft framework, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) had invited comments and feedback through the Smartnet platform. In this regard, URU submitted more than 50 recommendations to mainstream resilience within the NUPF. These recommendations were compiled after an expert consultation workshop, which was organized by URU in May 2019. More than 20 key experts from ICLEI, WRI, IUC, UN Habitat, WWF-India, the Future Institute, Uiciti and academic institutions like SPA, Jamia Millia Islamia and the TERI School of Advanced Studies were invited to discuss action points that integrate resilience within the Policy Framework's 10 sutras and 10 action areas. The NUPF is currently being reviewed and revised by MoHUA in light of the recommendations received from various stakeholders.

URU is supporting MoHUA in integrating resilience in Smart Cities

URU continues to work with MoHUA to embed resilience within national programs, schemes and missions. To help cities measure their level of preparedness and ability to respond and recover during a disaster, URU provided inputs for developing the resilience indicators for the 2019 Ease of Living Index. URU has also supported MoHUA in creating its Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework for the Smart Cities Mission. Within this framework, URU supported in development of the Urban Planning, Green Cover and Biodiversity indicators and training the Smart Cities officials in implementing the same. URU is also supporting the AFD funded CITIIS project by developing a tool for 12 smart cities to integrate urban resilience and innovation within their infrastructure projects. Read More about the Ease of Living and Climate Smart Cities indicators at: <https://smartnet.niua.org/>

URU supports Pune and Chennai in preparing and launching City Resilience Strategies



In June 2019, two of the 100RC member cities in India released their City Resilience Strategies: Pune and Chennai's strategies focus on taking projects forward to strengthen and diversify their economies, support their vulnerable communities, safeguard their environment and prepare for disasters. These cities are now part of the pioneering 80+ 100RC network cities that have prepared their strategies and are currently in different stages of implementation. URU worked closely with both cities to support them in preparing for their strategy launch and in planning for executing their resilience projects. URU is working towards identifying funding opportunities for different resilience projects and is supporting the implementation of data observatories in both Chennai and Pune. Read the strategies at: <https://uru.niua.org/driving-resilience-agenda>

URU organizes thematic session on Transformative Actions to Enhance Urban Resilience in the Asia Pacific Resilient Cities Congress, 2019



URU, 100 Resilient Cities and ICLEI South Asia collaborated to organize a session on Transformative Actions to Enhance Urban Resilience at the 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress 2019 in New Delhi. The session communicated the importance of integrating urban resilience within planning and infrastructure development in Indian cities. The panelists, including Ms Raina Singh, Senior Fellow at URU, highlighted the importance of accountability and ownership of resilience strategies amongst urban local bodies and the need for long term finance mechanisms to support the implementation of resilience projects. The panel included the Chief Resilience Officers of Pune, Surat, Chennai, and representatives of the Municipal Association of Nepal and Dalberg Global Development Advisors, India.

URU participates in 100RC's 2019 Urban Resilience Summit in Rotterdam, The Netherlands



From July 8-11, 2019, urban resilience thought-leaders, practitioners and city managers from around the world gathered in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, to share ideas and innovations, celebrate the accomplishments of the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) network globally, and chart the course for the future. Dr. Umamaheshwaran Rajasekar, Chair – Urban Resilience and Ms Raina Singh, Senior Fellow at URU participated in the Summit along with the Chief Resilience Officers and partners from the 100 RC network cities in India - Chennai, Pune and Surat. Dr Jagdish Patel, Hon'ble Mayor of Surat also attended the Summit as a Special Guest. URU participated in various 'collective action hubs' with member cities and experts from different parts of the world to share experiences, success stories and opportunities going forward. The team also attended 'living labs' in the host cities of Rotterdam, The Hague and Delft. The 'living labs' showcased a series of successful examples of resilience initiatives in the three cities including coastal and inland water management, addressing heat, waste management, energy transition and social cohesion.

URU organizes Webinar on Urban Resilience: From the Viewpoint of Disaster Risk Reduction

URU's fourth and final webinar in the Spring 2019 series on 'Building Resilient Cities' was led by Prof. Rajib Shaw on 8th May, 2019. Prof. Shaw is a Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University & Co-founder, RIKAI India. Prof. Shaw highlighted the methodology to assess risks in five different dimensions - physical, social, economic, institutional and natural through case examples and illustrated the role of citizens and communities in strengthening the process of resilience building in Mumbai, Kobe and Varanasi. The Fall 2019 webinar series will begin in August 2019 more details to follow.

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