



Municipalika Kolkata (4 - 6 November 2009)
Round Up Press Note

Eastern India's first-ever event on municipal & urban solutions
draws to a close
Kolkata, 7th November 2009

Municipalika, 7th International Exhibition on Municipal Services, Urban Development and Public Works came to an end at the Netaji Indoor Stadium. The Valedictory Session & Awards Function was graced by Prof Sougata Roy, Hon'ble Minister of State for Urban Development, Govt. of India, in the presence of Prof P. N. Ghosh, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University, and a host of important dignitaries from municipal & urban development sector, including Mayors, Municipal Commissioners, Chairmen of Municipalities etc from all over India, as well as delegates from abroad.

The Minister visited the Municipalika exhibition, seeing the various technologies and solutions on display, and interacting with the exhibitors. He lauded the efforts and initiative of Good Governance India Foundation to put together the first-ever exhibition of its kind in the Eastern Region. Prof Sougata Roy delivered the keynote address at the Valedictory Session of the three-day International Conference on Solid Waste Management (IconSWM) which ran concurrently to the exhibition and which was organized by Centre for Quality Management systems, Jadavpur University.

The Minister said that he was happy to find representation from municipalities and ULBs from various corners of the country, as well as the presence of corporate sponsors and the private industry. He stated that solid waste management has been one of the basic services of the 1561 municipal bodies throughout the country. The Minister admitted that the state of solid waste management in the country left much to be desired, with the lack of treatment and segregation being one of the major reasons why landfill sites were getting exhausted all over the country. The Minister said that this was despite all efforts being made by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India in the area of Solid Waste Management, details of which can be found on a manual on www.urbanindia.nic.in, which also contains details of initiatives in

this direction by the environmental, forest, and power ministries. The Minister stated that cities should start segregating recyclable material before waste reaches landfill sites, and organic waste should be subject to vermicomposting, as has been done in New Delhi. Such a project, he mentioned, was previously started in Kolkata, but had failed to deliver results due to lack of education and awareness.

The 3-day conference and exhibition drew to a close, with the distribution of IconSWM and Municipalika Awards by the Minister, to exhibitors, participating municipalities, and paper presenters.

Among the award winners of Municipalika Exhibition were Caterpillar Commercial Pvt. Ltd., Doosan International India Pvt. Ltd., CE Info Systems Pvt. Ltd. (Map My India), Kam – Avida Enviro Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Genesys Worldeye Ltd., Genesyst Eco-Technologies India Pvt. Ltd., Pitney Bowes Business Insight – Integrated Digital Systems, Ion Exchange (India) Ltd., Jusco Ltd., and The Kolkata Municipal Corporation. The IconSWM Awards went to Mysore Municipal Corporation, Mangalore City Corporation, Haldia Municipality, Durgapur Municipal Corporation, Mandavi Nagar Seva Sadan (Gujarat), Sirugappa Town Municipal Council, Bhatkal Municipal Council, Jangipur Municipality and Baruipur Municipality. (list attached)

Earlier, the Mayor of Kolkata, Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya had visited the exhibition on the second day and visited all the stalls. He addressed the delegates of IconSWM, by inaugurating and presiding over the ULB Chairmen and Mayors' Forum. Mayors and commissioners from 20 cities, and Chairmen of over 50 municipalities attended the event.

Among the other VIPs who visited the event, was the Addl. Commissioner, Kolkata Police, Shri Hari Rajan, who is overseeing the IT initiatives in the police department in the city. He expressed keen interest in the GIS/GPS technologies showcased in the exhibition.

Inaugurated on 4th November, Municipalika witnessed an enthusiastic response, with over 1000 professional visitors, including around 400 from Municipal Corporations and Municipalities.

With participations from over 40 organizations, showcasing products, machinery, equipment, services, projects, and processes needed for sustainable city development, the conference and exhibition gave special focus and emphasis on Solid Waste Management, Water and Waste Water,

Urban Infrastructure Development, GIS/GPS/IT solutions for municipal applications, Renewable Energy, Waste-to-Energy, Safety and Security, Building Materials etc.

Municipalika is the country's first and exclusive annual exhibition and conference that focuses on urban development, management and governance. Its objective is to usher in "Good Urban Governance for Inclusive, Sustainable and Safer Cities". Before this first foray into the Eastern Region, Municipalika has over the last six years been organized in New Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad. Next year, in January 2010, it moves to Ahmedabad.

Municipalika is organized by Good Governance India Foundation, and has been supported over the years by Government of India Ministries of Urban Development, Information Technology, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, as well as other stake-holding organizations in the urban and municipal sector.

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