

**Event Report – Indo-German Smart Cities Workshop: Sustainable Urban Development,  
Kolkata, 27 - 28 November 2018, Radisson Ballygunge Hotel, Kolkata, West Bengal**

- **Simi Mehta, Ismail Haque, Radu Carciumaru, Athar Imam Raza and Arjun Kumar**

Under the aegis of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kolkata, a two-day Indo-German Workshop on Smart Cities: Sustainable Urban Development was held on November 27-28, 2018, at Radisson Ballygunge Hotel in Kolkata, West Bengal. The Workshop was organised by Heidelberg University, Germany (Branch office, New Delhi), Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and School of Planning and Architecture Delhi (SPA), jointly with the Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, University of Calcutta and the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata. The event was supported by the Friedrich Neumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF).

Since 2016, Heidelberg University (Branch office, New Delhi) together with ORF and SPA organised similar initiatives in Aizawl, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Kochi, New Delhi, New Town (Kolkata), Pune, Ranchi and Shimla and the series will continue beyond 2018.

The concept of “smart cities” is an area of extensive research, policy formulation, practice, and implementation; it encompasses the adoption of a variety of approaches. The idea of ‘smart cities’ cannot be realized without interdisciplinary inputs and collective ideation. Towards this, the workshops intended to not only openly discuss opportunities and benefits of smart cities mission, but also critically look at the challenges that may arise. Consequently, the workshop sought to analyse and discuss the urban challenges from an integrated, holistic and inclusive perspective. The Information and Communication innovative Technologies are necessary enabling tools to foster sustainability, whereas an active participation and involvement of civil society is the *sine qua non* for the success of the smart cities mission!

The workshop brought together scholars, students, policy makers, bureaucrats, government authorities and civil society representatives from both national and the State levels. It focused on themes such as planning and design, management and governance, social, economic and cultural inclusion, gender equality, social innovation, behavioural change, employment, informal economy, skills, housing & slums, heritage and conservation, tourism, infrastructure & services, resources, use of technology and mobility.

Respectively, the two-day workshop, had technical sessions on ‘Smart Governance’, ‘Inclusive Cities’, ‘Mobility’, and ‘Resource Management and Smart Infrastructure & Built Environment’. The workshop aimed to strengthen the knowledge transfer-oriented environment that would bridge science, policy and practice. The participants from various fields of specialization presented their work, initiatives and ideas, exchanged views and approaches, jointly sought for commonalities and innovative solutions. A report containing the best findings and recommendations of the workshop would be published and circulated to all relevant stakeholders, at international, national, state and local levels.

The workshop commenced with the inaugural session with the lighting of the sacred lamp of knowledge, followed by the welcome remarks and introduction to the workshop series by Dr. des. Radu Carciumaru, Resident Representative, Heidelberg University (Branch office New Delhi). Special address was delivered by the Consul General Dr. Feiner, German Mission in Kolkata. Mr. Devi Prasad Karanam, IAS, Joint Secretary, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles Department, Government of West Bengal conveyed the Keynote Address.

The Technical Sessions of Day 1 included the following:

**Smart Governance:** The panellists for this session included the following speakers: Prof. Dr. Shivashish Bose, Department of Architecture, Jadavpur Universtiy, *Slums in Kolkata*; Prof. Dr. Mahalaya Chatterjee, Teacher Coordinator (Placement), Centre for urban Economic Studies, Department of Economics, University of Calcutta, *A Socio-economic Exploration of the Slums in Kolkata*; Dr. Uday Shankar, IIT Kharagpur, *Do We Need Smart Laws for Smart Cities?*; Dr. Sarani Khatua, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Urban Economic Studies, Department of Economics University of Calcutta, *Does Smart City support a Smart Political Society?*; Dr. Nilina Deb, IFA-CSSSC Research Fellow, Heritage Conservation Expert – *Heritage Assets and the Dilemma of Development Choices*; and Dr. Suptendu P. Biswas, Architect, urban Designer & Planner, VSPB Associates, New Delhi, *Heritage and Smart city: Historicity as a Pointer to Urban Regeneration*. This session was chaired and moderated by Prof. Dr. Jayanta Bandhopadhyay, Visiting Distinguished Fellow, ORF.

**Inclusive Cities:** The panellists for this technical session included the following speakers: Dr. Jenia Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur, *Systematic and Sustainable Planning: Foregrounding the Significance of Urban Networked Infrastructures using the Adi Ganga as the case study*; Prof. Dr. Sumana Bandhopadhyay, Urban Studies, Department of Geography, University of Calcutta, *Planning for Public Spaces: Issue of Access*; Ms. Rwritee Mandal, Architect and Urban Designer, Saftipin, New Delhi, *Using Data and Technology to build safer cities*; Mr. Subhadip Biswas and Mr. Ranjit Roy, Advocate Lex Global, Law Firm & Trust for SEARCH, *Smart City: Sustainable Urbanism: Its Policies and Execution under Legal Framework*; and Ms. Aprajita Santra, urban Designer, *Reinstating and Child in the City*. This session was chaired and moderated by Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, Senior Fellow, ORF.

**Mobility:** The panellists for this technical session included the following speakers: Prof. Dr. Sudeshna Mitra, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering Department, IIT Kharagpur, *Pedestrian Safety in the context of Safe Mobility for Smart Cities*; Prof. D. Anis Mukhopadhyay, Honorary Associate, *Centre for Urban Economic Studies*, University of Calcutta, *From Rikshaw to e-Rikshaw: Regional Experience for last mile connectivity in India*; and Mr. Saptarshi Mitra, *Architect and Development Planner*, Kolkata, *Inclusive Mobility*. This session was chaired and moderated by Prof. Dr. Bhargab Maitra, Head, Ranbir and Chitra Gupta School of Infrastructure Design and Management, IIT Kharagpur, Alexander von Humboldt Fellow.

**Resource management – I:** The panellists for this technical session included the following speakers: Prof. Dr. Brajesh Kr Dubey, Environmental Engineering and Managment, IIT Kharagpur, *Resource Managment basics for Sustainable Urban Development*; Chitra Mukherjee, head of Programmes, Operations, Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group, New Delhi, *Successful Waste Managment – a key to Smarter Cities*; Dr. Preeti Kapuria, Associate Fellow, ORF, *Water Smart City*; Prof.

Dr. G. P. Karmkar, FIE(I), Department of Mining Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, *Waste Water Treatment by Flocculation using Grafted Polymers*; and Dr. Simi Mehta, CEO & Editorial Director and Dr. Arjun Kumar, Director, Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI), New Delhi, *Soils and Waste Management in Urban India*. This session was chaired and moderated by Prof. Dr. Sadhan Kumar Ghosh, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Coordinator of Centre for Quality Management System, Jadavpur University, Kolkata and President, International Society of Waste Management, Air and Water Solid Waste Management.

Day 2 began with the welcome remarks and introduction to the workshop series by Dr. des. Radu Carciumaru, Resident Representative, Heidelberg University (Branch office New Delhi). The welcome remarks was followed by the beginning of the Technical Session 5 and 6, which focused on the themes such as Smart Infrastructure & Built Environment and Resource Management II:

**Smart Infrastructure & Built Environment:** The panellists for this technical session included the following speakers: Mr. Anjan Mitra, Practicing Urban Designer, Kolkata, *Community based Urban Regeneration*; Dr. Susmita Bhowmick, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan, *Growth behaviour of future sub-entres in Kolkata Metropolitan Region*; Prof. Dr. Souvanic Roy, Professor, Department of Architecture, Town and Planning, and Founder – Director School of Ecology, Infrastructure and Human Settlement Management, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology in India: *Agenda for Social Inclusion and Sustainability*; Mr. Jyoti Rath, Architect, Founder JRA, New Delhi, *Enabling art in the Smart City*; and Mr. Ismail Haque, Senior Research Fellow, JNU and Consultant and GIS Lab Coordinator, IMPRI, *Geography Matters: Exploring the spatial dimensions of neighbourhood-scale housing quality in Kolkata*. This session was chaired and moderated by Prof. Arunava Dasgupta, Head, Department of Urban Design, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.

**Resource management – II:** The panellists for this technical session included the following speakers: Prof. Dr. Udayan De, Alexander von Humboldt Fellow & Former Department of Atomic Energy, India, *Sustainable Urban Development and Integration of Non-Urban Green Benefits*; Ms. Dhruva Dasgupta, Environment Writer and Project Director, SCOPE, Kolkata Wetlands, *East Kolkata Wetlands and Water Infrastructure: A City by the side of a Westland*; Ms. Sabina Pandey, Regional Director, Indo-German Chambers of Commerce, Kolkata, SES (Senior Experten Service), *Hands on experts for skilling*; and Sanjay Handu, Founder, Bizflux Advisory Strategy and Transformation Consulting, Bangalore, *Driving successful transformation – learning from business*.

This Workshop was covered by the Digital Media and PDFs of which have been attached in the mail are:

1. [www.devdiscourse.com](http://www.devdiscourse.com)
2. [www.uniindia.com](http://www.uniindia.com)
3. [www.business-standard.com](http://www.business-standard.com)
4. [www.moneycontrol.com](http://www.moneycontrol.com)