



## Climate Change Community



### **Community Update** **No. 51: 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014** **In this Issue**

#### **FROM THE RESOURCE PERSON**

Dear Members,

Greetings from the Climate Change Community of Practice (CoP)!!

We are delighted to post the 51<sup>st</sup> Edition of the Community Update, today. We thank you for making the climate change community so vibrant and the exchanges so rewarding for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention that the Climate Change Community India, Solution Exchange has launched on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 a Global e-Network to facilitate countries to build capacities to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) . The network was launched at the Third meeting of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization (ICNP-3) in Pyeongchang, South Korea by Mr. Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, CBD, Montreal, Canada.

The network connects over 300 registered delegates comprising CBD and ABS National Focal Points and other experts from several countries across the globe. The objective of this network is to create a platform for exchange of information and experiences among members to help enable countries learn from each other and enable the Protocol attain the required number of ratifications by July 2014, allowing the first Conference of the Parties to the Protocol to take place in conjunction with the Twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2014.

The network is intended to be a frank, informal, open, and transparent forum. It shall not constitute any official position or pronouncement for the person who contributes to the subject, and the focus of this network will be largely scientific and technical.

This is the first time that the UN Solution Exchange has launched a global platform for knowledge sharing across the globe.

We will be launching two more sub-communities soon, one on Renewable Energy, at the request of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the other for the Indian Himalayan Climate Adaptation Programme of the Climate Change & Development Division, Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi. The creation of these sub-communities facilitates focused knowledge sharing on issues of interest to specific professionals and grass-root practitioners.

One of the Action Groups is on Easy (not so easy) Solutions to Address Climate Change. A compendium will be prepared which could be utilized by people from all walks of life. It will help

every concerned citizen in the country to understand these simple solutions and implement them in their daily lives. The Compendium will include:

- Material that is home based and easily understood and usable by people- to include basic details of where to get it from, cost, advantages, its impact on climate change etc.
- Simple indexing
- Already available material can be collated together.
- Simple solutions for mass utilization to be highlighted in the compendium.

Your contributions to the above initiatives are most welcome.

Please send us your comments and suggestions to improve the Community Update.

Thanks & best regards,  
Ramesh Kumar Jalan  
Resource Person & Moderator  
Climate Change Community,  
Solution Exchange-India  
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New Delhi

## DEVELOPMENT IN THE SECTOR

### **India poised to become global solar power: World Bank**

The article is available at: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/india-poised-to-become-global-solar-power-world-bank/article5452111.ece>.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission Phase-1 (JNNSM) is well-poised to make India a global leader in the development of solar power as its green growth agenda increased the installed capacity of solar power from around 30 MW to more than 2,000 MW, a new World Bank report said on Thursday.

What is significant is that JNNSM has been instrumental in bringing down the cost of solar power to a level that is competitive across the world, says the report. It has reduced the costs of solar energy to \$0.15 per kWh, making India amongst the lowest cost destinations for grid-connected solar Photovoltaic (PV) in the world.

The report, 'Paving the Way for a Transformational Future: Lessons from JNNSM Phase1' says solar power can reduce India's dependence on imports of diesel and coal for power generation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to energy security. Growth in this sector will help India increase its share of clean energy and help meet its target of reducing emissions per unit of its GDP by 20-25 per cent by 2020 over 2005 levels.

"In a short span of three years, India has made impressive strides in developing its abundant solar power potential. With more than 300 million people without access to energy and industry citing energy shortage as key growth barrier in India, solar power has the potential to help the country address the shortage of power for economic growth," Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director in India said at the release of the report.

However, while India is clearly emerging as a global leader in the area of solar power, to achieve its target of adding 20,000 MW of solar capacity by 2022, "it needs to address the key barriers and constraints that could come in the way of scaling up the solar program", he added.

"Building on the success of Phase 1, the programme now needs to focus on promoting financing of solar projects by commercial banks, developing shared infrastructure facilities such as solar parks and identifying comparative advantage of Indian manufacturing across the supply chain," Ashish Khanna, lead energy specialist and one of the authors of the report said.

The report has recommended publicly developed infrastructure such as solar parks to help increase efficiency and lower costs. **A solar park in Charanka (Patan district) in Gujarat is now the largest solar park in Asia.** Such shared infrastructure facilities helps in developing critical infrastructure, including facilities for power transmission, roads and water, thereby ensuring the rapid development of solar projects as well as local employment generation, the report added. **In addition, India's plans to develop ultra-mega solar projects will help showcase the potential for large scale grid connected solar projects to the entire world.**

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### **Global Infrastructure Gap: \$57 Trillion in New Investment Needed by 2040**

The article is available at: [http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/dirt/211066/global-infrastructure-gap-57-trillion-new-investment-needed-2040?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Sustainable+Cities+Collective+%28all+posts%29](http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/dirt/211066/global-infrastructure-gap-57-trillion-new-investment-needed-2040?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Sustainable+Cities+Collective+%28all+posts%29) .

"The big picture is we need \$57 trillion of new infrastructure worldwide by 2040," said Lee McIntire, chairman and CEO, CH2M Hill, at The Atlantic's annual Energy + Infrastructure summit in Washington, D.C.

That number may seem huge, but McIntire said the global economy is expected to grow over the next 30 years from \$70 trillion to \$140 trillion if the world continues at the rate of 3.5 % a year.

"The economy will be twice as big as it is now." Plus, the world will also have two billion more people by 2040, who will all need new sidewalks, bike lanes, roads, subways, and airports.

McIntire believes that "economic development precedes infrastructure development." But the two are largely inter-connected. "We need enough money, will to produce jobs for 2 billion new people." To create all of those new jobs, the world needs new infrastructure.

While developing countries in Asia and Africa are pushing full steam ahead with new infrastructure — and Europe continues to invest in infrastructure at high rates — the U.S. is falling further and further behind. "The U.S. just doesn't have its act together."

The U.S. invests about 2 % of annual GDP in infrastructure. The world averages 4 %, while Europe continually puts down 5 % each year. China alone is investing 9 %.

McIntire said the top ten investors in infrastructure can be found among the northern European countries. The next set of 10 is found in the Middle East and Asia. Then, the U.S. comes in in the 30s, around the same ranking as Chile and Slovenia.

McIntire said for the U.S. to get its act together on infrastructure, "these projects really needs to be connected to jobs." He called Obama's effort the "three-inch stimulus," as it was about "applying asphalt everywhere and filling in potholes."

While national governments have mixed records, cities are pushing ahead and are now in the

lead. "Cities are the hope for the future." McIntire said 70 % of the world's population will live in cities by 2035. Smart cities, he added, are investing in greener districts with easy access to transportation and water infrastructure.

Water infrastructure will need to be a focus of targeted national and local investment, given "our old pipes lose about 30 % of water through leakage." McIntire said much of the world is so far behind in upgrading its water infrastructure because "it's politically difficult to replace water pipes. It's not very interesting work, and requires a long-term commitment" many mayors don't seem to have.

For China especially, this will be a critical issue given it has 25 % of the world's population but just 8 % of its fresh water. It's also losing more and more of that water each year due to pollution.

In a separate panel on water conservation, Brendan FitzSimons, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF); John Schulz, AT&T; and Ed Osann, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), discussed efforts by AT&T and others in the telecommunications business in the U.S. to boost water conservation efforts.

Telecommunications firms are major consumers of water, as they need cooling towers for their facilities. For AT&T alone, new water recycling programs could save 28 billion gallons of fresh water annually, said FitzSimons at EDF, who is partnering with AT&T on a new water-saving approach. He said "more companies will do the right thing as it also saves them money."

Osann at NRDC said a broader water conservation effort was needed in the U.S., which would include new "pricing strategies, new technology, and outreach to consumers." As an example, he said current water meters aren't precise enough to pick up the drips from a leaky faucet. **If consumers were charged for leakage, many more would invest in water-efficiency.**

Osann also mentioned how the U.S. spent more than \$1 billion on research and development (R&D) last year, but only about \$20 million of that went to water efficiency R&D. Indeed, one long-term goal of ASLA has been to create a new national research centre for green infrastructure.

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### **Asia-Pacific Renewable Energy Policy Handbook 2013**

The article is available at: <http://oqjresearch.stores.yahoo.net/asia-pacific-renewable-energy-policy-handbook-report.html> .

**"Asia-Pacific Renewable Energy Policy Handbook 2013"** offers comprehensive information on major policies governing renewable energy market in the region. The report presents an in-depth analysis of the renewable energy policies across the major countries in Asia-Pacific **namely Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, New Zealand, Vietnam and Taiwan.**

The report provides the current and future renewable energy targets and plans along with the present policy framework, giving a fair idea of overall growth potential of their renewable energy industry.

The report also provides major technology specific policies and incentives provided in each of these countries and insights to major policy initiatives for the market development of renewable energy sources such as **wind, solar, geothermal, biopower and biofuels.**

The report is built using data and information sourced from industry associations, government websites and statutory bodies. The information is also sourced through other secondary research sources such as industry and trade magazines.

### Scope

- The report covers policy measures and incentives used by the major countries in Asia-Pacific to promote renewable energy.
- The report details promotional measures in different countries both for the overall renewable energy industry and for specific renewable energy technologies namely solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and bioenergy.
- **The report also highlights the differences and focus of the renewable energy policy frameworks in different countries in Asia-Pacific.**
- The report provides a platform for comparison of various renewable energy policies across countries. Major countries include **Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, New Zealand, Vietnam and Taiwan.**

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### **NAMAs and REDD+: Relationship and main issues for consideration - with a focus on Southeast Asia by Rebecca Mary CARMAN, UNDP**

The article is available at: [http://www.climatefocus.com/documents/namas\\_and\\_redd](http://www.climatefocus.com/documents/namas_and_redd) .

GIZ has released a publication analyzing the current situation in five Asian countries (Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) with regard to NAMAs and REDD+ and proposing options on how the linkages of both can be better dealt with in future. The publication includes a comparative analysis of NAMAs and REDD+, ideas on how to better harmonise efforts, country case studies, and four possible scenarios for creating a more aligned NAMA/REDD+ approach.

The publication concludes that structure through which countries wish to coordinate their land-use NAMAs and REDD+ activities will depend on the individual needs, capacities and situations of the host countries. Each approach has its benefits and drawbacks and these should be carefully considered by countries to decide which scenario they wish to apply. However, regardless of the approach pursued it is clear that some degree of coordination, even if only a sound definition of boundaries, will be essential.

In this context, the publication recommends that regardless of the approach applied, the main aspects that countries should consider are:

- ✓ Clearly define the boundaries of those activities falling under a land-use NAMA and those falling under REDD+, and for which activities funding is sought
- ✓ Establish a communication channel between land-use NAMA and REDD+ agencies at national level (e.g., organize regular workshops or conference calls, and designate responsibilities for communication)
- ✓ Establish national registries for all REDD+ and NAMA activities and link the two where land-use NAMAs are concerned
- ✓ Streamline baseline establishment for REDD+ and land-use sector NAMAs
- ✓ Coordinate MRV activities nationally, since REDD+ and NAMAs will both be subject to international verification. Streamlining approaches to reporting and allocating responsibilities at government level will help to ensure cohesive and efficient communication and could help to reduce transaction costs
- ✓ Ensure UNFCCC focal points and negotiators closely follow outcomes of UNFCCC meetings and provide feedback to countries. Since both mechanisms are still in development, this is essential to be prepared for any outcomes.

- ✓ Respect internationally established REDD+ safeguards for land use-based NAMAs to maintain credibility.

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### How will financing of National Solar Mission (NSM) projects work?

The article is available at: <http://bridgetoindia.com/blog/?p=2178> .

Developers are in the process of finalizing their bids for National Solar Mission (NSM) projects. The use of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) mechanism for the first time, resulting in significantly different cash flow profiles, poses many interesting questions for developers. Financial structuring will play a very important role in determining bid outcomes.

As VGF is disbursed only after construction, developers need to finance the entire capital cost upfront. It is worth bearing in mind the key headline numbers:

**i) normative capital cost of a plant of INR 65m/MW**

**ii) VGF of INR 10m/MW**

**iii) Solar Energy Corporation of India's (SECI's) minimum equity investment stipulation of INR 15m/MW**

**iv) lenders expect to provide no more than 70-75% of total project cost as senior debt.**

Project developers might argue that subject to satisfaction of key lender covenants, the bulk of the financing requirement above their minimum equity investment of INR 15m/MW should come from debt financing. And in order to improve their bid competitiveness, they would like the VGF disbursement to be used to distribute capital back to themselves as equity providers.

The problem, however, arises due to SECI's right to claw back the VGF in case of project underperformance. Senior lenders will likely see a serious risk in this and will therefore not allow VGF to be used for capital repayment to a developer. They may even argue that VGF is pure equity risk. Notwithstanding the recent revision, whereby SECI has accepted second claim on project assets, they may want to see a structure that has sufficient cushion for both senior debt and VGF in an underperforming project.

This opens up opportunities for gaining a competitive advantage through financing structures around, equity structures, letters of credit, corporate guarantees, etc. For example, top-tier sponsors, which can provide corporate guarantees or recourse to lenders, will likely benefit from the most competitive financing.

This puts pure play solar IPPs at a disadvantage vis-a-vis larger industrial houses. In addition, if adequate sponsor support is not available, the lender is directly concerned with the risk associated with the treatment of the VGF disbursement: Should VGF stay in an escrow account for the lenders security (very inefficient from the point of view of the developer)? Or should it go to repay senior debt? Or will debt/equity be able to come to a mutual agreement? Could strong EPC/O&M guarantees provide some answers? Interesting possibilities!

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### UNFCCC Publishes CDM Afforestation and Reforestation Project Manual

The complete article is available at:

<http://forests-l.iisd.org/news/unfccc-publishes-cdm-afforestation-and-reforestation-project-manual/> .

The UNFCCC has published a reference manual on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which outlines the requirements that need to be fulfilled by afforestation and reforestation (A/R) projects under the CDM.

The manual, titled '**Afforestation and Reforestation Projects under the CDM**', provides a synthesis of A/R project requirements in relation to the project cycle, project documentation, project validation, registration and monitoring.

The manual aims to serve as a reference guide for prospective project developers, project participants and other stakeholders, such as national forest departments in developing countries who wish to use the CDM to conserve and enhance their forest resources.

The manual is divided into chapters that:

- Explain the CDM project cycle;
- Describe the project design document (PDD) structure and explain how to develop and complete this document;
- Outline the requirements in monitoring and verifying registered A/R CDM project activities;
- Describe the CDM programme of activity (PoA) and its specific requirements.

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### **How can the 2015 agreement be designed to achieve transformative change?**

The complete report is available at:

[http://cprclimateworkshop.cprindia.org/uploads/2/3/7/5/23756750/workshop\\_report-building\\_the\\_hinge.pdf](http://cprclimateworkshop.cprindia.org/uploads/2/3/7/5/23756750/workshop_report-building_the_hinge.pdf) .

There are two key elements to answering this question: first: how should 'Transformative change' be defined; and second, how could such a change be catalysed by the 2015 agreement.

In order to engage in a meaningful debate on this issue, there is a need to identify strong levers of transformative change and then weave these into the 2015 agreement.

'Transformative change' involves creating a conceptual vision and then turning that Vision into systemic large scale transformations.

If the long term vision is to decarbonize, then the 2015 agreement needs to lay down the levers of transformation technology, finance, policy, signals which will help achieve systemic change. Thus, it can be looked upon as a two-step process:

- Conceptual, as exemplified by 'green growth', low carbon pathways, steady state economy, circular economy.
- Systemic, which refers to the scale, the level, the sectors etc. at which the Transformation occurs.

One of the most identifiable steps for achieving transformative change is through a change in energy systems by creating shifts in investment towards low carbon pathways. Transformation is about catalysing greater shifts, not merely an incremental step by step change.

It could simply be something that causes a fundamental shift in existing processes by putting things on a different scale or speed, be it in terms of climate resilient development and change in energy systems in transforming towards a low carbon economy. Transformation needn't necessarily be a long term process. The transformational aspect could be a one-time occurrence that may have immediate and significant ramifications for the rest of the world. Such a



transformation would depend greatly on strong leadership, which drives the change that has long term ramifications.

Other drivers of transformative change will be technology, investment flows and a change in political will. Transformative change is mostly discussed in the national context, such as change in energy systems or building climate resilience. But, in order for transformation to occur at the national level, there is a need for significant transformation at the international level as well, especially in terms of trade, investment and finance. There is also a need to focus on the processes and methods that enable transformation.

The UNFCCC provides the normative guidance that domestic policies respond to. Therefore in order for the UNFCCC to stimulate transformative change, the 2015 agreement will need to define clear objectives for national process to aspire to. The 2015 agreement could send very clear signals on global policies and targets, for example, a phase out of net GHGs or a carbon budget. The UNFCCC can have a specific role around objective setting, guidance, monitoring. However the implementation actors will be much broader.

How could the UNFCCC bring about transformative change in the way we look at energy use, resilience, trade etc.? The key outcome would need to narrow down the broader conceptual understanding of the term 'transformation' and then determine whether the convention can deliver on those counts and also whether it has the finance to address such change.

Several actors, and not merely the 2015 agreement, can bring about transformative change. To the extent that it can't catalyse the change, the 2015 agreement should try not to create perverse incentives at the domestic level. The focus needs to be on the fact that the 2015 agreement does not constrain the other levers of transformative change.

The 2015 agreement could create space for actors (or clubs) that want to move forward faster to achieve transformative change. However, there may be concerns over how the Convention might address a situation where a developing country wants to be a part of the club that wants to move faster how will this affect the existing balance of responsibilities between developed and developing countries, and how will this impact the fulfilment of existing support obligations to developing countries that are not part of the club?

Most governments consider climate related decisions in terms of the energy mix or development options. These choices are closely affected by available technologies and finance. In order to take countries towards transformative change, the 2015 agreement must catalyse the dissemination of the best available technologies and finance. However, in order for technology and finance to trickle down from the international to the national level, there need to be clear signals and plans from governments.

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### **UNDESA Assesses Energy Investments Required to Achieve Sustainable Development**

The complete article is available at: <http://climate-l.iisd.org/news/undesa-assesses-energy-investments-required-to-achieve-sustainable-development/>.

A policy brief published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) points to the emerging consensus that sustainable development requires a radical transformation of the world's energy system, including the way energy is produced and used, and that such a transformation requires strong leadership, carefully-designed policies, behaviour changes, and large investments, both in developed and developing countries.



**An estimated US\$0.7 trillion per year between 2011 and 2030 is the amount required to build a sustainable system, according to the 2013 Green Economy Investment Report.**

However, these estimates vary significantly, with the Global Energy Assessment (GEA) proposing a range from US\$0.14 trillion to over US\$4 trillion per year, depending on, inter alia, the policies and technologies in place, related investment costs required to use alternative energy sources, and projected technology development costs.

Furthermore, required investments will: almost double if the additional investments costs to adapt devices to new energy sources are taken into account; and increase five-fold if broad energy investments, such as the cost of fostering innovation, market creation for alternative energy sources and technology diffusion, are considered.

On the other hand, achieving energy inclusion requires relatively modest investments. For example, estimates to provide universal access to clean cooking fuel and electricity range between US\$0.03 to US\$0.04 trillion per year, with negligible greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated.

The brief, titled 'Achieving Sustainable Development: the Energy Investment Challenge,' describes how the GEA examines 60 scenarios, through a combination of policies addressing energy, transportation and technology, and considers: three demand and supply energy paths; two transport modes (continued reliance on traditional or adopting advanced technologies and fuels; and ten technology portfolios defined by technology access).

The brief explains that a sustainable path must: provide universal access to modern energy; ensure good air quality to the majority of the world's population; contain average global temperature rise to below 2°C; limit energy trade and enhance energy supply diversity and resilience; and prioritize policies that promote energy efficiency.

The brief also underscores that: the investment volume required varies widely across regions, with higher investments needed for low-income regions; and early adoption of policies aiming to increase energy efficiency, promote the use of renewables, and deepen social inclusion, can significantly reduce amount of investments needed.

It advocates: building national capacities to identify and adopt the best policies; financial resources, intensive technological innovation and faster technology transfer to developing countries; strong systems for research, development and diffusion of renewable energy technologies to spur technological innovation in developing countries; and timely design of coherent policies covering economic, social and environmental areas.

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**SUMMARY OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.**

The complete article is available at: <http://www.iisd.ca/vol32/enb3208e.html> .

OWG Co-Chair Korosi highlighted, inter alia: the role of oceans, seas, and forests as life-support systems; concerns about widening inequalities in the world; and the importance of peace, rule of law, and governance as enablers of poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The "Co-Chairs' Summary bullet points for OWG-8" notes that, on "oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity," OWG-8 speakers mentioned the need to recognize the living value of species

beyond their commodity values, as well as to recognize and respect the rights of indigenous peoples. Options for goals and targets include a goal combining these topics focused on ecosystems, and goals on the individual topics. Attention to poor and vulnerable groups, capacity building, technology transfer and financing, science-based policy making, and the existing agreements and instruments on these topics were also highlighted.

On “promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women’s empowerment,” the summary notes that options to address inequality include affordable access to quality education, health care, and policies that support entrepreneurship and small-scale enterprises. Many speakers affirmed gender equality as an end in itself, and called for a stand-alone goal on gender equality as well as cross-cutting targets under other goals.

Others said gender equality issues should be aligned with existing agreements, such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the Rio+20 outcome document. Many called for respect for sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals, while others said these references would need to be consistent with the International Conference on Population and Development agreement.

On “conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance,” speakers said tackling poverty will require addressing the full range of its causes, and many said peace, rule of law and governance are both ends in themselves and critical enablers for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

It notes that speakers said conflict prevention and the pursuit of durable peace should address structural drivers of conflicts, including through promoting participatory decision-making, inclusive economic governance, and equitable management of natural resources.

Speakers also noted the need for open and effective institutions, curbing illicit financial flows, and birth registration and legal identity. National ownership of rule of law was emphasized. And while some called for goals related to peace, rule of law and governance, others said they should be dealt with in a cross-cutting manner.

**Co-Chair Korosi noted that crafting the SDGs is an act of governance, and implementing it will depend on governance. He concluded his summary by encouraging delegates to “Keep talking, but more importantly, keep listening.”**

The OWG is entrusted with the task to carve out a future for our children and the young. It was noted that the SDGs would be aspirational and normative, and encouraged governments to set the bar high so they could hand over a better world to the next generation than we are all living in today.

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### **New Tunisian constitution among the first to include climate clause**

The complete article is available at: <http://www.agora-parl.org/interact/blog/pare-new-tunisian-constitution-among-first-include-climate-clause>.

In another first for the country that started the Arab Spring, Tunisia has become the first country outside of Latin America to make a constitutional commitment to combatting climate change.

On 26th January 2014, Tunisia’s constituent assembly passed its long-awaited new constitution; three years after the country toppled a repressive regime and sparked a wave of protest across the Middle East. As well as enshrining full freedom of conscience and gender equality, a

constitutional amendment sponsored by the MP Dhamir Mannai has been voted for successfully, hereby including "Contribution to the preservation of the climate" in the new constitution.

Mr Mannai is a member of the Climate Parliament Tunisia group, a cross-party network of MPs created under the auspices of the Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE) project jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Programme and Climate Parliament.

A word of thanks from Mr Dhamir Mannai: "The Climate Parliament Tunisia team is particularly very thankful for the relentless support and effort of Dr Mostafa El Aouazi and Mr. Nick Dunlop of the Climate Parliament. Their visit to the Tunisian Parliament in June 2013 and meetings with the Tunisian MP's bore fruit".

It is important also to mention that the idea of adding wording on the "Climate" to the new constitution of Tunisia was a recommendation of the Climate Parliament and UNDP specialists during our Mazagan Morocco meetings.

The relevant text from the New Constitution reads: "Aware of the necessity to contribute to the protection of the climate and to preserve the environment in order to guarantee the sustainability of our natural resources and the sustainability of a good life for the future generations..."

Ms Hasna Marsit, a Tunisian MP who helped draft Article 44, said: "The new constitution recognises that Tunisia is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The predicted northward expansion of the Sahara desert over the course of the 21<sup>st</sup> century could pose an existential threat to the Tunisian people, who live mostly in a narrow strip of fertile land to the north of the desert."

The constitutional change is expected to give a significant boost to efforts to build the country's nascent renewable energy industry. Tunisia hopes to become a major exporter of renewable electricity to Europe, using solar power captured in the Sahara desert.

Speaking after the passage of the constitution, Dr Mannai said: "The passage of our new constitution is cause for celebration for many reasons. Having successfully challenged an autocratic regime, Tunisia is now ready to face up to a different kind of challenge: that of climate change. The work of the Climate Parliament has been vital in raising awareness amongst Tunisian legislators of the severity of future energy and climate issues, and Article 44 will now help to ensure that our country shows the same fortitude in combatting the climate threat as it displayed in overcoming oppression. "

The Climate Parliament's Chairman, Sir Graham Watson, agreed. "Tunisia's struggle for freedom and justice has already provided an inspiring example to millions across the Middle East. With the passage of the new constitution, the country now leads the Arab world again, this time on the vital issue of climate change. The commitment and vision displayed by Tunisian legislators in addressing future climate threats cannot fail to set another heartening precedent for governments and legislators around the world."

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### **How Can We Make Sustainability Matter to Youth?**

The complete article is available at: <http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/tcaine/224866/how-can-we-make-sustainability-matter-youth>.

This was the question posed to a panel at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2014. Comprised of educators, scholars and students, the group floated ideas for how sustainability cannot only gain

exposure to students in their educational career, but ingrain its importance at an earlier age to make subsequent generations better equipped to deal with the environmental and societal challenges we face.

The panel spoke at length about the need for promoting awareness surrounding sustainability to the education of all ages. There's nothing to disagree with there. In looking at my own educational trek I think the biggest emphasis on sustainability came in grade school programs to promote recycling before sliding to the back stage of my high school experience. As surprising as it seems, sustainability was virtually absent in my undergraduate architectural education—a trend that thankfully seems to be changing.

Programs like the Zayed Future Energy Prize help take the important first step of offering exposure to students when it comes to larger sustainability issues and cementing them in the educational environment. The prize program chooses up to five schools, each from a different continental region around the world. One of this year's five winners was the Bronx Design & Construction Academy, receiving a prize of \$100,000 to realize their proposal of a student designed solar panel array and an off-grid greenhouse — so I got to have some local pride in Bronx representation.

But with the degree of change that we need to achieve, educational engagement of sustainability needs to go to the next level.

"Sustainability has to become part of standard curricula and metrics of good teaching need to reflect its inclusion," says Louisa Connaughton, currently teaching fifth grade at the Buckingham Browne & Nichols School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. With over 9 years of experience teaching younger students, Connaughton questions the traditional micro-to-macro style of American curricula. "Adjusting from micro to macro would not only bring people's world into immediate focus, but it would also spread the understanding that we do not exist in a vacuum." In a global society, sustainability is a macro-scaled issue that supersedes the boundaries of specific study areas.

Helping to facilitate those that find and profess an interest in pursuing sustainable studies is fantastic and hopefully something that's being done more often at more institutions, but that mentality still treats sustainability as a niche focus rather than a necessary component of organized education.

Many consider the sciences as a prime target for integrating sustainability teachings and Ms. Connaughton agrees. "Science curricula could include more about earth, climate and environmental science, not as an add-on but as core subjects," but she also sees opportunity to incorporate the concepts into social studies and history with some curriculum tweaks.

To be fair, even as a scientist that has grown to center his career around sustainable goals—evidenced by being honored with the Zayed Future Energy Prize Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013, Professor Jose Goldemberg offered that "Sustainability is still a relatively modern concept."

Classrooms should be a focal point for our green building efforts. Teaching in spaces that embody sustainability can only help teachers convey those values in practice. But in order to do that, architecture students should be better educated about sustainability's relationship to the built environment.

Teaching sustainability to architecture students has several challenges: first deciding whether sustainability is the proper conceptual framework, and if so defining it, and second presenting actionable and viable design practices. The breadth of global environmental conditions is

daunting, these are issues that are intrinsically linked to our political and economic systems. The pressing question in sustainable design education is how to make design a meaningful agent of change at a scale where it influences practice outside of the discipline.

Sustainability's importance cannot be conveyed to youth through disjointed efforts like stray science projects or recycling drives at schools.

Importance has to be demonstrated by way of it being a requirement to progress through the educational system.

Tenets of lifecycle analysis or natural resource management should move closer to the level of multiplication tables or the great American novel.

If action on sustainability is so vital, then how can learning how and why to take action not be as well?

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### **India tops in renewable energy potential: John Bryson**

The complete article is available at: <http://www.dnaindia.com/ahmedabad/report-india-tops-in-renewable-energy-potential-john-bryson-1961553> .

Former US Secretary of Commerce John Bryson highlighted that India tops countries in renewable energy potential, especially solar energy, and can play a crucial role in challenging adverse effects of climate change.

Bryson, who now heads the Bryson Climate Initiative (BCI), said that 27% of India is affected by climate change and there is need to address the issue today, "as tomorrow will be too late."

"There is degradation of natural resources. We are burning fossil fuels that we were not burning 100 years ago," he said.

He also said that **climate change should not be looked upon only as an environmental problem, as there are also huge economic costs associated with it.**

During his visit to Gujarat, Bryson also visited the Charanka solar park, which is home to more than 200 MW of solar power generation capacity. He met senior government officials in Ahmedabad .

Bryson Climate Initiative (BCI) is focused on finding ways to mitigate effects of climate change over the next decade.

India, apart from China and US, are the three countries which are currently prioritised by BCI.

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### **Using expert elicitation to define successful adaptation to climate change**

The complete paper is available at:  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1462901109000616>.

As knowledge about the science of climate change improves there is a growing realisation that adaptation by biological systems and by humans is already occurring and that the scale of action required to adapt to future impacts of climate change may be very significant.

This paper develops definitions of adaptation and successful adaptation to climate change, with a view to evaluating adaptations.

There is little consensus on the definition of adapting to climate change in existing debates or on the criteria by which adaptation actions can be deemed successful or sustainable.

In this paper, a variant of the Delphi technique is used to elicit expert opinion on a definition of successful adaptation to climate change.

Through an iterative process, expert respondents coalesced around a definition based on risk and vulnerability and agreed that a transparent and acceptable definition should reflect impacts on sustainability.

According to the final definition, agreed by the Delphi panel, successful adaptation is any adjustment that reduces the risks associated with climate change, or vulnerability to climate change impacts, to a predetermined level, without compromising economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

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### **Carbon divestment is a shining example: Disinvesting in firms that don't curb emissions shows the way forward for climate campaigners**

The complete article is available at: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/carbon-divestment-is-a-shining-example/article5703127.ece> .

The recent extreme flooding in the United Kingdom and Ireland has highlighted the devastating effect our changing climate can have; but if we do not take action fast, future generations will experience weather shocks on a far greater scale. Our planet is warming to a catastrophic extent, and the human race must step up.

The divestment campaign — which originated in the United States and is now making its way across the Atlantic — is one shining example of what is needed to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Transforming our economic system to one based on low-carbon production and consumption can create inclusive sustainable development and reduce inequality. To achieve a just transition to a low-carbon economy, it is crucial that we invest in social protection, enhance workers' skills for redeployment in a low-carbon economy, and promote access to sustainable development for all.

The premise of the divestment campaign is simple: **non-profit organisations must move their investments away from fossil fuels, reducing the power and influence this industry has on society.** The reality of climate change may be the catalyst for even more ambitious action.

We already have the scientific knowledge available to us. Among members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations climate panel, **there is a 97 per cent consensus that humans are causing global warming. They know that the majority of the world's fossil fuel reserves must be left in the ground.**

The active role of young people is worth noting. As with the anti-apartheid campaign in the 1980s, students today are taking action that can determine their futures — and the futures of generations to come — for the better. They are showing the world that, once again, a transformation in how we grow our economies is essential. This is how intergenerational equity

can be achieved: promoting a new investment model that responds to the risks posed by climate change.

**By avoiding investment in high-carbon assets that become obsolete, and by prioritising sustainable alternatives, we build capacity and resilience, particularly for more vulnerable people — while lowering carbon emissions.**

We do not have much time. Global investment in clean technologies is now at about \$300bn a year, but according to the International Energy Agency, this would need to reach \$1tn by 2030 to keep within a 2°C warmer world, the threshold above which climate change would become catastrophic.

Meanwhile, the temptation to invest in coal, oil and gas is heightened by countries' fossil fuel subsidies that, worldwide, amount to \$1.9 trillion a year, according to the International Monetary Fund. Such subsidies enable the fossil fuel industry to perpetuate the notion that renewable energy is more expensive. **Of course, in withdrawing any fossil fuel subsidies, absolute consideration has to be given to accessing energy for the poorest, therefore investment has to be made in sustainable energy alternatives.**

Government leaders have an important role to play, and with their electorate behind them, they will be far more willing to act.

Comments on the above article pointed out that there are two aspects related to subsidies:

- If subsidies of fuel is removed, it would make access to energy very difficult for the poor.
- On the other hand subsidies perpetuate the notion that sustainable alternatives are costlier.

One way to tackle this is to keep the subsidies and at the same time make non-conventional sources accessible to the poor. That way when the subsidies are finally withdrawn, it will have less impact on vulnerable sections of society.

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### **Energy security is key if India is to become a superpower**

The complete article is available at: [http://www.moneycontrol.com/gestepahead/article.php?id=1002268&utm\\_source=MCGE\\_10SEP13](http://www.moneycontrol.com/gestepahead/article.php?id=1002268&utm_source=MCGE_10SEP13).

Energy security is critical for a country like India with a population of 1.2 billion and one that aspires to be in the league of superpowers. Energy demand has been growing steadily, only to be expected of a growing economy of the size of India. However, supply is unable to keep pace with it, thus pushing the nation to the brink of an energy crisis.

India's Integrated Energy Policy, touches upon the following key issues related to energy security in the country:

- Meeting India's large energy demand to sustain an annual economic growth rate of 8 to 9 percent through 2031-32
- Meeting the energy demands of all sectors including the lifeline energy needs of vulnerable households
- To ensuring sustainability in energy supply and use

During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, nearly 55,000 MW of new generation capacity (electricity) was created, yet there continued to be an overall energy deficit of 8.7% and peak shortage of



9.00%, according to a Central Statistics Office report. Resources currently allocated to the energy sector are not sufficient to narrow the demand-supply gap. As a result, our dependence on imports is increasing.

Going further, this demand-supply rift is only set to widen. In fact, according to the World Energy Outlook 2012, global energy demand is likely to grow by one-third over the period to 2035 with China, India and the Middle East accounting for 60% of the increase.

Not to forget, India is the fourth largest primary energy consumer after China, USA and Russia. **Besides, it accounts for more than 4.6 % of the total global annual energy consumption.** If India is to maintain an average growth rate of about 8% in the coming years, its energy resources will continue to feel the strain.

Low number of proven hydrocarbon reserves and lack of interest of foreign players in exploration and production is having a negative impact on India's energy sector. Only 22% of our sedimentary basins have been explored for energy resources. The rest are oscillating between 'exploration initiated' to 'poorly explored'.

The volume of gas imports has been steadily increasing in India, all the more after the once lucrative KG-D6 basin began to see a dip in its production. Our crude oil import bills too are inflating. During the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017), import dependence on crude oil is expected to increase from ~76% in FY11 to ~80% in FY17 and import dependence on natural gas is expected to increase from ~21% in FY11 to 35% in FY17. Rising imports highlight the lack of self-sufficiency of the energy sector, which is a matter of grave concern.

According to the Coal Ministry website, production of coal has risen from 70 million tonnes at the time of nationalization of coal mines in early 1970's to nearly 557.66 million tonnes in 2012-13. The Twelfth Five Year Plan stresses that it is essential to ramp up coal production to 795 million tonnes by 2016-17. However, Coal India foresees a 20% shortage in the next five years.

The coal sector has been facing challenges on the domestic as well as imports front. While production is seen as going down, imports face infrastructure and cost hurdles.

Renewable energy resources can go a long way in mitigating in India's energy woes, however their full potential is yet to be realized. As of now, wind contributes to most of our renewable energy.

Mounting pressure on conventional energy sources is making India turn towards unconventional ones. As a result, there has been talk of shale gas exploration, which has been a huge success in the US. However, it's still in the nascent stages and will need a liberal fiscal and policy framework to succeed.

Pricing is a huge concern in the hydrocarbon and coal sector, as domestic prices are often disconnected from global trends. Regulatory uncertainties come in the way of investments in the oil and gas upstream sector. It would do well if an independent regulator were to oversee contract administration, monitoring and review. At present, the government is involved in these tasks. The downstream sector is yet evolving in terms of policies.

Other issues that plague India's energy sector are delays in land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement and obtaining environment and forest clearances. It is only when we have a stable regulatory environment can investments in the oil and gas sector increase.

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## **First compilation of world's small hydropower data launched**

The complete article is available at: <https://www.unido.org/news/press/first-launched.html> .

A new web-based knowledge sharing portal on small hydropower that features best practices from different regions of the world has been launched by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Centre on Small Hydro Power (ICSHP). It contains 20 regional overviews and 149 country-level reports.

"UNIDO and ICSHP are proud to facilitate this collective effort based on the contribution of more than 60 different authors and organizations from all over the world," said Diego Masera, head of UNIDO's Renewable and Rural Energy Unit.

Small hydropower is one of the most suitable energy solutions for fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Yet, much of the world's small hydropower potential remains untouched. So the first step to remedying the situation is through dissemination of reliable data to initiate new small hydropower projects.

Liu Heng, the Director General of the ICSHP, added: "This knowledge sharing platform is a crucial policy and investment guide for renewable energy provision through small hydropower. Our goal when publishing it was to identify the world's small hydropower development status and its potential in different countries and regions by engaging with stakeholders to share information."

UNIDO and ICSHP are collaborating with national institutions to facilitate continuous monitoring and collection of small hydropower data and are actively reaching out to potential partners to provide up-to date information. The changes will be reflected regularly on the website.

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## **Climate change could cause trillions in damage to world's coastal region**

The complete article is available at: <http://www.trinet.in/?q=node/1336> .

New research has predicted that coastal regions may face massive increase in damages from storm surge flooding over the course of the 21st century.

**According to the study, global average storm surge damages could increase from about 10 to 40 billion dollars per year today to up to 100,000 dollars billion per year by the end of century, if no adaptation action is taken.**

The study, led by the Berlin-based think-tank Global Climate Forum (GCF) and involving the University of Southampton, presents, for the first time, comprehensive global simulation results on future flood damages to buildings and infrastructure in coastal flood plains.

Drastic increases in these damages are expected due to both rising sea levels and population and economic growth in the coastal zone. Asia and Africa may be particularly hard hit because of their rapidly growing coastal mega-cities, such as Shanghai, Manila and Lagos.

"If we ignore this problem, the consequences will be dramatic," Jochen Hinkel from GCF and the study's lead author, said.

**In 2100, up to 600 million people (around 5 percent of the global population) could be affected by coastal flooding if no adaptation measures are put in place.**

"Countries need to take action and invest in coastal protection measures, such as building or raising dikes, amongst other options," Hinkel said. With such protection measures, the projected damages could be reduced to below 80 billion dollars per year during the 21st century. The researchers found that an investment level of 10 to 70 billion dollars per year could achieve such a reduction.

**Prompt action is needed most in Asia and Africa where, today, large parts of the coastal population are already affected by storm surge flooding.**

The study has been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

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### **Ten Large US Cities Join Initiative to Reduce Carbon Pollution from Buildings**

The complete article is now available at:

[http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/kaidbenfield/227241/ten-large-us-cities-join-major-new-initiative-reduce-carbon-pollution-buildings?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Sustainable+Cities+Collective+%28all+posts%29](http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/kaidbenfield/227241/ten-large-us-cities-join-major-new-initiative-reduce-carbon-pollution-buildings?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Sustainable+Cities+Collective+%28all+posts%29) .

Mayors from ten major American cities announced that they will participate in a united effort to significantly boost energy efficiency in their buildings. Combined, the initiative could cut as much carbon pollution as generated by 1 million to 1.5 million passenger vehicles every year, and lower energy bills by nearly \$1 billion annually, according to a press release from the Institute for Market Transformation and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The mayors will be participating in the new City Energy Project (CEP), an initiative conceived by NRDC and IMT that is designed to create healthier, more prosperous American cities by **targeting buildings, a major source of energy use and climate pollution**. The ten participating cities are Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Orlando, Philadelphia and Salt Lake City.

Opportunities to reduce energy consumption in our offices, schools, malls, apartments, and other buildings are abundant but largely untapped, despite the potential for enormous benefits. In 2012, buildings were responsible for approximately 40 percent of total US energy usage and carbon pollution. **America's annual utility bill is roughly \$450 billion, and each year we use nearly twice the energy consumed in all of South America just to power our buildings.**

Employing cost-effective strategies to cut the energy use of existing buildings by only 20 percent would put more than \$80 billion back into the pockets of businesses and families. Most American buildings were constructed decades ago — before modern energy efficiency codes were implemented — and will continue to be used for generations. By reinvesting in our existing buildings today with low-cost measures to save energy, we can invest in our future.

Our cities are up to the challenge. Innovative policies in several of America's largest cities are shepherding in a new era of energy awareness and improvement. Simple yet powerful, these policies are helping building operators and businesses uncover major energy savings while unlocking market-driven demand for energy-efficient products and skilled workers. Furthermore, these actions are delivering benefits without additional public subsidies or tax dollars, proving that energy efficiency, economic development, and fiscal responsibility can go hand in hand.

"City skylines have long been symbols of aspiration and innovation. This project takes that to a

new level,” according to Laurie Kerr, Director of the City Energy Project at NRDC. “These mayors are showing there is the political will to put people to work to build a healthier, more prosperous future for America’s cities. In the face of a changing climate and increasingly extreme weather, these city leaders know they cannot wait for the state or federal government to make them more resilient and sustainable – they are taking action now.”

Increased energy efficiency will raise property values, as efficient buildings are in great demand. And the effort will lower energy bills for residents and businesses, reducing the cost of living and doing business, and freeing up money that can flow back into local economies. David Goldstein has estimated that energy efficiency measures (including but not limited to building efficiency) could obviate as much as 30 percent of the energy America will otherwise need over the next 20 years.

The Project is also estimated by its sponsors to save ratepayers a combined total of nearly \$1 billion annually on their energy bills (at current prices).

“Building energy efficiency has far-reaching benefits, not only for the environment, but also in enabling high performing work space, facilitating jobs, and resulting in better financial return,” said Kyung-Ah Park, Head of Environmental Markets Group at Goldman Sachs.”

Many building owners hesitate to invest in energy efficiency due to longstanding market barriers, including limited information, misaligned energy efficiency incentives, and a lack of available capital. At the City Energy Project’s core is a powerful set of strategies designed to overcome these obstacles and clear the way for vastly increased market activity that will improve building energy performance. The key to success is weaving individual energy efficiency strategies together, creating an integrated framework of policies and programs that becomes more than the sum of its parts.

No two cities are the same, and the Project will work collaboratively with each selected municipality to develop and implement solutions that maximize local opportunities and respond to local challenges.

The City Energy Project focuses on large buildings because of their greater impacts, and it includes a balance of mandates and supporting programs in four main categories:

- Information and transparency
- Raising the baseline
- Market investment
- Leading by example

A recent analysis by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of approximately 35,000 benchmarked buildings across the nation found they reduced energy consumption by an average of 7 percent over a three-year period.

“With US buildings consuming more primary energy than entire countries like Russia and India, the scale of the opportunity to optimize building energy performance is significant,” said John Mandyck, Chief Sustainability Officer of UTC Building & Industrial Systems.

**Cities collaborating and implementing creative, practical energy efficiency policies can go a long way to reducing America’s \$450 billion annual energy bill and carbon emissions.**

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**National Solar Mission to miss capacity targets for the year by a significant margin**

The article is available at: <http://indiasolarmarket.com/2014/02/weekly-update-national-solar-mission-capacity-targets-year-significant-margin/> .

The year 2013 was a comparatively good year for the global solar market. While 39 GW of solar was installed globally in 2013, India, which got off to a good start two years back, is **now facing a tough time achieving its 1.1 GW target set for the current fiscal year (2013- 14)**.

China alone installed 12 GW in 2013 with Japan and the US tied at around 4 GW each. In terms of future targets, China has set an ambitious target of 35 GW by 2015 (20 GW utility scale and 15 GW distributed).

In comparison, the National Solar Mission (NSM) target of 20 GW by 2022, does not look as ambitious anymore.

India has installed only about 550 MW of grid connected solar in the current fiscal year (until January 2014). More importantly, around 200 MW of the 550 MW projects have been from non-policy projects. **Thanks to Gujarat, in the previous two years India has comfortably achieved its targets.**

The key reasons for the sluggish capacity addition in the current fiscal year have been the delays associated with the state solar policies and the delay in roll-out of the phase II of the National Solar Mission. Draft guidelines for Phase II of the NSM were released in December 2012 but the final call for bids came only in the last quarter of 2013 after facing a delay of almost a year. The PPA signing process has also been delayed in states including **Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka**. In addition, setting a bad precedent, the commissioning of projects has been delayed without any penalties in **Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh**.

Moving forward, prospects for solar capacity addition in the country do not look as gloomy. The allocation process for NSM phase II batch I is currently underway and the PPAs are expected to be signed in April 2014. New projects are also being executed in **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab** and are expected to be commissioned in the next one year.

As a result, the next fiscal year (2014- 15) is expected to be better. To keep the momentum going and ensuring demand through the year, the states and the centre need to cohesively work towards a more sustainable capacity addition roadmap.

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#### **Helping cities gain access to adaptation financing**

To further advance on the adaptation pathway, ICLEI South Asia, in collaboration with [ADAPT Asia Pacific](#) and [Cities Development Initiative for Asia \(CDIA\)](#), has now laid the path for helping cities move from climate resilience strategies and project preparation to gaining access to finance by introducing the Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation and Financing in Urban India.

Bhubaneswar, Mysore and Shimla will be again, after having been involved in [Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network \(ACCCRN\)](#), the focus of the initiative, which is planning to review and prioritise identified resilience interventions and assess how investable a selection of these interventions is, in terms of social, environmental (including climate change), economical, financial and technical considerations. This will enable cities to leverage partnerships for the next phase of project development, which could be a full-blown feasibility study or direct financing for particular investment opportunities.

As a preliminary project kick-off, seven ICLEI staff representing four ICLEI offices attended a training organised by CDIA on their City Infrastructure Investments Prioritisation and Programming (CIIPP) and Pre-Feasibility Studies (PFS) toolkits and approaches in January 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. The CIIPP aims to assist cities and municipalities in coming up with a prioritised list of urban infrastructure investments. [Read more.](#)

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### **Stepping stone for the Urban Green Growth Strategies for Indian cities project**

The Urban Green Growth Strategies for Indian Cities project has taken another step towards selecting the 12 final cities that will be assessed for their green growth potential and opportunities. 31 Indian municipalities have been shortlisted and an Expression of Interest (EOI) has been sent to invite them to be a part of the study. 12 cities will be finally chosen based on the EOI responses and in such a way as to ensure a balanced representation of cities and towns across the country: geographically, size-wise and functionally.

Once the 12 cities have been selected, the project team will visit all of them and work closely with the local administration to assess their current situation as well as develop a deeper understanding of issues, barriers and opportunities related to green growth present at the local level across the various sub-sectors. The findings of these 12 city assessments, coupled with documentation on existing best practice examples of green growth in Indian cities, will form the development of strategies to help cities work towards maximising their green growth potential.

For further information on Urban Green Growth Strategies for Indian cities, [click here](#).

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### **Bringing cities and businesses together to engage in renewable energy initiatives**

[IRENA \(International Renewable Energy Agency\)](#) with assistance from the European Commission, ICLEI, IPEEC (International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation) and UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlement Program) organised a one day International Mayors Workshop on Business Models for Renewable Energy Deployment in Cities in Abu Dhabi, on 22 January 2014, alongside the World Future Energy Summit. The workshop aimed at promoting public private partnerships, identifying key areas of interest, developing regional clusters and potential twinning options as well as developing stakeholder confidence by engaging interested Mayors and private sector technology providers in a common forum.

The Mayor of Cochin, Mr. Tony Chammany and the Mayor of Kota, Ms. Ratna Jain were part of the group of key local government decision makers brought together by ICLEI South Asia to discuss with the private sector cost effective business models, with minimum state or public investment, for increased deployment of specific renewable technologies. [Read more.](#)

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### **MEMBER POSTINGS**

#### **Workshops and Conferences**

#### **Upcoming:**

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**Forests Asia Conference : Opportunities for Green Growth, Shangri-La Hotel Jakarta, Indonesia, 20-21 March 2014**

**SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT:**  
**Launch of the Global e-Network to facilitate countries to build capacities to ratify**

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) will convene a two-day conference that through a landscape approach, aims to elevate forests' contribution to green growth in Asia, with a sub-regional focus on Southeast Asia. Timed to celebrate the UN International Day of Forests (March 21) and with the Indonesian President Yudhoyono invited to deliver a keynote address, Forests Asia seeks to position forests and landscapes at the core of the ASEAN Community 2015 process, taking perspectives from other emerging economies such as China and India.

Alongside rapid economic growth and overall progress in development, Asia is still home to roughly two thirds of the world's poor, and is disproportionately affected by extreme weather, with much of its rural population dependent on climate-sensitive sectors such as forestry, agriculture or fishing. Already a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and land use change, Asia's growing economy and population will add further pressure on the region's forests and landscapes for forest goods, food, nutrition and energy.

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**The First circular of the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (ICCC-2014) at Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India (MAY 28-31, 2014)** Organized by Yadava College (Government Aided), Madurai, Tamil Nadu is available at: [ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res\\_info\\_09011401.pdf](ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res_info_09011401.pdf).

The International Conference on Climate Change 2014 (ICCC 2014) is an opportunity to bring together knowledge from across the globe to share experiences and information, enable collaboration and build new partnerships, discussions on cutting edge solutions to the world's water, food and energy issues, while also addressing approaches to sustainable and effective adaptation throughout the water sector.

Considering the current situation of India in the urban water, food, energy and climate aspects, ICCC 2014 will provide a unique opportunity to understand the new innovations to face the existing challenges.

#### **THEMES FOR ICCC-2014:**

##### **Urban water – energy neutrality through efficient utilities, industries and cities**

- ✓ Sustainable technologies and processes for urban and industrial water – energy conservation and alternative energy production
- ✓ Information and communication technology to optimize energy and carbon efficiency and energy production in industry and cities
- ✓ Water, energy and raw materials recovery from urban and industrial waste water – challenges and opportunities

##### **and implement the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

The Climate Change Community India, Solution Exchange has launched on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 a Global e-Network to facilitate countries to build capacities to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The network was launched at the Third meeting of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization (ICNP-3) in Pyeongchang, South Korea by Mr. Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, CBD, Montreal, Canada.

The network connects over 300 registered delegates comprising CBD and ABS National Focal Points and other experts from several countries across the globe. The objective of this network is to create a platform for exchange of information and experiences among members to help enable countries learn from each other and enable the Protocol attain the required number of ratifications by July 2014, allowing the first Conference of the Parties to the Protocol to take place in conjunction with



- ✓ Energy demands for water" and "water demands for energy"
- ✓ Benchmarking, monitoring and measuring water – energy interactions in cities and industries

#### Policy and finance for energy and carbon neutrality

- ✓ Optimizing urban water and energy - cooperation between water and energy utilities and between urban water/energy and industrial water-energy
- ✓ Business opportunities in improving water efficiency and water-energy efficiency in industries and cities
- ✓ Policy and regulation which supports innovation for energy and carbon neutrality in utilities and industries
- ✓ Institutional change/structures needed to support the transition to cutting edge water/energy solutions
- ✓ Financing mechanisms for the urban and industrial water-energy nexus

#### Planning and infrastructure for a resilient water sector

- ✓ Asset management to secure resilient and efficient urban water systems
- ✓ Improving performance of urban water infrastructure to changes in the hydrologic cycle
- ✓ Investing in natural and engineered infrastructure to optimize the water, energy and food nexus
- ✓ Strategies for creating a new adaptation landscape across cities, industries and farmers
- ✓ Governance and institutional arrangements for urban and watershed drainage
- ✓ Planning and decision support systems to improve responses to climate impact including floods and droughts
- ✓ Exploring trends in hydro-climatic variables and responses to extreme climatic events

#### Optimizing water cycle management for securing urban and industrial water supplies

- ✓ Securing alternative water sources, including rainwater, reclaimed and treated water through urban and basin management
- ✓ Optimizing storm water opportunities usage for urban development
- ✓ Urban and industrial water demand modeling
- ✓ Information and communication technology to optimize urban and industrial water management
- ✓ Economic approaches to optimizing collection, storage, treatment and distribution of various water sources.
- ✓ Climate-Smart Agriculture: A Driver for Green Growth

#### Climate change on Energy security

- ✓ Generating power from fossil fuels with lower carbon emissions,
- ✓ Reducing carbon emissions in the transportation sector through vehicle and fuel technologies,
- ✓ Addressing land use and the current unsustainable rate of deforestation,
- ✓ Accelerating and expanding markets for currently available efficiency technology and the use of nuclear, solar, and

the Twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2014.

The network is intended to be a frank, informal, open, and transparent forum. It shall not constitute any official position or pronouncement for the person who contributes to the subject, and the focus of this network will be largely scientific and technical.

This is the first time that the UN Solution Exchange has launched a global platform for knowledge sharing across the globe.

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**Earth Hour** is WWF's global campaign inspiring governments, businesses, communities and individuals to take a stand against Climate Change. It is that one crucial hour uniting the world and building synergies through the collective action of switching off non-essential lights in celebration of life and our planet. **This year Earth hour is on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 between 8.30 and 9.30 PM**

#### Where Earth Hour began?

Earth Hour was launched in Sydney, Australia in 2007, where 2.2 million individuals and more than 2,000 businesses turned their lights off for one hour. Just a year later, Earth Hour reached 370 cities and towns in more than 35 countries across

- wind energy.
- ✓ Challenges and opportunities for the development, financing, and commercialization of clean energy technologies.
- ✓ measuring actions to reduce greenhouse gases and improve energy security

### Climate Change and Health

- ✓ Improved climatic sensitive disease surveillance
- ✓ Tools to control the diseases.
- ✓ Health hazards Management.
- ✓ Emerging diseases in new environments
- ✓ vector-borne diseases
- ✓ health warning systems based on meteorological forecasts
- ✓ the use of bio-meteorological indexes
- ✓ extreme climatic events and sanitary consequences
- ✓ interaction between climate, air pollution, and health
- ✓ weather variability and mental illnesses
- ✓ deprivation index, welfare, and climate change

Attracting the region's leading policymakers, pioneers of the business, civil society, research, donor and media communities, the conference will address governance and trade & investment opportunities to optimize Southeast Asia's forest landscapes for climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy, livelihoods, food security and nutrition.

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### **The 11th Conference of the Asia-Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption & Production will be held in Bangkok on 19-20<sup>th</sup> May 2014.**

Decision-makers from all over the world, particularly from Asia will be participating. This would be an excellent opportunity for:

- Production managers, plant/Works managers, environmental specialists, pollution-control specialists, process engineers, chemists, design engineers, equipment suppliers and all those interested in cleaner/more sustainable production methods and techniques
- Economists, social scientists, businessmen, bankers, professional managers and others studying or wishing to get involved in sustainable consumption - whether household or institutional consumption.

Full details are available at: <http://www.aprscp.net/11th-APRSCP>

### **Concluded:**

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### **Moving beyond low-carbon plans towards green investment – City Climate Planner Accreditation Program**

The first stakeholder meeting of the City Climate Planner Accreditation Program, an initiative of the World Bank's Urban

18 time zones, and the campaign shifted from a 'Sydney Event' to a 'Global Sustainability Movement'. Since then, every year Earth Hour sets new standards and breaks its own records of mass participation and support. 2010 received participation from a record 1.3 billion individuals across 4616 cities in 128 countries globally. Notable landmarks like Acropolis in Greece, Eiffel Tower in Paris, Hiroshima Peace Gardens in Japan, and Pyramids in Egypt switched off in support.

2011 was a memorable year in the history of the campaign, as it marked a new phase, with supporters going beyond the hour by committing to sustainable action all year round. A record 1.8 billion individuals across more than 5200 cities in 135 countries participated by switching off lights, and pledging to imbibe environment friendly practices into everyday life to benefit the planet. The year 2012 was bigger than ever, with more than 7000 cities across 150 countries participated in the campaign.

### **Why get involved?**

Earth Hour is a unique opportunity for individuals, groups, businesses and governments to do something positive for the environment. It is not just about saving energy for that one hour, but it symbolizes the first step in the direction of adopting environment friendly

Development and Resilience Unit, was held in Gwangju, South Korea, from 13-15 January 2014. The 3-day meeting was aimed at discussing methodologies related to city-level GHG inventories, identifying effective personnel certification programs, and mapping out the necessary timetable. Emani Kumar, Executive Director of ICLEI South Asia and Maryke van Staden, Low Carbon Cities Program Manager of ICLEI World Secretariat, were present at the meeting with other 25 senior officials, researchers and consultants from UN agencies, think-tanks and companies.

The goal of the City Climate Planner Accreditation Program is to certify personnel who work on city GHG inventory, low-carbon planning and climate risk assessment. [Read more.](#)

activities into everyday life, which will lead the way towards a cleaner environment and a sustainable lifestyle.

## ***Announcements***

**Award for Excellence in Journalism for Reporting on Climate Change and Related Issues in Himalayan region has now been extended till is March 16, 2014.**

**For details and entry form, please visit:** <http://ihcap.in/eawards2014.html>

The Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in partnership with [thethirdpole.net](http://thethirdpole.net) (TTP) are jointly organising a competition for best media reports on climate change in the Indian Himalayas and invite entries from professional journalists.

Climate Change and Development (CCD), Embassy of Switzerland in India, under the Global Programme of Climate Change supported by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in collaboration with the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India has initiated Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) in the Indian Himalayan Region.

ThethirdPole.Net launched in partnership with Earth Journalism Network, works in collaboration with multiple partners across the Himalayan region to bring regional and international experts, media and civil society together for discussion and information exchange.

### **Objective**

The competition is being organized to encourage appropriate reporting of climate change related issues in the Indian Himalayan Region and in turn to enhance climate change awareness amongst the public.

### **Eligibility**

The media reports entered for the competition should deal with the effects of climate change, adaptation to and mitigation of impacts the Indian Himalayas. Media reports emphasizing/highlighting climate science with relevance to Indian Himalayas are also eligible for entry.

The entry should have been published/ broadcast between January 01 and December 31, 2013 in:

- Print
- Web
- Photo

- TV/radio

There will be separate prizes in each of these four categories and only one entry from an individual will be allowed for each category.

Each entry must be accompanied by an endorsement letter from the editor/news editor of the media house in which the report has been published/broadcast.

Entries can be in any language. Entries in languages other than English should be accompanied by an English summary of about 500 words.

Photographs submitted should be accompanied by a short description of the same explaining the context of the photo and the location details.

Entry is open to Indian nationals only.

### **Selection Procedure**

Winners of the competition will be selected by a jury. Decision of the jury will be final and binding on all contestants. Deadline for submission of entries is March 16, 2014. Winners will be notified by the first week of April 2014. Names of the winners will also be announced on IHCAP website ([www.ihcap.in](http://www.ihcap.in)). Prizes will be distributed at a function in New Delhi dates for which will be notified to the competition winners in due course.

### **Submission**

By submitting your entry you agree that the material submitted through the competition may be used by IHCAP for non-commercial purposes with due credit to the individual/agency / media house.

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**The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) invites qualifications for proposal preparation grants for impact evaluation designs on interventions related to Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD/REDD+) activities and early warning systems that can reduce losses from disasters.**

### **At a glance**

- ✓ 3ie will fund 7-8 proposal preparation grants of up to US\$ 30,000 on REDD/REDD+ and disaster-risk reduction, especially through early warning systems.
- ✓ Eligible countries include Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Maldives, Nepal, Brazil, Colombia, Morocco, Mozambique, Uganda, Kenya and Indonesia.
- ✓ Only research institutes or consortia can apply for this grant. Individuals are not eligible.
- ✓ Study teams must include both an in-country national researcher as a principal investigator and initiate collaboration with an in-country institution prior to engaging in substantive evaluation design.
- ✓ Successful study teams will be informed by 25 April 2014, and final deliverables are expected to be due at the end of September 2014.

**The deadline for submitting completed applications is 23.59 EST, 17 March 2014.**

Read more at: <http://www.3ieimpact.org/en/funding/thematic-window/climate-change-thematic-window/>

Download RFQ: [http://www.3ieimpact.org/media/filer/2014/01/15/climate\\_change\\_rfq.pdf](http://www.3ieimpact.org/media/filer/2014/01/15/climate_change_rfq.pdf)

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### **TERI University announces Summer School on Sustainability: BLISS 2014**

TERI University, an institution for higher education in India working for promotion of Sustainable Development, is organizing a summer school on "**Building Learning in Sustainability Science**" (BLISS) during March 10-14, 2014, at the University campus, New Delhi.

The school aims to impart knowledge and awareness on sustainability challenges faced by today's world and possible options capable to create differences.

BLISS strives to reach out to a wide spectrum of interested participants across age-groups, locations, academic specializations, training and professional affiliations.

Kindly refer to the flyer for more information, which is available at:

[ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res\\_info\\_29011402.pdf](ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res_info_29011402.pdf)

Please note that outstation participants can attend this summer school through online mode as well.

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**The Handbook of Climate Change Adaptation** is near completion, and some complementary materials addressing the following questions are welcome as submissions:

- **Why is climate adaptation necessary?**
- **What are the methods of climate change adaptation?**
- **What are most affected regions?**
- **What is the cost of climate change adaptation? How are the cost assessed? How are they financed?**

Details regarding the Handbook are available at: <http://refworks.springer.com/mrw/index.php?id=5492>

Research teams working on the above questions, and who could be able to submit a manuscript at short notice, should contact the Editorial Team at: [info@iccip.net](mailto:info@iccip.net).

According to the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP), the first decade of the 21st Century has shown how much still needs to be done in respect of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, but also in respect of communication, education and training on climate change.

Therefore, the Decade 2011-2020 needs to be the "**Decade of Climate Change Education, Awareness and Training**" and ICCIP will be running various projects and will organise many activities, to achieve this goal.

For more details on International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP) , please visit: <http://www.iccip.net/>

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### **Innovative methods to green cities.**

The Green Built Environment Brochure is available at:

[ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res\\_info\\_28011401.pdf](ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res_info_28011401.pdf) .

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**The theme for Earth Day 2014 and 2015 is Green Cities as the Earth Day Network**

**(EDN) has launched a two-year "Green Cities" Campaign** to accelerate the transition to a sustainably built environment - reducing carbon emissions, increasing energy efficiency and raising awareness and knowledge about how cities and systems must adapt, evolve and innovate.

Much of the campaign will focus on the potential for buildings to be a major source of carbon reduction and models of efficiency.

Globally, burning coal, natural gas and oil for electricity and heating in buildings is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Bringing energy efficiency practices and renewable energy sources into more homes, schools, businesses and communities is critical now and will reap rewards in the form of innovation, new jobs, improved economic stability and lower energy costs.

Individuals, businesses and communities need to increase their knowledge about how to navigate the transition to a greener built environment, how to finance this transition and make it affordable. The Earth Day Network campaign will provide that knowledge, inspiration as well as a roadmap.

**The Campaign Goals include the following:**

- **Increase public awareness and build consumer demand for energy efficiency and renewable energies in homes, businesses and communities through education.**
- **Mobilize key constituencies to create new and widespread support for progressive policies through communications, demonstration projects and grassroots organizing.**
- **Generate concrete commitments for innovative and replicable initiatives from key stakeholders such as industry and government around renewable energies, energy efficiency, and climate solutions.**

India's metro cities, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, rank among the top ten cities in the world most at risk from climate change. The capital city, Delhi is no better with studies indicating that temperatures in it have risen by 3 degrees Celsius since 1998, turning the city into a virtual 'Urban Heat Island'.

While India has several laws in place for protecting the urban environment and those to combat climate change, implementation is often limited. EDN's India Office will work with partners in several states of India to help raise the rate of compliance by hosting a series of programs and workshops to build awareness and provide solutions.

In metro cities and 2<sup>nd</sup> tier cities, EDN will:

- Advocate for energy-saving smart devices in public and office buildings.
- Promote a shift to solar and other renewable energies.
- Work with architects' associations to highlight best cases of energy, water, and waste-management efficiency.
- Build awareness about the "Albedo Effect" in which painting roofs white helps to reduce global warming.
- Encourage increases in the urban green cover.
- Advocate rainwater harvesting.
- Focus on the need for better waste management techniques.
- Hold sessions in schools to build awareness about green practices, including recycling

We request organizations and individuals to put together programs around this theme, and share the plans with us.

We want to compile successful case studies undertaken to help cities become more environment friendly. If you are aware of any such examples, please share them with us as soon as possible.

We are particularly, looking at innovative methods for waste management, increasing the quality and quantity of water, shift to renewable energies, examples of green buildings and green public transport systems, and enlarging a city's green cover. This is required for urban areas only.

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The "[Climate Change Management Series](#)", published with Springer is a leading book series on climate change management. It is now calling for papers for a new volume, to be launched in late 2014, titled "**Managing Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific Region**".

Due to its geo-political structure, the Asia-Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change.

Yet, there is a paucity of scientific publications which look at the particularities and complexities of climate change adaptation in the region in an interactive manner, and which highlight the differentiated impacts of climate change across countries.

The book will address this need, and will bridge the knowledge gap seen in this field, with a special focus on aspects of climate change management.

The publication will document and promote scholarly research, practical projects, field work and other climate change adaptation initiatives, from scientists based -or working- in the Asia-Pacific region.

Expressions of interest, initially consisting of a 200 words abstract with the full contact details of the authors, should be sent to: [beids@beids.de](mailto:beids@beids.de).

Further details will be discussed with the authors whose abstracts have been accepted. The editor would be happy to discuss submissions in advance.

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USAID/India is inviting local Indian organizations to apply for the '**Innovations for Forest Resources Management (InFoRM)**' Program. InFoRM seeks to target innovative solutions to address forestry concerns in India under the three priority areas of (1) supporting innovations for fuel wood management; (2) strengthening systems for forest resources management; and (3) increasing income of forest dependent communities.

The Request For Applications (RFA-386-14-000002) is available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=251053) (<http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=251053>)

**The deadline for submission of applications is March 13, 2014.**

Please send all responses and inquiries for further information regarding this RFA via email to Paul Seong (Agreement Officer, USAID/India | Regional Office of Acquisition and Assistance) at [aseong@usaid.gov](mailto:aseong@usaid.gov).

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**A United Nations-led partnership that "shines a spotlight" on local sustainable development innovations today launched its global call for nominations for the Equator Prize 2014.**

- ✓ Today marks the first step in a worldwide search to identify leading community-based initiatives from across the developing world that advance environmental conservation



while fighting poverty. **Nominations are open from 146 countries through March 22, 2014.**

- ✓ "We are looking for local environment and development solutions that are having a big impact," said Helen Clark, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP). "Communities across the planet are coming up with inspiring solutions to environment, climate, and poverty challenges, and we want to bring their efforts to the world's attention."
- ✓ Past recipients of the Equator Prize over the last 12 years have come from more than 60 different countries and included community protected areas, agriculture and farming cooperatives, wildlife protection initiatives, local water committees, community-managed forests, locally-managed marine areas and seed banks.
- ✓ **The Equator Prize** – which has been supported by former heads of state Gro Harlem Brundtland (Norway) and Oscar Arias (Costa Rica), philanthropists Ted Turner and Richard Branson, a host of Nobel laureates, and celebrities like Gisele Bündchen and Edward Norton – **is unique for recognizing collective action rather than individual achievement.**
- ✓ The Equator Prize 2014 will be awarded to twenty-five community-based organizations from across the world, each of whom will receive a cash prize, with five selected for 'special recognition'. The theme of this cycle of the Equator Prize is local climate action.
- ✓ Winning communities will be recognized at a high level Academy Awards-style event and supported to participate in a community meeting during the UN General Assembly and Climate Summit in New York in September 2014.
- ✓ The Equator Initiative is a partnership that brings together the UN, governments, civil society, businesses, and grassroots organizations to advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities.
- ✓ Partners of the initiative include: Conservation International; Convention on Biological Diversity; Eco-agriculture Partners; Fordham University; German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development; IUCN-International Union for Conservation of Nature; The Nature Conservancy; PCI-Media Impact; Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Rare; Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); UN Development Programme (UNDP); UN Environment Programme; UN Foundation; United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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**The Frankfurt School - UNEP** Collaborating Centre for Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance (the Centre) has now released its fifth newsletter to offer a transparent look into its recent activities and international project work.

Please find attached the new issue and read about:

- Frankfurt School's new E-Learning Programme in Climate & Renewable Energy Finance
- The Frankfurt Dialogue on Climate leadership and financial regulation
- The Centre's new project in the Cook Islands
- Other Centre achievements, project updates and events.

Further information on Centre activities can be found on the Centre's website: [www.fs-unesp-centre.org](http://www.fs-unesp-centre.org)

The February, 2014 newsletter is available at:

[ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res\\_info\\_27021401.pdf](http://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res_info_27021401.pdf)

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On the occasion of Gene Campaign's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a number of experts from across India ,

came together to brainstorm on the policy changes that were needed to **make farming profitable and farmers prosperous.**

Given below is the Charter of Demands that was formulated by the experts after a daylong meeting:

- The government must increase annual budgetary outlays for agriculture , by the Union and state governments , to 10 per cent of India's gross domestic product (against less than 1.5 per cent at present) for the next ten years. Of these outlays, between 60 per cent and 70 per cent should be reserved for rain-fed farming. systems.
- Programs for food security must include nutrition security. Fortification of common staple foods with micro-nutrients should receive attention. A comprehensive program to establish homestead gardens should be promoted to boost household nutrition.
- All programs providing food and nutrition support to children must be linked to their being registered in school and receiving regular health checkups.
- 4.Credit and insurance facilities should be provided to all those who cultivate land and keep livestock (not merely to land owners) by revamping the *kisan* credit card and making insurance more widespread.
- Given the growing feminization of agriculture in India, there an urgent need to : enforce property rights of women and encourage joint ownership of productive assets, incentivize women's access to credit cards (through an interest rate subvention of at least one per cent) , invest in agriculture equipment suitable for women.
- Restore and reorient agricultural extension services to promote high yielding, diversified and ecologically sustainable agriculture. This should be backed by research support and indigenous knowledge.
- To reduce financial burden on small farmers, establish and incentivize Smallholder Farmer Estates with common facilities and equipment, skill building in joint estate management, bio nutrition and IPM , water conservation and management, micro irrigation, fertigation , post-harvest value addition , packaging and collective marketing etc
- Government policies must strengthen and promote a broad genetic base for agriculture and encourage conservation of agro-bio-diversity, to build resilience in farming
- Launch a comprehensive soil testing program across India to implement location specific measures to restore and improve soil health.
- Develop a policy and research framework for the development of agriculture in the mountainous regions of India.
- Launch a water literacy campaign at policy and implementation levels that demand management is the main strategy for overcoming water scarcity.
- Water management must be used as an entry point to improve livelihoods through productivity enhancement, value addition, and income generating activities through market-led diversification.
- The public distribution system must be diversified and decentralized. Government policies should encourage procurement from about 50 km from the points of consumption and the PDS should include a range of locally produced foods.
- Divert a part of fertilizer subsidies to public investments in agriculture leading to capital formation for strengthening alternative farming systems, especially climate resilient agriculture.
- Encourage and incentivize states that reduce reliance on chemical inputs in agriculture and encourage bio-organic farming systems.

- All government policies must be geared towards enabling the Indian farmer to become an entrepreneur. Only then can those who are in the riskiest profession in the world be empowered, making farming profitable and farmers prosperous.

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### **3 days Joint Training Workshop on "Basics of Satellite Meteorology and Environmental Application" on 26-28th March 2014**

"A Unique opportunity for students/researchers/scientists to understand application of satellites in the field of meteorology and environmental domain"

For details please visit:

[http://www.teriuniversity.ac.in/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=157](http://www.teriuniversity.ac.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=157)

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**FICCI Quality Forum is organizing third edition of Indian Conference on Life Cycle Management (ILCM 2014)** on 29-30 September in New Delhi. ILCM is a flagship event of FICCI which aims to promote Life Cycle Thinking in India. For more information, you may refer to <http://www.indialca.com/>

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Most of the methods covering the term "Conservation Agriculture" are and have been practiced for long in methods of **organic or natural or ecological** farming.

It is currently not clear how this new term of "Conservation Agriculture" relates (supplementary or complimentary) to the existing methods of agriculture.

However, it may interest members to know of a [video](#) on similar methods titled as is. The video methods are open for feedback and in case members are interested they may connect with its researchers at IFAD.

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**The Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption & Production (APRSCP)** will be holding its 11th Conference of experts in **Bangkok on 19-20th May 2014**. This would be an excellent opportunity for:

- Policy-makers, Regulators, Civil Society Organisations/NGOs, multilaterals working in the Asia-Pacific Region and academicians
- Production managers, plant/Works managers, environmental specialists, pollution-control specialists, process engineers, chemists, design engineers, architects and civil engineers, equipment suppliers and all those interested in cleaner/more sustainable production methods and techniques
- Economists, social scientists, environmentalists, businessmen, bankers, market-research agencies, professional managers in the sales/marketing areas and others studying or wishing to get involved in sustainable consumption - whether household or institutional consumption.

The topics slated for discussion at expert levels include:

- Education for Sustainability

- Sustainable Procurement & Ecolabelling
- Sustainable Energy and Transport
- Sustainable Lifestyles
- Sustainable Tourism
- Sustainable Buildings & Construction
- Sustainable Agriculture and Food
- Resource Efficiency
- Cleaner Production

Full details are available at: <http://www.aprscp.net/11th-APRSCP>

Please do pencil these dates in your calendar and plan to attend. There is an early-bird discount for registration before 21st March, although the fees themselves are not very high and Bangkok is relatively inexpensive even for high-quality accommodation.

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### **Brahmaputra: Towards Unity**

Experts from Bangladesh, China and India propose a new approach to develop the trans-boundary river basin in a way that is cooperative and sustainable. The report is available at: <http://www.thethirdpole.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Brahmaputra-v13.pdf> . Your Feedback is most welcome.

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### **Cochin, Coimbatore and Hyderabad among the final 34 cities for EHCC 2014!**

Cochin, Coimbatore and Hyderabad are among the 34 finalists chosen to compete for the Earth Hour City Challenge 2014 crown, making it among an array of 163 cities from 14 countries worldwide. All these cities have reported their GHG inventory as well as low carbon actions and action plans on the [carbonn Cities Climate Registry \(cCCR\)](#), an internationally recognized greenhouse gas emissions reporting platform for local governments, managed by ICLEI.

One of these 163 cities will be chosen for the title of Global Earth Hour Capital 2014 and will be honoured at Vancouver (EHCC Capital 2013). In addition to the overall EHCC winner, an expert jury will review the actions and commitments reported by all cities and will select one National Earth Hour Capital per country – Delhi being the Indian winner in 2013.

These three Indian cities are in the esteemed league of the most sustainable cities worldwide due to their impressive and continuous actions in the field of sustainability. [Read more.](#)

In addition to the winners selected by the official jury, all 163 cities will also compete in a public campaign to select the city most deserving of the We Love Cities Award. Help us in making one of the three Indian cities win the crown of the most lovable sustainable city: vote for them by visiting <http://www.welovecities.org/> .

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### **UN Secretary General appoints Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on 31 January 2014 the appointment of Michael Bloomberg of the United States as his Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change.

His new role is to assist the Secretary-General in his consultations with Mayors and related key stakeholders in order to raise political will and mobilize action among cities as part of the Secretary-General's long-term strategy to advance efforts on climate change.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability welcomes this decision as an important opportunity to increase momentum of the engagement with local and subnational governments in the global efforts on climate change.

*"Partnerships at all levels of government are essential elements for the success of the Paris 2015 Climate Outcomes - to scale-up rapid actions now, up-to, and beyond 2020. We look forward to collaborating on this with the UN Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change,"* says Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI. [Read more.](#)

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### **Capture Resilience on your camera lens – Resilient Cities 2014 photo contest!**

The [congress registration](#) for Resilient Cities 2014 - 5th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation, to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 29-31 May 2014, is now open!

[Resilient Cities - The Annual Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation](#) is the global platform for urban resilience and climate change adaptation, hosted every year in Bonn. More than 500 participants and beyond 30 partners each year helped make Resilient Cities a milestone event connecting local government leaders and climate adaptation experts to discuss adaptation challenges facing urban environments around the globe.

As a first step to the event, ICLEI has initiated the [Resilient Cities 2014 photo contest](#), which will be a platform for all to showcase pictures depicting Resilient Cities. This monthly contest invites photographs with a caption that show individuals, their neighbors, communities or any great initiative preparing for and responding to climate change and building resilience. Monthly winners will be featured on the website and social media, receive a certificate and a signed copy of the Resilient Cities 2010 book, and be entered to win a congress pass. [Read more.](#)

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### ***Selected Reading on Climate Change***

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The best synopsis to picture the impact of climate change in the Asia- Pacific region in the future is the Asian Development Bank's info-graphic: <http://www.adb.org/features/climate-change-asia-and-pacific> .

Furthermore, according to the Global Agenda Council on Climate Change countries have not made remarkable progress on emission reduction, loss and damage compensation, and adaptation while natural disasters such as floods, droughts super-storms are increasingly causing systematic risks globally.

In the case of India, considering its fragile ecosystem and climatic variability, growth of population and scarcity of natural resources, the country is very much vulnerable to climate change.

The recent **Global Risks 2014** report of World Economic Forum and specifically to Figure 1.1: The Global Risks Landscape 2014, page 16 where it clearly plots the likelihood and impact of the various risks. Amongst top five are *the Climate Change, Water Crisis and Extreme Weather Events*. The Global Risk 2014 report of World Economic Forum is accessible at: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GlobalRisks\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalRisks_Report_2014.pdf) [Size: 3.71 MB]

It is clear to all of us that greater incentives and better mechanisms are required globally to keep the temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius. The World Bank report on "Why a 4°C Warmer

World Must be Avoided” is also an interesting and important document for developing countries like India. It is available at: <http://goo.gl/S6q3l0>

Developing countries emphasize on economic development and prefer to tackle the climate change and environmental issues subsequently. Studies clearly indicate that sustainable development cannot be achieved without paying attention to social and environmental components. However, country-specific solutions are imperative to tackle the issues locally.

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**Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of Update!**

*If you have items to feature in the Updates, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Climate Change Community at : [se-clmt@solutionexchange-un.net.in](mailto:se-clmt@solutionexchange-un.net.in)*

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