

National Workshop Proceedings 2018

Regional Policy Dialogues on

“Making Liveable Cities:
Challenges and Way Forward for India”

25th October, 2018



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Background: “Making Liveable Cities”

In order to address urban policy and planning at the global level, the United Nations (UN) has enlisted the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 to make cities and settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and the UN Conference Habitat III has adopted a New Urban Agenda to address the challenges of urbanisation and endeavour to achieve SDG 11. The Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) that recently concluded under the broad rubric of ‘Cities 2030, Cities for all’ identifies key enablers for urban transformation, such as strengthening local urban governance, building inclusive partnerships, encouraging innovative solutions, adopting integrated urban planning approach for sustainable development, and deploying monitoring and reporting mechanisms for effective policy making.

India is party to these global commitments and the AMRUT and the Smart Cities Mission have similar objectives. The basic aim of these schemes is to recast the urban landscape of the country to make urban areas liveable, sustainable, smart and inclusive while driving the economic growth of the country. However, the Missions are intended to enable around 500 cities to become sustainable and India has almost 8000 cities. So the question remains as to how the cities that are not in the favoured list of 500 develop a vision for their future to move towards a resilient and sustainable path. In this context, the Regional Policy Dialogues on ‘Making Liveable Cities’ were announced at the Thematic Track on the same theme at the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS), February 2018. The dialogues were organised by TERI at an opportune policy juncture with support from the Royal Embassy of Denmark, India, and International Urban Cooperation programme funded by the European Union, in different geographic regions in India.

The dialogues focused on ways and means for holistic and long-term urban planning in India, in line with the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. They had discussions on urban policy and planning frameworks and empowering local urban governance for making liveable cities, as well as promoting urban innovation, having effective financial and implementation mechanisms and strengthening partnerships. The National Workshop on 25th October, 2018, in New Delhi was the concluding and culmination event of the Regional Policy Dialogues series.

The objectives of the policy dialogues were to:

- Understand the implications of SDG11, New Urban Agenda and Kuala Lumpur Declaration for Indian cities and discuss how the cities can aim to achieve and monitor progress on the goals and targets
- Recognize the challenges and enablers of making liveable cities and explore the extent of impact of sustainable urbanization processes in the existing urban missions
- Identify the potential partnership and implementation mechanisms in the context of making liveable cities that are smart, resilient and sustainable
- Promote the empowerment of Indian cities in terms of their policy mandate, institutional and financial support, and legal provisions
- Mainstream awareness about the sustainable urbanization processes and share knowledge between the national and city level and to other cities

National Workshop Proceedings 2018

(a) Inaugural Session

Setting the context - Overview of project activities and outcomes

Ms Raina Singh, Area Convenor, Centre for Urban Planning and Governance, TERI

The Inaugural Session of the workshop was opened by Ms. Singh setting the context about the activities, outcomes and recommendations of the Policy Dialogues. She welcomed the dignitaries on the dais and set the tone for the urbanisation scenario and the global and national initiatives undertaken for sustainable urban development for improving the liveability of cities and making them more inclusive. In light of these dialogues, she specified about the recent initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, in enhancing the living condition of people through launching of the 'Ease of Living Index' in 2018 and the rankings of 111 cities based on four pillars of liveability – social, economic, institutional and physical.

In this context, TERI had conceptualized the series of Regional Policy Dialogues that identified the key enablers and challenges of making liveable cities and a way forward for the same. The outcomes and recommendations from these Regional Dialogues are documented in the form of a National Policy Brief that was launched in this concluding event of the National Workshop on the same theme. The Dialogues had engaged more than 150 participants comprising of Municipal Commissioners, CEO of Smart City SPVs and experts from civic institutions, NGOs, research organisation, ULBs and other urban practitioners. The participants included experts who were actively implementing the urban development and infrastructure projects.

The focus areas of discussions included a) challenges, gaps and enablers for making liveable cities, b) implementation and financing mechanisms, c) institutional structures and capacity building and d) recommendations and way forward. The highest priority amongst the enablers of making liveable cities was to the Urban Policy and Planning framework and Strengthening Local Governance, followed by the Financial and Implementation mechanisms along with an overall priority being given to Strengthening Partnerships among cities, countries and public and private stakeholders within the cities.

The Regional Dialogues together identified the need of development of a National level Framework that would provide an integrated and long term approach to urban planning that would go beyond the infrastructure-driven approach to a 'people-centric approach', empowering urban local bodies and strengthening urban governance.

Role of European Union (EU) in strengthening partnerships and co-operation among cities

Ms. Henriette Faergemann, Counselor, Environment Energy & Climate Change, European Union Delegation in India

Ms. Faergemann highlighted the involvement of the European Union Programme in Climate Action and Sustainable Urban Development of Indian cities and the Policy

Dialogues in particular. She emphasized on the impending need of partnership and co-operation among countries, cities and different stakeholders within a city for the overall planning of the cities and enhancing the liveability of the people. India and other countries around the world are constantly engaged in several commitments to improve the living conditions in cities and mainstreaming sustainability in city planning and urban development through agreements, treaties and action plans.

On similar grounds there has been a continuous effort by European Union and India to turn these commitments into actionable points by strengthening partnerships amongst cities. Already two billion euros have been invested by the European Investment Bank for development projects related to urban planning, infrastructure development, climate and clean energy ventures. This was part of a framework agreed between the Prime Minister of India and the EU leaders in an Urbanization Summit in 2016 which majorly emphasized on integrated water management, roof-top solar policy and energy utilisation. The agreement was finalized for a) India-EU Climate Change partnership and b) India-EU Water Partnership.



Figure 1: Ms. Faergemann discussing about the partnerships efforts between European Union and India

She also focused on other partnership efforts between India and European Union for working towards holistic urban planning of Indian cities addressing the challenges and issues of different sectors, and their impact on city planning. These include a) EU-Mumbai partnership of 2013 on the governance of Megacities, b) Eco-cities programme

for low carbon growth and strategies for urban development and the c) India Air Quality Initiative to develop air quality management action plans as holistic approach for addressing and mitigating air pollution issues.

She concluded by stating that the International Urban Cooperation (IUC) is part of a global programme where the European Union is supporting the collaboration and partnership of cities across the globe on aspects related to sustainability, climate adaptation, urban transport and waste management, of which 12 collaborations have been formed with Indian cities.

Holistic urban planning and city-to-city partnership

H.E. The Ambassador Peter Taksoe-Jensen, the Royal Embassy of Denmark in India

In his special address, H.E. The Ambassador deliberated on the growing need of integrating sustainability and liveability aspects as part of the broad holistic planning and smart development of urban areas instead of exclusive emphasis on technological innovations for infrastructure development. The focus area needs to ensure better and efficient municipal service deliveries to the citizen and better accessibility of the same. The holistic planning of the cities should essentially encompass both - a) the 'bird's eye-view' of the urban planners and practitioners ensuring smooth operation and implementation of the city level infrastructure projects, along with b) 'people centric

approach' engaging citizens in identifying and prioritizing issues, decision making and overall governance. He even specified that this idea of 'holistic planning' and 'liveable cities' are well integrated with the objective of SDG 11 for cities.

Figure 2: H.E. The Ambassador elaborating on the importance of holistic urban planning

He also identified the key takeaways of the Regional Policy Dialogues and the prospective role of the Royal Embassy of Denmark in India in fulfilling and achieving these. These include - a) empowering local bodies and working towards institutional capacity building and strong governance structures, both at the national and sub-national level, b) strengthening partnerships between cities and stakeholders to empower ULBs, and c) developing national level framework for implementation and financing mechanism of policies and urban programs.



To this end, the Royal Embassy of Denmark in India had already entered into several partnership programmes with the government of India for city-to-city collaboration on knowledge sharing and capacity building of the city officials. Presently, the Embassy in partnership with the State Government of Goa would set up an Urban Lab as Centre of Excellence for identifying and addressing urban development challenges. The strengthening of city-to-city partnership and relations is also being achieved through signing of a MoU between City of Udaipur, India, and the City of Aarhus, Denmark, for knowledge sharing on best practices for promoting sustainable and liveable cities.

Working towards liveability and sustainable development of cities

Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India



Figure 3: Secretary, MoHUA, deliberating on smart urban development initiatives

In his inaugural address, Shri Mishra stressed upon the importance of smart urban development and elaborated on the idea that 'smartness indicates doing something more from less'. In line with this, the Secretary indicated the importance of efficient resource management, utilisation and better service deliveries from the ULBs to the

citizens which would guarantee and enhance 'liveability' in a city - an important aspect of smart urban development. He highlighted that innovative ideas of efficient utilisation of limited resources would be the driving forces in making the 100 Smart Cities of India as 'light house' models of development and economic growth.

Moreover, he deliberated on adopting a holistic approach for urban planning as an essential need for Indian cities whereby the aspirations of the people migrating from the surrounding rural areas to the cities should be given maximum priority. In the wake of rapid urbanisation in India, the surrounding peri-urban and the rural areas along with the urban core should be considered in totality for an integrated urban development that would help achieve an improved living condition of the people in the cities. He also stated that various Urban Missions launched in India since 2014 consider all these factors as part of their urban development agenda for making the cities more inclusive, resilient and liveable and that the country is moving quite fast in its urban agenda. He mentioned about Pune Smart City wherein the smart development initiatives undertaken as part of the Area Based Development of the pilot area are replicated city wide for the holistic development of the city. This model of development can be successfully followed in other Indian cities as well.

He concluded with stating about the National Urbanization Policy that is being prepared (which would soon be floated out for public consultation) with a similar objective of enhancing liveability in Indian cities and ensuring the benefits of urbanisation reach the citizens. Thus, urbanisation needs to be considered as an opportunity and not a liability.

Need for optimal utilisation of spaces in-between buildings

Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI

Dr. Mathur thanked the speakers on the dais and other dignitaries and participants of the workshop. He emphasized on empowering the local communities in making governance decisions that would help address the current urbanisation challenges, which in turn would impact the overall urban development of the cities. Of the many issues highlighted in the session, he stressed on identifying and developing new innovative solutions for resource utilisation, infrastructure development and governance; and optimal and sustainable utilisation of spaces 'in-between' buildings both from the mobility aspect and public space development. He concluded with the hope that these aspects are duly integrated in the holistic urban planning agenda of the Indian cities, and that this National Workshop would provide a suitable platform for bringing these ideas and approaches of 'people-centric' urban planning and governance together which may be included as part of the National Urbanization Policy being drafted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.



Figure 4: Distinguished speakers of the Inaugural Session releasing the Policy Brief document

(b) Technical Dialogue on “Challenges & Way Forward for Enhancing Liveability of Cities”

List of Speakers

Session Moderator: **Mr Anand Iyer**, Chief Project Manager, National Institute of Urban Affairs

Members of Panel:

- **Dr Hemant Kumar Badola**, Advisor, Chief Minister’s Office, Government of Sikkim
- **Shri Swayan Pal Chaudhuri**, CEO & MD, Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Corporation Limited, Panaji, and Mission Director-AMRUT, Goa



Figure 5: Discussion amongst panellists of Technical Dialogue Session 1

Moderator’s Remarks

The panel discussion steered by Mr. Iyer stressed upon the diverse urbanization issues and developmental challenges that both Goa and Sikkim face considering their varied terrains and environmental conditions. Both the panellists deliberated on the challenges of project management for incorporating sustainability as a major component in urban policy making. The panellists also provided insights based on their experience at the Regional Policy Dialogues in their respective states and provided recommendations for making liveable cities.

Key Remarks from Panellists

“Buildings we live in; and the biodiversity is the ethos of the living. If we are healthy, we are living better.” – Dr Badola.

Dr. Badola stated that only infrastructure development in cities will not be enough to achieve sustainability, as we need to live cohesively with the environment. He discussed various challenges of urbanization in the north-eastern region. The north-eastern region has boundaries which extend to the third highest peak of the world, Mount Khangchendzonga. He discussed about the geographical, socio-economic and climatic barriers to channelize sustainable development. He emphasised the importance of proactive governance, effective policies and strong political willingness along with timely implementation of planning and citizen engagement for success, citing the extra-ordinary initiatives on Green and Organic policies of Sikkim governance under the leadership of the Hon’ble Chief Minister. He also appreciated the efforts of the urban missions such as Swachh Bharat Mission and Smart Cities which focus on sustainable development; and highlighted that three basic scenarios of urbanization which are covered under the

missions - *existing cities, semi-urban* and *satellite/new townships* - need a situation review targeting aspects of congestion, climate change and in-migration for the next 50 years at least.

He further stated that Sikkim is receptive to different kinds of innovation in the urban sector with the core objective to urbanize along with integration of biodiversity, balanced environment, cleanliness and clean air. He also discussed about the importance of organic food and a pollution free environment which are crucial elements for sustainable urban development. The award 'Future Policy Gold Award' conferred to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim in October 2018, in Italy, by UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) further validated the significance the Government of Sikkim has provided to implementing organic practices for sustainable development. Dr. Badola highlighted the importance of giving special financial assistance by the central government to states such as Sikkim which are willing to adopt sustainable practices. However, institutional collaboration with cross-discipline expertise interventions is key for the progress of such initiatives. He concluded by stating that the Himalayan terrains differ from other areas due to their high vulnerability and need special consideration in modelling and designing infrastructures. Moreover, the political willingness needs to be addressed before bridging the gap between practice and theory.

"Today, we are trying to build a smart city focused on resource efficiency and are delivering more with little." – Shri Chaudhari

Mr Chaudhari addressed the moderator's queries by stating that perception is changing about development, and it is not just limited to infrastructure provision any longer, but it is more in line with achieving greater goals such as carbon neutrality. In the current scenario, infrastructure development is sustainable in nature and is complimentary to making liveable cities. On the question regarding achieving urban development with limited resources, Shri Chaudhari responded by stating that Goa is blessed with abundant resources with respect to sectors such as mining, ports, tourism etc. He concluded by elaborating that effective management of these resources is thus necessary and political willingness to deliver quality solutions with a people-centric approach is imperative to the decision-making process.

Discussion with the Audience

The questions by the audience were primarily directed towards key issues of solid waste management, mobility, safety, green environment, hazard management and social inclusion of vulnerable sections. To this end, the panellists discussed about the key initiatives taken by their states to address these issues. For instance, Dr. Badola highlighted that Sikkim is a single use plastic free state and the entire north-eastern region is focused towards women safety and women empowerment. In terms of space for mobility, he mentioned that land is constrained in the Himalayan region, and it is important to come up with innovative and carbon neutral solutions, such as cable cars, walk-ways, accelerator, etc for transport, to have sustainable mobility. In highlighting the initiatives by the state of Goa, Shri Chaudhari discussed about the smart city projects which are extensively aligned towards creating walkable and safe spaces in Panaji. He also gave the example of the famous Mangrove walkway developed under the Smart City Mission.

(c) Technical Dialogue on “Partnerships for Enhancing Liveability”

List of Speakers

Session Moderator: **Mr Panagiotis Karamanos**, Team Leader, International Urban Cooperation/India

Members of Panel:

- **Ms Kamilla Kristensen Rai**, Counsellor, Urban Development, the Royal Embassy of Denmark, New Delhi
- **Mr Hitesh Vaidya**, Country Manager, UN-Habitat, India
- **Dr G N Qasba**, Senior Advisor, IRADe and Former Municipal Commissioner, Srinagar



Figure 6: Panellists of Technical Dialogue Session 2 addressing questions by the audience

Moderator’s Remarks

Mr. Karamanos provided a brief overview by highlighting the importance and definition of partnerships. He defined partnership as an arrangement between two organisations or parties in order to advance their mutual interest. Organisations may partner to increase their livelihood opportunities and amplify their reach. In a partnership, each organisation may collaborate to contribute and go beyond what they can achieve solely by themselves. He also defined liveability as creating a space that is suitable for living and is comfortable. The discussions were steered around defining the concept of liveability based on the perspectives of the panellists. Post the deliberations, the session was wrapped up on the note that liveability should consist of inclusivity, be equality based, and provide a happy life for citizens in urban areas.

Key Remarks from Panellists

Ms. Rai began with briefly elaborating upon the Policy Dialogues which were initiated at WSDS 2018 which was followed by the regional dialogues held in the western, southern, and eastern & north-eastern regions of India. She described about the activities of the Royal Embassy of Denmark and their partnerships for enhancing liveability. She explained the importance and role of partnerships by providing the example of the partnership on urban water management between the city of Udaipur, India, and Aarhus, Denmark. This partnership is being implemented under the strategic sector collaboration under Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is a municipality-to-municipality partnership for the next three years.

Ms. Rai then defined the parameters for and the relevance of partnerships in cities. The UN SDG 17 discusses relevance of partnership and states the necessity of strengthening global partnerships for sustainable development. It also discusses benefits of bringing governments together with the private sector and communities. There can be various kinds of partnerships – a financial partnership which deals with resource management, tax management, etc.; it could be a partnership focusing on technology-based solutions; or a systematic partnership which is focused on governance and institutional setup. Partnerships, national or international, are thus defined based on mutual interest and shared values and principles.

Mr. Vaidya initiated by stating the broad objectives of the UN to achieve sustainable development and liveability which are knowledge-sharing, building capacity, and developing contextualise products for each country so that learning process takes place. Partnership is majorly about learning from each other and exchanging knowledge. All international agreements and the urban agenda collectively focus on partnerships and knowledge-sharing. He further stated the relevance of urban planning and policy making in order to achieve sustainable development. Partnerships cannot happen in isolation, and enabling frameworks are required for them to flourish. Partnerships need to take place at different levels, from centre to state, from city to state, and within the city, to be implemented effectively. He also mentioned that in order to have active and flourishing partnerships, strong advocacy for knowledge sharing and capacity building, citizen engagement in planning process, and evidence-based decision making is required. He concluded by stating that liveability is a journey which needs to be developed through various approaches.

Dr. Qasba addressed the session by stating that urban areas are facing mobility issues and require mass rapid transit systems in order to attain liveability. Developing effective communication systems are also very crucial in disaster management processes and to build resilient cities. Along with communication, safety is another crucial parameter for liveability. To enhance liveability of the city, it is also important to have an orientation and focus of policies towards the vulnerable section of the cities. Liveable cities should be developed for all the section of the society and leave no one behind as per the goals of the SDGs. He further stated that the urban programmes and missions in India should have a higher emphasis on enhancing partnerships for effective service delivery and implementation.

Discussion with the Audience

Through discussions with the audience, the speakers stated some recommendations to build strong partnerships in cities. It was mentioned that the decision to prioritize partnership should be taken up by the ULBs and it is important to involve and engage them in such decision-making processes. ULBs should be the core bodies for setting up of the priorities of the cities, and the state and central governments and communities should contribute to this process. In order to address needs and concerns from affected areas, capacity building of the ULBs is necessary to understand the types of partnerships required as well as how to sustain them. The prerequisites for developing effective partnerships are thus empowering the ULBs and correspondingly having evidence-based decision-making processes for implementation.

Agenda of National Workshop

25th October, 2018

   		
<p align="center">National Workshop on 'Making Liveable Cities: Challenges and Way Forward' Date: 25th October, 2018 Venue: Juniper, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi Time: 10.00 AM – 02.00 PM</p>		
10.00 am - 10.30 am	Registration	
10.30 am - 11.35 am	Inaugural Session	
10.30 am - 10.40 am	Welcome Remarks	Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI
10.40 am - 10.50 am	Setting the Context	Policy Dialogues on Making Liveable Cities: Project activities and outcomes - Ms. Raina Singh, Area Convenor, Centre for Urban Planning and Governance, TERI
10.50 am - 11.00 am	Special Address	Ms Henriette Faergemann, Counselor, Environment Energy & Climate Change, European Union Delegation to India
11.00 am - 11.10 am	Special Address	H.E. The Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen, the Royal Embassy of Denmark in India
11.10 am - 11.15 am	Release of Policy Brief	Release of the National Policy Brief document by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Royal Embassy of Denmark, IUC/EU and TERI
11.15 am - 11.30 am	Inaugural Address	Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India
11.30 am - 11.35 am	Vote of Thanks	Mr Sanjay Seth, Senior Director, Sustainable Habitat Program, TERI
11.35 am - 11.45 am	Tea	
11.45 am - 02.15 pm	Technical Dialogue on 'Making Liveable Cities: Challenges and Way Forward'	
11.45 am - 01.00 pm	Panel Discussion on Challenges & Way Forward for Enhancing Liveability of Cities	<p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr Anand Iyer, Chief Project Manager, National Institute of Urban Affairs</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Sreedhar Cherukuri, Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) - Shri Swayandipta Pal Chaudhuri, MD & CEO - Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd and Mission Director - AMRUT, Goa - Dr Hemant Kumar Badola, Advisor, Chief Minister's Office, Government of Sikkim
01.00 pm - 02.00 pm	Partnerships for Enhancing Liveability	<p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr Panagiotis Karamanos, Team Leader, International Urban Cooperation/India</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Kamilla Kristensen Rai, Counsellor, Urban Development, the Royal Embassy of Denmark, New Delhi - Mr Hitesh Vaidya, Country Manager, UN Habitat India - Dr G N Qasba, Senior Advisor IRADe and Former Municipal Commissioner, Srinagar
02.00 pm	Vote of Thanks	Ms. Raina Singh, Area Convenor, Centre for Urban Planning and Governance, TERI
	Lunch	

Speaker Profiles

a) Technical Dialogue Session 1 – Challenges & Way Forward for Enhancing Liveability of Cities

Moderator:

Mr Anand Iyer, Chief Project Manager, National Institute of Urban Affairs



Mr Anand Iyer is an architect & critical theorist by qualification. Over the last 20 years, he has worked with Government agencies (on Policy), Private Sector (on Strategy & Planning) and Academia (Academic Coordination, Design Teaching & Research) in addition to architectural firms. Mr Iyer is presently the Chief Project Manager, at the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi (an autonomous policy think-tank of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India), where he works in Programme Management, Organization growth & structuring and Research Development. His research interests lie in the Social, Political & Ideological perspectives that surround design; which he investigates through policy & legislation aspects in different topics under Sustainable Urban Development.

Panellists:

Shri Swayan Pal Chaudhuri, CEO & MD, Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Corporation Limited, Panaji



In his current capacity as the MD & CEO of Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL), the Smart City Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), he is entrusted with the responsibility of the implementation of the Smart Cities Mission in Panaji City under the aegis of Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. As the Executive Director, Shri Chaudhuri oversees the operations of Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (GSIDC) for speedy implementation of all the Infrastructural Projects, envisaged by the Government like Roads, Bridges, Fly-Over, Bus-Stands, Hospitals, Tourism related Projects all over the State. Additionally, he has also been entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of AMRUT Mission as the Mission Director for enhancement of quality of life of its citizens with special focus on pedestrianisation and creation and upgradation of green spaces, parks and recreation centres.

Dr Hemant Kumar Badola, Advisor, Chief Minister's Office, Government of Sikkim



Dr Hemant Kumar Badola, Advisor to the Office of Hon'ble Chief Minister- Sikkim, for Biodiversity and Climate Change, and Green Think Tank Facilitator, has over 38 years of research experience along north-western to North-eastern Himalayas. A former scientist & Head of Sikkim Unit of GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Sustainable Development, he focuses on Biodiversity Conservation, Bioculture, Management, Resource Utilization and Sustainable Development, Tourism, Climate Change and related Policies in Himalaya, including Transboundary landscape. He has been published in over 120 International and National

peer-reviewed papers and books, and widely honoured in the national and international arena.

b) Technical Dialogue Session 2 – Partnerships for Enhancing Liveability

Moderator:

Mr Panagiotis Karamanos, Team Leader, International Urban Cooperation/India



Mr Panagiotis Karamanos is an environmental expert with more than 20 years of professional and academic experience in environmental management and policy in India, USA, Greece, etc. He is a strategist with extensive knowledge of international developments, aviation, climate change, capacity building, urban issues, and policy analysis and project management.

Panellists:

Ms Kamilla Kristensen Rai, Counsellor, Urban Development, Embassy of Denmark



Ms. Kamilla Kristensen Rai is the Counsellor for Urban Development at the Danish Embassy under the Strategic Sector Cooperation. She is responsible for urban development and facilitating the city-to-city cooperation between the City of Udaipur and the City of Aarhus on urban water management. She is the Special Advisor on Global Cooperation in the Danish Energy Agency, Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate working as coordinator for the team providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry in Ukraine and previously worked with the bilateral cooperation on energy between India and Denmark and on bilateral cooperation energy efficiency in buildings with China. Ms. Rai has also worked on climate projects with private

partners in Czech Republic and Bulgaria as well as employed at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in India. She holds a Master degree in Engineering from the Technical University of Denmark and a Master Degree in Urban Planning in Developing Countries from University of Wales College of Cardiff (UK).

Mr Hitesh Vaidya, Country Manager, UN Habitat India



Hitesh Vaidya has more than 20 years of experience in the field of urban management, urban governance including in its ambit project management, financial management, local government finance and capacity building. He has demonstrated past experience of working on: complex projects involving financial management reforms and improving transparency; urban policy issues; and has commitment to improve the situation of urban poor. Addressing the big picture is his strengths and through his various assignments, he has been able to help several urban local bodies to lay the groundwork in successfully implementing urban reforms, initiate urban infrastructure projects focusing on the poor including involving private sector in the delivery of urban services.

Dr G N Qasba, Senior Advisor IRADe and Former Municipal Commissioner, Srinagar



Dr G N Qasba is presently Senior Advisor for IRADe and former Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation. He has M.Sc and Ph.D from Centre Research for Development, University of Kashmir, Srinagar. Besides, he has post-doctoral experience in Applied Agricultural Research from BARC, Trombay, Mumbai and University of New Hampshire, New Hampshire USA. He has extensively studied Seoul City Planning in collaboration with KRIHS Seoul. Dr. Qasba also held various positions for the state of Jammu & Kashmir in various departments of agriculture, finance and tourism. His main areas of interest are City

Planning and Administration, Disaster Resilience, enhancing City liveability, Women Empowerment and Tourism.