

Climate Change Community



Community Update No. 56: 1st August, 2014 In this Issue

FROM THE RESOURCE PERSON

Dear Members,

Greetings from the Climate Change Community!!

We are delighted to present the 56th Edition of the Community Update, today. We continue to be overwhelmed by your continued cooperation and support.

The Action Groups that are presently active are on:

- 1. Easy (not so easy) Solutions to Address Climate Change. 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.

The Compendium is in the process of being finalized and we will be holding a stakeholders consultation meeting soon, most likely towards the end of this month.

2. CARRBON NEUTRAL AND SUSTAINABLE EDUCATIONAL CAMPUSES : Guidelines and Framework for Assessing Carbon Neutrality & Sustainability in Educational Campuses

Educational institutions are the core for innovation and new ideas. Therefore they also play a pivotal role in inculcating the idea of sustainability in the minds of the future citizens of the world. These institutions hold the potential to offer many opportunities for the improvement of environmental health and the wellbeing of the community. Educational institutions all around the world are adopting strategies and pledging to make their campuses carbon neutral and sustainable. There have been many successful programmes at the university level worldwide which address the need to incorporate sustainability at the institutional level. The primary rationale for this action group is that the concepts of carbon neutrality and campus sustainability create a unique leadership opportunity for educational institutions for building a culture of sustainability while at the same time contributing towards the mitigation of climate change. In India, this field is still in its infancy. Although many environmental conservation and community welfare initiatives have been taken by a few institutions, a systematic and cohesive approach towards campus sustainability and low ecological footprint is, in general, lacking. The integration of sustainability in everyday activities of an educational institution requires meticulous planning and support from all the tiers of the university management. This action group proposes a cross-institutional campus sustainability index and the corresponding framework, consisting of performance based indicators, which are aimed to reflect the commitments and initiatives taken by Indian institutions towards carbon neutrality and campus sustainability. At the same time the proposed framework also aims to create a platform for comparing these institutions based on the performances of their initiatives and to encourage mutual learning through these comparisons.

In order to evolve a comprehensive document, we urge you to respond to the questionnaire for Developing a tool to assess Carbon Neutral and Sustainability of educational campuses. The purpose of this questionnaire is to seek your help in assigning scores to:

- The carbon footprint analysis, and
- The campus sustainability analysis which comprises of four major components and 30 indicators

Based on the scores you assign we will apply statistical tools to determine the final weightage for each component and indicator and form the carbon neutral and sustainability index. Please click on the link to complete the questionnaire: <u>https://bit.ly/1j5IpS7</u>

Please send us your comments and suggestions for the above action groups. The work of the above action groups is likely to conclude on 15^{th} September, 2014.

We look forward to hearing from you at the earliest.

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

DEVELOPMENT IN THE SECTOR

A new global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development

The report is available online at: http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=65194

The High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda's report sets out a universal agenda to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 through sustainable development. In the report, the Panel calls for the new post-2015 goals to drive five big transformative shifts:

- ✓ Leave no-one behind: we should move from reducing to ending extreme poverty, in all its forms.
- ✓ Put sustainable development at the core: immediate action is needed to slow the pace of climate change and environmental degradation.
- ✓ Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth: more diversified economies, with equal opportunities for all, can drive social inclusion, as well as foster sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- ✓ Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all: peace and good governance must be recognised as a core element of wellbeing, not an optional extra.
- ✓ Forge a new global partnership: it should be centred around people and include civil society organisations, multilateral institutions, local and national governments, the scientific and academic community, businesses and private philanthropy.

The report offers illustrative goals and targets intended as a basis for further discussion:

- End poverty
- Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality
- Provide quality education and lifelong learning
- Ensure healthy lives
- Ensure food security and good nutrition
- Achieve universal access to water and sanitation
- Secure sustainable energy
- Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth
- Manage natural resource assets sustainably
- Ensure good governance and effective institutions
- Ensure stable and peaceful societies
- Create a global enabling environment and catalyse long-term finance

It argues that we can end extreme poverty is we commit, prioritise and make a roadmap which does not consider targets 'achieved' unless they are met for all relevant income and social groups.

South-originating green finance: Exploring the potential

Produced by: Geneva International Finance Dialogues.

The discussion paper is available online at: <u>http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=66885</u>

This discussion paper has been produced as part of the **South-originating Green Finance (SGF)** initiative, and seeks to stimulate debate about, and highlight the key role, and potential for growth, of the evolving financial landscape originating from the global south.

The drive for such an initiative comes from the urgent need to scale green investment, and the potential for national and international policies to accelerate its volume and enhance its impact. It is intended that this discussion paper will crystallise current knowledge, provide a framework for future discussion, offer initial policy reflections, and set out a policy-focused research agenda.

The paper begins by offering an introduction to SGF, including concepts and definitions, and an overview of the present green financial landscape.

Up to \$100 trillion dollars is estimated to be required for infrastructure investment globally between now and 2030, although higher up-front costs mean that an additional \$700 billion is presently needed annually, thus making current spending woefully inadequate. This means that private capital will be essential in securing the scale of green funding required.

Next, trends are identified, including the large and growing status of SGF which contributed almost half (48.8 per cent) of global renewable energy infrastructure investment in 2012, up from 36.4 per cent the previous year (with the majority coming from China). Elements that set SGF apart from traditional finance models, and its use as a lever for sustainable development, are then discussed, including the observation that developing countries asses risk differently (with more on-the-ground knowledge), and may be more responsive to creating co-benefits such as job-creation.

Following this, the paper looks at how policy measures can increase the volume and impact of

SGF, including the potential for more effective south-south cooperation in promoting public and private SGF.

Finally, the discussion paper concludes with future research and policy needs, which indicates that the initiative will be exploring a more systematic appreciation of the contribution already being made by SGF, the opportunities it offers, and how to create the most effective domestic and international policy architecture.

Livestock systems, vulnerability and climate change: Insights from the grass roots

The position paper can be downloaded <u>here</u>.

Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) is pleased to announce the release of its position paper on "Livestock systems, vulnerability and climate change – Insights from the grass roots".

The publication is a part of a series of 12 position papers being formulated by the organization as it works towards catalysing insights, learnings and experiences from multiple stakeholders involved in its 'Climate Change Adaptation' project.

This position paper brings out a proposition that intensification of livestock production may not be a sustainable option for fragile ecosystems.

The paper 'Livestock systems, vulnerability, and climate change – Insights from the grass roots' attempts to explore indications of vulnerability at the grass roots. It also attempts to see the impact of the logic of using technology (crossbreeding) and sedenterisation as a means of poverty alleviation/higher economic returns for livestock keepers and the rural poor.

It poses the question: Have the poor really benefitted economically, or have we increased their vulnerability further, especially in the context of climate change?"

The paper urges the need to clear certain areas of prejudice against indigenous cattle, small ruminants, and poultry breeds, and proposes special policy measures for livestock production in dry-land regions of India in the context of climate change.

India could take the lead in green governance if Team Modi takes the right initiatives, according to Dr R K Pachauri.

The article is available online at: <u>http://www.speakingtree.in/spiritual-articles/new-age/green-governance/147472</u>.

As Gujarat's chief minister, Modi had initiated a novel sustainable solar energy project in the State — he covered canals with photovoltaic panels. It was a useful concept to cover those canals — because you save land by placing the panels over canals and this reduces loss of water due to evaporation. Solar panels perform better as temperatures are lowered. Otherwise, they get heated up and so become less effective. This way, you maximise efficiency and make electricity directly available to the local people.

Modi has promoted solar energy extensively across Gujarat. Solar energy is part of our National Action Plan on Climate Change and is economically viable as a renewable source of energy.

Benefit of solar projects is that implementation time is very short. This country needs power. Raw material is high cost only for photovoltaics. I am talking about solar thermal energy; producing steam like in a coal power plant — the investment is higher than in a normal power plant, but with no fuel costs, you can get electricity at almost the same price as normal electricity and then when economies of scales set in, it will become even cheaper.

Among the G-20 group of countries, we have far more sunshine than anyone else. We have abundance of sunshine, biomass (agricultural residue) and wind sites that are attractive. We can use renewable energy on a large scale.

Rivers are being largely polluted by industry! Faulty sewage systems, untreated sewage and industrial effluents especially from leather tanneries — these are happening all along major and minor rivers, so we need to stop this pollution at the source. Local bodies need to be involved in this operation and be held responsible. Yes, pilgrims do offer flowers and clothes to rivers — but all of these are biodegradable and tame compared to the toxic, heavy pollutants ejected by industries in rivers. They are far more dangerous and make river clean-ups difficult. We have excess use of fertilisers and chemicals that finds their way into the river, upsetting marine life and the composition of the water. Investment in sewerage must match investment in water supply. In India, leakage and inefficiencies in the system waste nearly 50 per cent of usable water. Recycling and reusing of wastewater, reducing water use and enhancing water use efficiency, must become a part of water-sewage system planning, in order to reduce net water demand.

River linking is something that has to be looked at very carefully for there could be ecological problems — each river has its own ecosystem; some rivers have river dolphins.... If you mix river waters, you don't know if these animals will survive, as each river has its own characteristics. So we need to look into these aspects carefully.

Our Constitution has made provisions for **sharing of river waters.** It is the responsibility of upstream states, particularly, to not disturb the balance. Cauvery originates in the Coorg area. There is so much pressure to carry out development projects in Coorg and that could well destroy ecosystems there as a result of which catchment areas of the Cauvery River might be affected. You might set up industries and hotels in the area but what are you doing to the life of the river? Look at the total system and see what the effect would be of all this.

The Kumudvathi River rejuvenation project is under way near Bangalore with the initiative of Art of Living Foundation volunteers.... Any river rejuvenation project has to be analysed for technical feasibility. Large parts of the country had ponds maintained as water bodies but now all building waste is dumped in tanks and lakes. Wetlands are choked. In Maharashtra, builders throw waste material in the stealth of night into water bodies. Institutions that are meant to enforce laws simply don't. Gurgaon near Delhi is a good example of water starvation through exploitation. We need devolution of power from centre to local authorities who know local conditions and the people better.

Why can't we have powerful mayors like the mayor of New York City who takes full responsibility? All laws we have so far are sufficient to rectify matters. The problem is the way we interpret these laws and how we implement and enforce them. On protecting the environment, the whole concept of environmental clearances is flawed. Why not think of environment as being integral to the project itself? The clearing agency and pollution control boards should be autonomous organisations answerable to local bodies. Otherwise, accountability is a problem. Clearances should be given by a local body where the plant is to be located. The Centre lays down guidelines and benchmarks, so now only local bodies have to monitor.

If we don't contain greenhouse gas emissions, then we are going to face more serious climate

change problems and the poorest countries in the poorest regions of the world will suffer most. When we send representatives to negotiate for India at climate change talks, we should know the country's limitations. It is in our interest to promote public transport on a large scale and help contain global warming. Indian Railways are losing traffic to road transport simply because railways are not getting modernised. If you had a good train system, you could get to Jaipur from Delhi in one hour. Then who will wish to drive or fly? In Korea, China and other countries, trains run at 300 km per hour — why can't we modernise our trains? We can benefit and also claim credit internationally for reducing our carbon footprint. We should make our buildings more energy efficient and tell the world we have done it, and then we are in a stronger position to bargain, is it not?

The new government must reappraise our policies and come up with new solutions. **Every ministry should have a sustainability development cell** so that instead of the ministry of environment and forests breathing down your neck, going green becomes an integral part of those ministries.

The environment ministry should be a marg darshak — showing the pathway to different ministries to improve efficient use of natural resources. Regulation should be by bodies that report directly to the community.

Chennai made rain water harvesting mandatory, a remarkable initiative and this should be disseminated and enforced throughout the country. Modi can do it. After all, we talk of the globe as being one large family, vasudhaiva kutumbakam. **Each member of the family needs to pitch in.**

Moving Beyond Smart Growth to a More Holistic City Agenda

The article is available online at: <u>http://bit.ly/1s0YXiO</u>.

Our regions must replace suburban sprawl with more compact forms of growth and development; that neighbourhoods must be walkable and convenient; that automobile dependence must be replaced with a system of mobility choices in which the automobile is only a part. It is an environmental agenda first and foremost, but those of us who advocate it also believe it to be good for people.

The smart growth agenda was actually somewhat radical when it coalesced in the 1990s, and there are still places where it is not accepted, many more where it has not been fully implemented. But advocates can take some comfort in the fact that smart growth has become mainstream, taught by one name or another in every planning school in the country and guiding city thinking far and wide.

We still have a long way to go, but central cities have stopped hollowing out; sprawl is slowing; and big cities all across the nation are thinking about light rail, streetcars, bus rapid transit, and/or better bicycling infrastructure.

Smart growth and smart transportation – as important as they are to the future of our communities and our planet – are not nearly enough to produce sustainable communities. They are certainly not enough if we reach beyond mere sustainability, as we should, to social equity and justice, to places that not only do less damage but actually repair and restore where damage has been done, to places of nourishment, healing, and resilience.

Green infrastructure and green building, have arisen since the smart growth agenda was

formulated and that the movement has never been fully assimilated. It is time to become more ambitious and holistic in our thinking about cities, towns and neighbourhoods.

A list of ten questions that every community should ask in order to identify ways to improve are given below:

- Are neighbourhoods fully hospitable to residents with a range of incomes, ages and abilities?
- Does the community respect nature, integrating natural areas and systems into regional planning and neighborhood design? This has been a weakness of the smart growth agenda; in its enthusiasm for hardscape urbanism and downtown infill, it too often has ignored our innate need for living nature. To be sure, integrating nature into a highly urban neighbourhood requires considerable thought and effort. But it is critical if we want our cities to be living ecosystems that people want to live in.
- Do buildings and infrastructure take advantage of resource-efficient design and management practices? Green buildings are mainstream now, and green infrastructure is advancing. Indeed, some progressive institutions believe it is time to begin installing "net-positive" buildings that produce more sustainable energy and water than they consume, and that generate no net waste. In the meantime, we should at least ask if our structures are moving in the right direction with regard to reducing resource consumption and pollution.
- Do the community design and social structure encourage healthy living and well-being? This
 is another biggie, and it can lead to fascinating inquiries, including whether there is clean air
 and water; walkable access to shops, amenities, and services, including good schools, healthy
 food, and parks; good health care facilities and services; and plentiful playgrounds and sports
 facilities.
- Is the overall metropolitan or community development footprint discernible and no larger than necessary? Are there measures that limit the encroachment of new development onto natural and rural land? Leapfrog development in particular should be strongly discouraged with appropriate policy and incentives.
- Does the community include public spaces of beauty, character, and utility? Qualities such as "beauty" and "character" may be hard to define, but it is essential that we ask these questions and try our best. Public spaces in particular give definition to a neighbourhood, a town, a city. These include parks, plazas, and monuments, of course, but we must not forget that streets are our most plentiful, visible, and important public spaces. Do they serve pedestrians well? Is their scale pleasing and harmonious? Are they inviting?
- Are there convenient, safe, affordable and efficient transportation choices? It is critical that residents have multiple ways to get around. In communities of any scale, this must include convenient, pleasant public transit. For all communities, there should be "complete streets" with inviting accommodation for pedestrians, bicyclists, and people with disabilities. Many cities are also now hosting carshare and bikeshare programs: would the community make a good candidate?
- Does new development use land efficiently, with appropriate attention to the context? We made a terrible mistake by allowing the grossly inefficient use of land that characterizes the suburban sprawl both commercial and residential that we built in the late 20th century. That mistake must not be repeated. But this question embodies a tension: at least in theory, the highest density that the market will bear on a particular site will always make the most efficient use of land; but sensitivity to context may well dictate something lower.

- Does the community respect and enhance important local conditions, resources, and culture? Local climate conditions matter. So does local culture, including historic resources; a great community will celebrate its cultural assets, not denigrate them.
- Does the community encourage collaboration in planning and development? **Easy to say**, **much harder to do. But so important. Decisions stand the best chance of success** when there is a feeling of collective ownership over them.

The Green Indian Elections by Karan Mangotra

The article is available online at: http://karanmangotra.wordpress.com/2014/06/27/the-green-indian-elections/

Given the scale and organizational complexity of the event, the general elections take months of elaborate planning and several weeks to execute. The elections were held in phases because of the size of the country and the electorate, with some states receiving special attention on account of extremist activities.

Millions of staff was deputed for the elections, including a 120,000-strong security force to ensure the free and fair conduct of polls. There were 930,000 polling stations spread across the diverse climatic and geographic zones in the country. For the convenience of the voters, polling stations were set up in the desert sands of Rajasthan, in the snowy Himalayan Mountains and in the tiny islands in the Indian Ocean.

After going through such staggering numbers (researched by Forbes) and the scale of the elections I decided to do some research on how green are the Indian elections – **and I am really glad to state that they indeed are very green.** There are still areas of improvement, there always will be – nevertheless Kudos to the Election Commission!!

My findings:

- About 1.2 million electronic voting machines were put into use in the election. Apart from getting the results in a single day of counting, which is fantastic, it saved around 30 million of trees from being chopped down for ballot paper. Also, they are easier and less bulky to transport.
- The Election Commission stipulates that no person should have to travel more than two kilometres to cast a vote. So, in the previous general election in 2009, voting booths even catered to two or three voters. In the western state of Gujarat, a single voter – a temple caretaker – got his own voting booth – and the booth was open till 5:30pm in spite of voter having cast his vote – any guesses why?? Lest anyone reported the voter as a bogus voter and the voting being cancelled.
- This travelling rule (2kms or less) reduces the use of transport both public and private. I couldn't estimate the savings vis-à-vis a travelling rule of 5kms or less – but I am sure it's a considerable amount of saving keeping in mind the number of urban voters.
- The Election Commission's model code of conduct states: "Subject to the local laws, no one can make use of any individual's land, building, compound wall, vehicles etc. for erecting flag staffs, putting up banners, pasting notices or writing slogans etc. without specific permission of the owner (to be shown to and deposited with the District Election Officer)". This has tremendously reduced the defacing of walls and reduced the number of posters that are being stuck randomly on walls. The parties are increasingly turning to fancy advertising strategies especially with the increase in the social-media presence.
- Loudspeakers whether static or mounted on moving vehicles shall not be used either

before 6 a.m. or after 10p.m. and without the prior written permission of the authorities concerned. This is very strictly adhered to and has reduced the sound pollution, during an otherwise noisy electioneering process, across the country

- Also, there is a limit set to the number of vehicles that can be used during a procession for campaigning. Gone are those days where the processions lasted till the horizon with the commuters on the road facing a harrowing time trying to reach wherever they were trying to. This limit is now set to 10 – 12. Apart of reducing the commuters' agony, it has reduced the emissions from the car-cade.
- In order to level the playing field, the Election Commission stipulated that individual candidates contesting the elections can spend only up to 7 million rupees on their campaign. This forced the candidates to spend judiciously focussing more of critical activities rather than just randomly printing posters, banners, flags, leaflets, brochures, where paper can be and is wasted trees saved here too!!

India: Powering a 21st Century Nation: Two decades after reforms, India's power sector remains a major constraint to growth

The article can be downloaded at: http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/06/24/india-powering-a-21st-century-nation.

An inefficient and loss-making distribution segment is affecting the value chain. New World Bank study says distribution utilities need to be run professionally, reduce physical losses, improve revenue collection and be freed from interference.

India's competitive edge has long been blunted by crippling power shortages. Almost all investment surveys point to frequent outages and unreliable power supply as critical impediments to economic growth.

To unleash the enormous potential of the country's 1.2 billion people and forge a 21st-century nation, India's new government is looking to bring power to all citizens by 2019 and provide 24/7 electricity.

The World Bank's recent report on the power sector's performance over the past two decades is therefore particularly timely. The report, More Power to India: The Challenge of Electricity Distribution commends India's achievements since power sector reforms were initiated in the early 1990s, and particularly since the passage of the landmark Electricity Act of 2003, but highlights critical shortcomings.

"Two decades after the initiation of reforms, inadequate and unreliable power supply is a major constraint to India's aspirations for middle-income status," said Onno Ruhl, World Bank Country Director in India.

Presenting the report's findings to a group of India's power experts in New Delhi, Sheoli Pargal and Sudeshna Ghosh Banerjee, the report's co-authors, pointed out that while the country has made huge strides in generation and transmission, the distribution segment - where power reaches the final consumer and revenues are generated - has incurred mounting losses and is affecting the entire value chain. "If distribution doesn't work, the sector doesn't work," emphasized Pargal.

This has led to a continued need for state support to distribution utilities and an undue reliance on commercial borrowing. By 2011, the sector's total debt had reached a staggering US\$ 77

billion- equivalent to 5% of India's GDP.

The opportunity cost of state support is high. Had these funds not been preempted by power utilities, some 15,000 hospitals and 123,000 schools could have been set up in 2011. And, if the status quo persists, future projections look dismal.

Why is the distribution segment losing money?

The report underlines that distribution inefficiencies contribute more to losses than the fact that tariffs have generally lagged behind costs. "Some factors responsible for the staggering losses are well within distributors' control," noted Banerjee.

Poor planning often leads distributors to buy power at the last minute when prices are invariably high. Moreover one–fifth of the power they purchase is not paid for by end users; it is either lost due to inefficient operations and dilapidated infrastructure, or stolen by people tapping illegally onto power lines. Utilities also take unduly long to collect power bills, with collection times ranging between 21 days and one-and-a-half years.

"Ultimately the distribution segment's poor performance can be put down to the fact that utilities are generally not run on commercial lines", Pargal said. Despite corporatization, utility boards remain government-dominated and interference in operations is common.

And the operating environment has not pushed distribution utilities to improve: regulators lack capacity and do not hold distributors accountable for poor performance. Moreover, repeated bailouts have freed these utilities from the pressure to deliver.

A key factor outside the distributors' control is that they are not fully reimbursed for the high costs of setting up rural power lines and supplying below-cost power to farmers and rural users. Although distributors are mandated to do this by the government, there is often a large gap between the payments due to them from the state and the amount they actually receive.

The growing cost of buying power from generating companies also adds to distributors' losses. Inefficiencies in coal production and transportation – on which sixty percent of India's power generation depends - have led to a sharp rise in the use of imported coal, which is 2 to 3 times more expensive than the domestic variety. Moreover, extensive bank borrowings to meet financial shortfalls have burdened utilities with soaring interest costs.

What can be done? "Power is a very sensitive issue and it is tough to build consensus around reforms," Pargal said. "We therefore lay out a menu of options for the government to consider."

Some key questions need to be addressed: How do we see the sector going forward? Is competition one of the answers? How do we bring accountability to the regulatory authorities? And importantly, what is the best way to bring power to rural consumers?

Since further in-depth analysis will be required to arrive at possible answers, the authors call for better data collection and its greater use for planning, monitoring and management. "Otherwise you can't get a sense of the size of the problem – or know whether you are making any headway in solving it or not," Banerjee said.

Announcements

Announcement of Award for " Contributing to Energy Saving: Recognition to

UNDP".

Further details are available at:

http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/presscenter/articles/2014/06/28/contribu ting-to-energy-saving-recognition-to-undp/.



S.N. Srinivas, Programme Officer with UNDP India has been awarded the Hitech's 2014 India's Leading Energy Saving Expert Award for his contribution to **energy saving in the steel sector**.

The Award was presented by HITEC India, a non-profit organization that aims to promote IT solutions, next generation networks and enabled services to India. The Awards recognize

experts across industrial sectors that have made a significant contribution to using technologies to address the complex problems facing industry and Government in India.

Dr. Srinivas's Award recognizes his contribution through a UNDP and Ministry of Steel partnership to catalyze power savings in the steel sector and expand energy efficient technologies to other sectors.

Small-scale steel re-rolling mills produce 65 percent of long steel products in India which is the world's fourth largest producer of steel.

Typically associated with high levels of pollution and inefficient resource use, these units consume one percent of energy consumed in India. The partnership has demonstrated that units which have adopted a series of measures to improve energy efficiency can save energy costs by 25-30 percent and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent and has now been scaled up to 300 units across the country.

Engaging Youth for building Green Cities: Contests and Collection of Case Studies.

The last date for submission of the jingle, logo or case study is Sunday, 3rd August, 2014.

Entries may be submitted to <u>greencities14@gmail.com</u> or by post to Banglanatak dot com, 58/114, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata-700045.

<u>www.banglanatak.com</u> is partnering with Earth Day Network for mobilising school children to take positive action towards better city environment.

300 children from 11 schools in New Delhi, Jaipur and Kolkata have been trained in using art and theatre to convey the need to have a positive action towards the issues of climate change and they have put up street theatre shows in their neighbourhoods.

They are also taking actions like planting trees, learning about recycling, building awareness to stop littering etc.

A brief note on the project supported by the US Department of State is available at: <u>ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res_info_11071401.pdf</u>.

We are looking for **jingle**s on the theme 'Young Champions for Green Cities' (Time limit: 1 minute)

We are looking for **logos** on the theme 'Young Champions for Green Cities'

We are also collecting **case studies** and stories of concrete action by youth for combating climate change. The write ups should be around 500 words and may include one or two illustrative photos.

The contest is open to all young people (age limit 30 years).

The entries will have to be accompanied by a self-certification confirming original work and an age proof.

Earth Day Network and <u>www.banglanatak.com</u> will be free to use the submissions in youth led campaigns in future.

We are organizing Forums for networking of youth with stakeholders in city environment in Kolkata, Delhi and Jaipur in August/September. The e-compilation of selected studies will be shared in these forums.

The last date for submission of the jingle, logo or case study is **Sunday, 3rd August, 2014.**

207 cities identify climate change risks: CDP report reveals extent to which cities are concerned about the impacts of climate change

The article can be downloaded at: <u>http://www.rtcc.org/2014/07/10/207-cities-identify-climate-change-risks/</u>.

It is heartening to know that now over 200 cities worldwide are now actively reporting their climate risks.

Hitachi and Lite-On Technology identified frequent and intense rainfall as an extremely serious risk to doing business in Bangkok

A report released today by the London-based carbon reporting NGO CDP said that a 100% increase on the number of cities reporting on climate adaptation activities last year, indicating the seriousness with which local governments are approaching the dangers posed by rising sea levels, heat waves and resource scarcity.

Cities reporting on their vulnerability to climate change include London, Moscow and Johannesburg. "Local governments are storming ahead to protect their citizens and businesses from the impacts of climate change, but further collaboration with business is needed to increase city resilience," said Larissa Bulla, head of CDP's cities program. "Through the provision of information, policies and incentives, cities can help equip businesses to manage these risks and embrace the opportunities."

CDP Cities are an important battleground for climate change action, as they generate more than 80% of the global GDP and consume more than two thirds of the world's energy.

Currently, around 3.5 billion people across the world live in cities, and this is increasing. The director of the UN's Human Settlement Program recently predicted that this could grow by a further 3 billion by 2050.

Of the cities surveyed, 76% believed that climate change was a threat to business. The most serious problems they anticipated included damage to property and capital, impacts on the residents and employees, availability of raw materials, and the capacity of city infrastructure to deal with the changes.

Overall, the cities predicted that US\$ 4trillion in assets could be at risk from climate change by 2030.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has invited mayors to take part in his landmark climate summit in New York in September in order to catalyse climate action at a municipal level.

Renewable Energies for Developing Countries: Environmental Necessity – Economic Opportunity

Presented by <u>CIFAL Scotland</u>, UNITAR, University of Strathclyde in partnership with the Scottish Government; **8 September to 27 October 2014 ; Register your place** <u>HERE</u>

"Sustainable energy—energy that is accessible, cleaner and more efficient—powers opportunity. It grows economies. It lights up homes, schools and hospitals. It empowers women and local communities. And it paves a path out of poverty to greater prosperity for all." (UN Sustainable Energy for All)

This on-line programme will give a comprehensive overview of renewable energy as a means to enable sustainable development and explore how renewable energies represent at the same time an environmental necessity but also an economic opportunity for developing countries.

The course aims to enhance the capacity of local decision makers, energy/sustainable development officers and other personnel, from Africa, Latin America, Caribbean, South-East Asia and Pacific regions, to make an informed decision on which renewable energy technologies will meet their own needs or the needs of their countries, communities, villages or neighborhoods. It aims to provide an overview of clean, secure and sustainable technology options for the development and offer insights into the management of renewable energy projects, from small scale, through to major projects. The course is aimed at those in the business, non-profit, public and academic sectors who wish to install renewable energy systems in urban and rural settings or simply make their contribution to reducing carbon emissions through energy efficiency and use of sustainable energy sources.

Methodology

Learning activities are based on UNITAR's sound adult learning pedagogical principles. They include, among others, readings, a case study to apply knowledge practically, quizzes and online group discussions. They are distributed in such a way to ensure the achievement of the learning objectives in a flexible manner: learning materials can indeed be consulted in a non-linear way so as to provide participants with a high degree of flexibility in choosing the learning pace that is the most adequate to them. Recognized experts from the University of Strathclyde will moderate the course.

Course Outline

Module 1: The Role of Energy in Society Module 2: Selecting a Sustainable Energy Solution Module 3: Elements of a Sustainable Energy Solution Module 4: Solar Energy and its Applications Module 5: Wind Module 6: Marine and Hydro Module 7: The Role of the Public and Private Sectors in Ensuring the Development of Low Carbon Energy Solutions

For more information contact: <u>e-learning@cifalscotland.org</u>

Full information about the course is available at <u>here</u> and in the course flyer. **Deadline for** registration is 1 September 2014.

Intergovernmental panel report: Asia faces 3 climate change risks

The article can be downloaded at: <u>http://www.interaksyon.com/article/91013/intergovernmental-panel-report-asia-faces-3-climate-change-risks</u>.

A world where climate is changing the way it is presently doing poses three main risks for Asia, according to the scientists who studied impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability for the 5th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report (AR5), which was presented at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City on Wednesday.

At the same time, government leaders to whom the report is targeted have an opportunity to minimize the impacts of these risks, the scientists say.

Risk 1: Increased riverside, coastal, and urban flooding leading to widespread damage to infrastructure, livelihoods, and settlements. The first risk is driven by extreme precipitation, damaging cyclones, and sea level rise. Government leaders can reduce their constituents' exposure to this risk through effective land use planning and selective relocation of at-risk populations, among others. They can also exert efforts to reduce the vulnerability of lifeline infrastructure and services, such as water, energy, waste management, food, biomass, mobility, local ecosystems, and telecommunications. Another thing they can look at is the construction of monitoring and early warning systems, as well as measures to identify areas exposed to these risks, help vulnerable areas and households to adapt or cope, and diversify livelihoods.

Risk 2: Increased heat-related deaths. The second risk includes warming trends and extreme temperature. Government leaders can look into heat health warning systems. They can also strengthen urban planning in order to reduce heat islands, or areas which are much hotter than their neighbors. They can improve what has already been built, and develop sustainable cities, explore new work practices to avoid heat stress among outdoor workers, as well.

Risk 3: Increased drought-related water and food shortage, causing malnutrition. The third risk is driven by warming trends, extreme temperature, and drying trends. Government leaders can focus on disaster preparedness, which includes early-warning systems and local coping strategies. They can also go into adaptive/integrated water resource management, strengthening water infrastructure and reservoir development. They can diversify water sources as well, and consider reusing water and using water more efficiently by improving agricultural practices and managing irrigation, among others.

Meanwhile, one of the Filipino volunteer scientists for IPCC, Dr. Rodel Lasco, said that many regions in Asia would experience a decline in food productivity as higher temperatures lead to

lower rice yields. Lasco pointed out that there are a number of Asian regions already approaching the heat stress limits for rice.

Sea level rise would also inundate low-lying areas, and affect rice-growing regions. While it may be likely that the Philippines could experience fewer or unchanged number of tropical cyclones over the 21st century, their intensity (or the maximum wind speed and rainfall rates) is likely to increase.

"Preparation for extreme tropical cyclone events through improved governance and development provides an avenue for building resilience to longer term changes associated with climate change," he said.

5 ways to tackle climate change and advance food security

The article can be downloaded at: http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=38347&a=email&utm_source=pw_email

Tom Klotzbach recommends taking a 'no regrets' approach to climate change when working with smallholders.

The five essential pieces of advice he offers are:

- Promote good agricultural practices to increase incomes.
- Implement adaptation methods that reduce loss risk from extreme weather events.
- Incorporate a whole-farm integrated crop management approach.
- Support research, development and adoption of new varieties
- Expand capacity in remote weather stations, disease modelling and index insurance systems

Tom Klotzbach is a primary contributor to Fintrac's methodological field approach and has designed numerous multi-year agricultural development programs worldwide.

He is the recent author of a white paper on reducing smallholder vulnerabilities to climate change, and original architect of the Fintrac M&E system, which is cited by donors as a model for measuring the impact of new technologies on food security and smallholder income generation.

Team Shunya -(a team of students from IIT Bombay and Rachana Sansad's Academy of Architecture) is the first Indian team in the Finals of the Solar Decathlon 2014 in Europe.

The Solar Decathlon is an international competition that challenges 20 collegiate teams from across the world to design, build and operate the most attractive, effective and energy-efficient solar-powered house(700 sq ft. fully livable and furnished house).

Team Shunya in Versailles has worked hard over the last few weeks and built the house H naught.

Please see photos of the house and the team: <u>http://tinyurl.com/q9ktp23</u>

For updates: <u>https://www.facebook.com/SDE2014Shunya?fref=nf</u>

TERI and USGBC join forces to promote high performance buildings in India

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) today announced a strategic collaboration to accelerate the development of high performance buildings in India and Southeast Asia.

Developing a sustainable approach to the built environment is not only a global issue, but also a major concern for developing countries. TERI's GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) and USGBC's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) have partnered to promote the best of global and Indian practices to ensure efficiency of design, construction and operation of high performance buildings. GRIHA has created locally relevant and technologically advanced mechanisms, which is crucial in regionalizing LEED in India and Southeast Asia.

Speaking at the event, Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director-General, TERI, said:

"Implementing a more sustainable approach to the built environment is a global imperative, but nowhere is its impact more critical than in developing countries. This partnership between USGBC and TERI promises to take green buildings to the next level in India and across Southeast Asia," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, and U.S. Green Building Council. "India is already the third largest market for LEED outside the U.S., and USGBC is committed to bringing our resources to advance more rapid adoption of green building practices."

The partnership will focus on two key initiatives:

1. Existing buildings: The GRIHA Council implementing and supporting the LEED for Existing Buildings rating system and the LEED Dynamic Plaque for Indian and Southeast Asian markets.

2. New buildings: Offering seamless pathways for dual ratings for new buildings: GRIHA projects will have the opportunity to earn LEED certification and LEED buildings will have the opportunity to earn GRIHA certification.

The partnership comes on the heels of last month's announcement from USGBC regarding its expansion of support for LEED in India. USGBC has also established a LEED customer service hub in India that will help accelerate the adoption of LEED in India. The LEED hub is a local technical, market, certification and customer support center for LEED project teams. Additionally, in an effort to continue strengthening the global consistency and review quality of the LEED rating system, the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) now manages certification of projects to all LEED rating systems in India. The LEED hub, USGBC's renewed commitment to India, along with the strategic partnership with TERI, will add significant capacity in the market, encouraging even greater adoption of green standards across more populations in the region.

LEED v4, offered by USGBC and SVA GRIHA, GRIHA LD, which is offered by The GRIHA Council, will continue to co-exist and be promoted by the respective bodies.

"Ecological footprint" has become a common term, right along "Googling" and "selfie."

That's according to Laura Jane Martin, a *Scientific American* guest blogger and National Science Foundation graduate fellow at Cornell University. We are encouraged to receive confirmation that the concept which is the very <u>foundation of our work</u> has evolved from obscurity to common knowledge over the eleven years of our existence.

Our progress isn't limited to awareness within the popular and scientific press. In fact, we are thrilled to announce that we've made significant headway in the financial world. Since launching our <u>Environmental Risk in Sovereign Credits (E-RISC)</u> report with the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative in November 2012, **discourse about the impact of resource constraints on national economies has been finding a wider audience.** You can read this <u>executive perspective</u> by Global Footprint Network CEO Susan Burns on financial news agency **Thomson Reuters' website to learn more.**

We have been moving and the finance industry has been moving with us. Rating agency <u>Standard & Poor's</u> made history last month when it **published the very first** <u>report</u> to forecast the impact that climate change could have on nations' creditworthiness. We couldn't be happier about what we consider to be a clear signal of the credit rating agency's acceptance that environmental risks may have a material impact on sovereign credit risk.

The July edition of the *Emissions Reduction Fund Update* is now available at www.environment.gov.au/resource/emissions-reduction-fund-update.

This newsletter provides regular updates on the implementation of the Emissions Reduction Fund, the centrepiece of the Australian Government's Direct Action Plan.

IN THIS EDITION

- Emissions Reduction Fund legislation in Parliament
- Businesses can begin their projects from 1 July 2014
- Consultation on draft Carbon Abatement contract
- Work on Emissions Reduction Fund methods is progressing through technical working groups
- Consultation survey under way
- 2014 Banksia Sustainability Awards now open for nominations

Making progress under the 'SUNYA - Towards zero waste in South Asia' project

Progressing under the <u>SUNYA – Towards zero waste in South Asia</u>' project, Ward no. 23 of R.S. Puram in Coimbatore, India, has now become a bin-free ward, through the adoption of a number of measures which included door to door collection of segregated waste, home composting and management of recyclables. As a result, all 89 garbage bins have been removed within the ward since they are no longer required.

The ward is a perfect example of community engagement and the role this plays in improving a city. A major share of the credit also goes to the sanitary workers of the Corporation, who have been trained for a better understanding about source segregation and collection. People's participation, capacity building and an efficient civic body make Ward no. 23 an example for many. <u>Read more</u>.

Another SUNYA partner city and ICLEI member, Hetauda was declared the cleanest city of Nepal for 2014 by the Solid Waste Management Technical Support Centre under the Ministry of Urban

Development, Nepal. The municipality was honored with a cash prize and a Letter of Appreciation during a programme organised in Lalitpur to announce the Cleanest City 2014.

"Hetauda is proud to have won the award for 'the cleanest city of Nepal' and to be linked with the SUNYA project, which has contributed a lot towards our city winning this award. The project has motivated us to start source segregation by color based bins (green bins for organic, blue bins for recyclable and red bins for chemical/hazardous waste materials) and making our city adopt a more sustainable approach to waste", said a proud Pashupati Babu Puri, Executive Officer of the municipality. Read more.

An adaptation primer dedicated to local governments in Asia

Local governments in Asia and elsewhere are increasingly realising that climate change is happening and adds another layer of complex challenges to their local sustainable development agenda. Clearly, the impacts of climate change - in combination with population growth, rapid urbanisation, increasing informal settlements and high economic inequality - are stretching the limits of urban infrastructure and systems, and jeopardise the provision of basic services to all citizens, especially to the urban poor. The 'Local governments championing adaptation to climate change - A primer for decision-makers in Asian cities' deals with the challenge of governance and management in cities in times of climate change, thus addressing a key actor in climate adaptation: local governments.

This publication has been produced in the context of <u>AsianCitiesAdapt - Impacts of Climate</u> <u>Change in Target Cities in India and the Philippines and Local Adaptation Strategies</u>' (2010-2013). The project brought together science and policy in order to support local governments in their adaptation efforts. <u>Read more</u>

ASAPP Media's SM@RT CITIES SUMMIT 2014 from 22-23 August, 2014 at Mumbai

By 2030, 70% of the country's population will be living in cities, as against 30% today. This implies tremendous pressure on government and local authorities to meet demands for already strained infrastructure.

Indian cities need to 'build smart and fast' to support the influx of population. Ministry of urban development has announced plans to build 100 smart cities in IndiaSmart Developers, contractors and vendors thus now identify the potential of smart cities sector and are focusing their attention on this fast emerging area of opportunity.

ASAPP Media's SM@RT CITIES SUMMIT 2014 from 22-23 August, 2014 at Mumbai will bring together key stakeholders as successful development of a smart city requires integrated effort of government, developers, vendors and technology providers.

Topics of discussion:

- What are smart cities?
- Smart Energy
- Urban planning
- Safety & Security
- Smart Buildings
- Smart Governance
- Smart Mobility

- Economic development & Employability
- Smart Utilities

Chief attractions:

- 50+ speakers international and national smart city experts
- 300+ delegates top government officials, CEOs and senior business leaders
- 11 high-powered sessions
- 8 B-2-B networking sessions
- International case studies like Songdo City, BCA, Singapore, Masdar City, Dubai etc.
- Project presentations by 20 private sector builders developing smart townships

Contact:

1. Prashant Gurav Email: <u>Prashant@ASAPPmedia.com</u> Tel: +91 98190 11033

2. Viral Bhatt Email: <u>Viral@ASAPPmedia.com</u> Tel: +91 82917 42394

Further details are available at: <u>www.SmartCitiesSummit.in</u>

The latest briefing note from IISD, provides a quick synopsis of fuel subsidy-related policy in India. The July issue is available at: <u>http://www.iisd.org/gsi/news/india-energy-subsidy-briefing-july-2014</u>

Developments highlighted in this issue:

- The new Indian government led by Narendra Modi has continued to gradually increase diesel prices; a practice initiated by the previous government
- The government is reportedly considering gradual increases to subsidised LPG prices based on the model currently used for diesel price increases
- A proposed new pricing formula for domestically produced natural gas prices has been shelved for three months while the new government evaluates its options
- Delhi has banned the sale of kerosene as it seeks to make the state "kerosene free"

INVITATION: Discussion on the science of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) and its implications for India. It will be held on August 6th 2014 at the India Habitat Centre (IHC), Silver Oak Hall, New Delhi, from 9.00 AM - 5:00 PM.

This event is organized by the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), TERI and the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD), in partnership with the Ministry of Earth Sciences and supported by the IPCC, to give you the chance to ask questions directly to IPCC authors. It will be held on August 6th 2014 at the India Habitat Centre (IHC), Silver Oak Hall, New Delhi, from 9.00 - 17:00 hours.

Hon'ble Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Hon'ble Minister Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister for Earth Sciences are expected to give the key-note addresses in response to the findings of the AR5 (invited, to be confirmed). They will be joined by senior officials and civil society from different states and sectors in India, including Dr Ashok Khosla, Founder and Chairman of Development Alternatives, Dr Rana Kapoor, Founder, Managing Director & CEO, Yes Bank, Ms Seema Jain, Secretary, Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Punjab, and Dr Pachauri, Director General, TERI and Chairman, IPCC.

Please participate in this high-profile event on the implications of the AR5 for a stronger, more inclusive India.

Please RSVP to <u>bamrara@teri.res.in</u> to secure your place as space is limited at the venue. There is a small budget available to support the travel of a few non-Delhi participants, so please also indicate if this is required. This will be available on a first come first serve basis.

Please also read CDKN's summary report **'What's in it for South Asia'** which presents key findings from the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) for South Asia. The report extracts South Asia-specific data, trends and analysis directly from AR5, summarising it in a short volume to make it accessible to all audiences, and highlights key opportunities to achieve adaptation, mitigation and development. The summary report is available at: <u>http://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/CDKN-IPCC-Whats-in-it-for-South-Asia-AR5.pdf</u>

ThinktoSustain.com - a market-space for ideas...

Climate Change Newsletter | July 2014 Issue

URL: http://news.thinktosustain.com/newsletter/climate-change-newsletter-47.html

Corporate Sustainability Newsletter | June 2014 Issue URL: http://news.thinktosustain.com/newsletter/corporate-sustainability-newsletter-40.html

Budget 2014: A water perspective

The 2014 Union Budget is being hailed as both challenging and decisive. Various important water issues such as rivers, watershed and safe drinking water have been addressed, money earmarked and plans and programmes announced.

The Rail Budget has a water angle to it too. It has stressed on bio toilets, cleaner stations and sufficient water supply, a move that commuters look forward to. Reverse Osmosis (RO) units are to be set up in stations and trains on an experimental basis. As both a green initiative as well as something with a human rights angle, there is a plan to replace existing toilets with bio toilets by the end of 2021-22 in order to eliminate direct discharge of human waste on the railway tracks, which requires manual scavengers to clean.

Other water aspects of the Union Budget 2014:

Safe Drinking Water

Budget inlay: It is proposed to earmark Rs 3,600 crore under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme for providing safe drinking water in approximately 20,000 habitations affected with arsenic, fluoride, heavy/toxic elements, pesticides/ fertilizers through community water purification plants in next 3 years.

Last year's budget set aside a Rs. 1,400 crore provision for the setting up of water purification plants in 2000 arsenic and 12000 fluoride-affected rural habitations but the bigger question is not just about the allocation but about its judicious utilisation.

As Sunderrajan of the Flouride Knowledge and Action Network says, "While it is very good that a substantial expenditure estimate is made for 'community water purification plants', we need to

pause and take a look at the experiences of implementing these plants in the country for the past 30 years. Barring a few exceptions, all such plants are lying idle beyond the period of 3 years of the maintenance contract. What is different about what we are proposing here? Would this money too not go down the drain"?

Watershed Development

Budget inlay: To give an added impetus to watershed development in the country, a new programme called 'Neeranchal' has been proposed with an initial outlay of Rs 2,142 crores in the current financial year.

About 55% of our agriculture and nearly half of our food crop area is rain-fed. For farmers, rains are essential for survival, and their delay or deficiency can lead to a huge crop output reduction or even total crop failure. A reformed watershed programme can enhance the food production growth in the country. The additional budget for this will supplement and strengthen the existing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) that aims to restore the ecological balance in all states across the country except Goa. The 'Neeranchal' programme focusses and supports IWMP activities in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tellangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.

M.V. Ramachandrudu, WASSAN, elaborates," The money is to be utilised for building strengthening tools that will include groundwater initiatives, capacity building , project management tools and path breaking innovations".

In the past, it has been observed that the progress has been slow in some states. Many a time, the state government has been unable to spend the complete budget allocated to them. "What will be effective is a phased approach, not just a large budget", adds Ramchandrudu. "The move, though creditable, needs more creativity and better expertise, and the government would profit by engaging an effective partnership with the civil society and through better human resource deployment".

Inland Navigation

Budget inlay: A project on the river Ganga called 'Jal Marg Vikas' (National Waterways-I) will be developed, to be completed over a period of six years at an estimated cost of Rs 4,200 crore.

The existing National Waterways I was established in 1986, but increased silt deposition in the Ganges riverbed, has reduced its depth and made the existing waterway non navigational. Since cargo transportation is cheaper than rail, this navigation plan is expected to help traders and bring about development in the area as well.

The waterway route will begin at Allahabad (UP), and end at Haldia (West Bengal), through Patna (Bihar), cover a distance of 1620 km, and enable commercial navigation of at least 1500 tonne vessels.

Shripad Dharmadhikary of Manthan Adhyayan Kendra, agrees that inland navigation can be an important part of the transport and connectivity for many parts of the country. However, the integrity of the river and river systems must be maintained, and any attempt to improve and modernise navigation must include smaller vessels and local boats, which have traditionally used the river.

This proposal will also lead to the construction of barrages across the river, more traffic and possibly increased pollution levels. As Shripad asserts, "There has been talk of building barrages every 100 kms on the Ganga. This could have many serious side effects. It must not be put in place before a comprehensive impact assessment is made in a credible, transparent and

participatory manner".

Linking of Rivers

Budget inlay: Rivers form the lifeline of our country. They provide water not only for producing food for the multitudes but also for drinking. An effort to link the rivers can give rich dividends to the country. It is time that we made a serious effort to move in this direction. To expedite the preparation of the Detailed Project Reports, I propose to set aside a sum of Rs. 100 crore.

Interlinking of rivers follows a simple philosophy of water transfer from a surplus basin to a deficit one. This 'surplus' is estimated only on the basis of irrigation, water supply and hydro power needs and not on the needs of the river, ecology, community and livelihoods.

But rivers are not simply conduits of water, but thriving, living, ecological entities.

Even though river interlinking is expected to solve flooding and water scarcity problems, generate power, provide water for irrigation, and reduce our import demand for food grain, its obvious downside are loss of fertile land, social unrest, displacement and rehabilitation of people, high energy requirement, and other ecological impacts.

Indukanth Ragade says, "Linking of rivers is a dangerous line of action. It is actually playing with fire when better alternatives are available". Alternatives such as rainwater harvesting (RWH) and recharging groundwater resources, if we are thinking of a more sustainable and ecological solution.

He further comments, "One must realise that rivers are fed by rain, and when water is drawn from rivers for agriculture/drinking or other needs, the methodology is basically RWH at the macro level. If the government actively encourages RWH at the micro level, a great majority of our urban citizens will become substantially self-reliant in water and the load on the government to supply piped water will considerably reduce."

Sacred Rivers

Budget inlay: A proposal to set up Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission called 'Namami Gange' and set aside a sum of Rs 2,037 crores for this purpose.

The first Ganga Action Plan was announced in 1986, and since then over Rs. 20,000 crore of tax payers money has been spent on various clean-up projects. As per government estimates, about 2,900 million litres of sewage is discharged every day into the Ganga from municipal towns located along its banks.

As per the 2013 Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report, about 55% of sewage dumped along the Ganga's main canal is untreated; the unofficial figure is higher at 80%. The government needs to think beyond STPs and work on ensuring the environmental flow of the river, if we want to keep it clean and alive.

Swami Dayanand of Matri Sadan, says that simply allocating huge amounts of money for a 'Clean Ganga' is not the answer. He clarifies, "Ganga can only be 'aviral & nirmal' if no sewage, whether raw or treated, is allowed to be dumped into the river. For this, the STPs along the course of the sacred river must be shifted and their treated effluent redirected to farmers for irrigation. Atleast 50% of the river water must be allowed to flow freely, if we are to even think of a clean Ganga".

Development of Ghats and beautification of riverfront

Budget inlay: A proposal to set aside a sum of Rs 100 crore for Ghat development and beautification of the riverfront at Kedarnath, Haridwar, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Patna and

Delhi.

Clean, sparkling and well kept ghats will be a welcome change for all who come to the rivers but for that to happen, the river too needs to be clean all the way from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar, and not just the stretch of the ghats.

K. G. Vyas, Former Advisor, Rajiv Gandhi Watershed Mission, says, "Ghats should be designed and developed for safety and convenience of people coming to the river. Beautification is desirable and funds should come from Sansad Nidhi, MLA nidhi, Corporate Social Responsibility funds, donations and local bodies".

Shripad however cautions against the Sabarmati riverfront being projected as a role model. "The Sabarmati project has involved many problematic things. It displaced the river side population, whereas riverfront beautification should be first and foremost for the local communities and must involve them".

He further adds that the Sabarmati project essentially involved concretising and channelising sections of the river, something that is against the principles of preserving the integrity of a river. He hopes that the riverfront development does not take place in a manner that is exclusive, elitist and against the conservation of the natural character of the river.

Education & sanitation

Budget inlay: Government would strive to provide toilets and drinking water in all the girls school in the first phase.

Lack of access to toilets results in girl children dropping out of school.Lack of access to toilets results in girl children dropping out of school.

In rural government schools, the percentage of girls who attend school in the age group of 11-14 is about 4% lesser than those in the age group of 7-10. This number drops by a further 19.9% by the time they reach the 15-16 years age group. (ASER report, 2013).

Lack of functional toilets is thought to be a prime factor in keeping girls away from mainstream education, even though in 2011, the Supreme Court of India issued an order requiring that all schools meet the Right To Education (RTE) norms for girls' toilets by the end of the year.

Seema Kulkarni of SOPPECOM, emphasises on the gender specifics of toilets. "They need to be both usable and safe. Toilet design must keep in mind the menstrual hygiene requirement and safety aspects of women, so that these do not end up as spaces for sexual harassment".

Delhi reforms

Budget inlay: For NCT of Delhi it is proposed to provide Rs. 200 crore for power reforms and Rs. 500 crore for water reforms. In addition, to solve the long term water supply issues to the capital region, construction of long pending Renuka Dam would be taken up on priority. For this an initial sum of Rs. 50 crore has been provided.

The proposed Renuka Dam Project over the river Giri Ganga (a tributary of the Yamuna), is expected to meet a part of Delhi's water demands. Already, the capital city sources water from the Bhakra Nangal Project, Tehri Dam Project and directly from the Yamuna and Ganga. This project seems to be yet another step in quenching its increasing thirst.

Himanshu Thakkar, SANDRP, agrees. "Delhi does not need any more water from outside, it is already privileged with per capita water availability of over 250 lpcd, which is more than most

European cities". He clarifies that Delhi does nothing to improve its water woes and become self sufficent. Instead, "like a spoilt kid, asks more and more water from long distance sources".

"Is Renuka Dam the answer?", asks Dipak Dholakia. "No! It does not take into account the growth of population rendering the solution itself meaningless. The Renuka dam is to provide additional 275 mgd (million gallon per day) of water after 7 years by which time Delhi's population will have increased by another 5 to 6 million".

He further elaborates, "The water fetched from a far off place in Himachal Pradesh will be prone to leakage, seepage and pilferage problems increasing its cost in practical terms. The budget should have provided funds for rejuvenation of local water bodies, which could be achieved at a much lesser cost and would have created valuable assets. Moreover, it would have opened the way for decentralized water management involving the local people in a particular area".

The other aspect is of the local people who will be directly affected by this project. Puranchand Sharma, of Ma Renukaji Sangarsh Samiti, says,"What will be the benefit for the people who live here? We lose the river where our animals drink, we lose the trees and also lose our land".

He adds,"Disturbing the Himalayas will have an ecological consequence as seen in the Uttarakhand devastation last year. Are we ready to face it again"?

Conclusions:

The Union Budget 2014, seems to be a mixed vessel of new and old water. It has opened up new ideas and possibilities, but also managed to rehash old pending issues. While there is no questioning the funds allocation towards the various aspects of water, the lack of clarity on its intent and execution is questionable.

We are pleased to bring into your notice about Summer School in "Climate Change Adaptation: Knowledge, Practices and Policies" scheduled to organise in 18-23 August 2014 in Kathmandu. The Summer School aims to build in-depth knowledge and understanding about the main concepts, problems and challenges regarding climate change adaptation, policies and practices both in the wider framework of the global scenario and with specific reference to Nepal.

For further details please contact: Pragya Maharjan, International School of Advanced Studies (ISAS)

Dhobighat-Nayabato, Ringroad, Lalitpur, Nepal ; Phone: +977-5544970, 9849010626; email: <u>isasktm@gmail.com</u>

Awards

ICLEI member city Mumbai Scoops Global Sustainable City Project Award

The Gorai Garbage Site Closure Project in the city of Mumbai (India), ICLEI member since 2008, has become the winner of the City to City Barcelona FAD Award 2014. The prize is awarded by FAD (Fostering Arts and Design) and Barcelona City Hall, in order to recognise on an international scale any urban transformation processes experienced by a particular city anywhere in the world.

The award was given in the hope that this method of closure could, in the judge's words, become "a paradigm for many other of the planet's cities in successfully tackling three fundamental issues for the development of the contemporary city: management, renaturalization and productivity". In Mumbai, a new, more controlled and non-polluting way of managing waste generated now permits the authorities to focus on the city's periphery, where the Gorai landfill is located, as a place where recreational areas of natural beauty for residents may be constructed, in the understanding that the city is developing as an urban continuum beyond its supposed limits. The Gorai Garbage Site Closure project has converted a seriously deteriorated and polluted location, by containing and covering it with vegetation and collecting the off-gassing methane gas from the landfilled waste to burn in a turbine and generate electricity.

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 : <u>se-clmt@solutionexchange-un.net.in</u>

Disclaimer: In posting messages or incorporating these messages into synthesized responses, the UN accepts no responsibility for their veracity or authenticity. Members intending to use or transmit the information contained in these messages should be aware that they are relying on their own judgment.



Copyrighted under Creative Commons License "<u>Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0</u>". Re-users of this material must cite as their source Solution Exchange as well as the item's recommender, if relevant, and must share any derivative work with the Solution Exchange Community.



Solution Exchange is a UN initiative for development practitioners in India. For more information please visit <u>www.solutionexchange.net.in</u>