

Press Note

Inauguration

Municipalika 2009, 6th International Conference and Exhibition on “Good Urban Governance for Making Cities Work” MMRDA Grounds, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai (29th to 31st January 2009)

For immediate release

Mumbai : 29th January 2009

Municipalika 2009 – 6th International Conference and Exhibition on “Good Urban Governance for Making Cities Work”, was inaugurated today at the MMRDA Grounds, Bandra-Kurla Complex, by Shri M Ramachandran, Secretary Urban Development, Government of India, in the presence of other dignitaries like Dr Jairaj Phatak, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner, Shri Sunil Sood, Mayor of Bhopal, and Chairman of All India Council of Mayors, Dr Jatin Modi, President, All India Institute of Local Self Government, Dr Mark Ginsberg, Advisor to the Assistant Secretary, US Department of Energy, Shri Sanjiv Agarwal, Founder Trustee of Good Governance India Foundation, the organizers of Municipalika 2009, and Shri V Suresh, Convenor, Municipalika and Advisor Good Governance India Foundation.

Also present were senior officials from Urban Development Department, Government of India and Government of Maharashtra, a large number of Mayors and Municipal Commissioners, as well as other urban sector professionals from all over India and from abroad.

With rapid urbanization, Indian cities have demonstrated exponential growth in the last 3 decades through high-density development and growth for residential, commercial, institutional, mercantile, assembly, recreational, industrial and other buildings. Most of the cities and towns are already bursting at the seams with deficient urban infrastructure, and challenges for water, waste-management, sewerage, sanitation, transport and power utilities. This calls for substantial amount of partnership initiatives to be taken by the public and private sector for providing urban infrastructure and municipal services, and developing of housing, social and commercial infrastructure facilities.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) programme of the Government of India, with an outlay of Rs 100,000 crores (USD 20 billion) and with additional leveraged funds over the period 2005-2012 is resulting in substantial investments by Central, State, Local and Municipal Government Authorities in development of urban infrastructure.

Municipalika 2009 is being organized against the above backdrop of challenges and prospects.

Municipalika 2009 is supported by the Government of India Ministries of Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Information Technology, Government of Maharashtra and its Urban parastatal agencies, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, All India Council of Mayors (AICM), Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities (AMDA), All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), National Institute of Urban Affairs, and other national and international stake-holders in urban governance, management and development.

Under the broad theme of “Good Urban Governance for Making Cities Work”, is the sub-theme of “Towards Safer, Sustainable Cities” covering the two most relevant areas in today's scenario, i.e. safety/security in cities, and climate change issues.

As the Host City, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai is lending its full support and cooperation to the event. MCGM would be putting up a good display outlining all the projects and initiatives being undertaken by the civic body in improving municipal infrastructure and providing better services and quality of life to the citizens of Mumbai.

Municipalika 2009 conference segment has the participation of all urban stakeholders like Central and State Governments, Mayors, Municipal Commissioners, Urban Local Bodies, Urban Development Authorities, City Managers, Public Utility Undertakings like Water Supply and Sewerage Boards, Housing Boards, Public Works and Public Health Engineering Departments, Financing Institutions, NGO's, National and International organizations etc. and would cover subjects like urban and city infrastructure development and public utilities including water supply, waste-management, transportation solutions, energy efficiency in urban sector, public-private-people partnership in urban development, Integrated Housing and Slum Development Project (IHSDP), Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP), slum rehabilitation, e-governance and GIS/GPS applications.

Vision Addresses by experts from the US, UK and Canada will spell out the future perspective.

The Exhibition has on display products, machinery, equipment, services, projects, and processes needed for sustainable city development, and will have participation of city development agencies and technology providers offering solutions for urban development and municipal management. There are displays and actual demonstrations of products, equipment, machinery and services for the above, including for street sweeping and cleaning, water treatment and purification, solid-waste-handling and treatment, street lighting, fire safety and protection, GIS/GPS applications, E-Governance software, urban transportation, affordable housing, renewable energy, waste-recycling, energy saving, etc.

Municipalika 2009 serve as an important platform for taking stock of the Projects undertaken by various State, City and Local Governments under JNNURM, and drawing up a road map for its successful implementation by the year 2012.

Besides discussions on urban policy and reforms, and technology presentations, the "Partnership with People" angle is also being addressed, by having an "Open House" Interaction on 30th January between Citizen's Groups, Resident Welfare Groups, Cooperative Housing Societies, and NGOs with civic administrators, with the attendance of a large number of Mayors.

The Mumbai Fire Service will be conducting demonstrations of some of its equipment, like snorkels etc, used for rescue operations, similar to their brave efforts on 26/11.

The event is fully supported by the Host State - Government of Maharashtra, with the participation of the Departments of Urban Development, Water Supply and Sanitation, Environment, Housing, and other organizations like the MCGM, MMRDA, MJP, MPCB, MHADA, CIDCO etc.

The lead participants/sponsoring organizations are: Bajaj Electricals, Organic Recycling, Alliance to Save Energy (US Department of Energy), Autodesk, SAIL, Genesis, Ministry of Information Technology (National E-Governance Plan), Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), and City and Industrial development Corporation of Maharashtra (CIDCO). Ahmedabad is the Partner City, with a big participation by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

Municipalika 2009 has overseas participants from the US, UK, France, Canada and Italy.

The conference and exhibition will run concurrently for 3 days at MMRDA Grounds, Bandra Karla Complex. Over 100 speakers from all over India and abroad and 500 delegates are expected in the conference. The exhibition will have over 100 exhibitors, and 5000 professional and business visitors.

Municipalika 2009 is organized by Good Governance India Foundation, a trust dedicated to promoting transparency, efficiency, and innovation in governance and administration.

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