

Report

Mayors' Conference *Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform*

Hotel Country Inn & Suites, Jaipur
14th September 2016



Context

CUTS in partnership with The Asia Foundation, created a 'Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform (RCMLP)' with specific objective to improve the urban governance in Rajasthan through sharing of best experiences and learning of each other. Under this project, CUTS is organizing mayors' conferences, knowledge enhancement workshops for officials and exposure visit for Mayors. This platform is being used to discuss the larger issues of urban local governance.

In the series of mayors' conferences, fourth Mayors' Conference was organized at Hotel Country Inn, Jaipur on 14th September 2016.



Participation

The conference was witnessed with the presence of Prof. V.S. Vyas; Shiv Singh Bhont, Mayor of Bharatpur and Narayan Chopra, Mayor of Bikaner. Saroj Badgujar, Dy. Director, Janwani, Pune; Sunil Nair, Project Manager, Janaagraha, Bangalore; D. Sudhakar, Executive Engineer (Retd.), Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and few other officials of selected ULBs were present in the meeting.

Proceedings

Conference commenced with the welcome of Dignitaries by Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS which was followed by the opening remarks from George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS in which he highlighted CUTS initiation of people's participation through

its intervention named My City. He shared experiences of some best practices of solid waste management in Kerala and given a set of recommendations for the government of Rajasthan related to strengthening the position of mayor, activating Ward committees, ensuring financial viability of ULBs, decentralized solid waste.

It was felt during course of project implementation that cities only can be strengthening by empowering city mayors. To further address the issue, Rajasthan City Mayors Learning Platform (RCMLP) initiated by CUTS. Mayors, deputy mayors and chairpersons of various urban local bodies take part in this platform to learn from others experiences. This is an exclusive platform for Mayors of Rajasthan state to discuss the issues of urban local governance and learning on sharing basis.

Amar Deep Singh while sharing the overview of RCMLP talked about activities conducted so far and the key learning. He also briefed about the activities under taken throughout the tenure of this project. He mentioned that mayors' conferences are the main activity of this learning platform where mayors are actively taking part. He said that there is strong need to institutionalize this City Mayors Learning Platform in the state and mayors are need to come forward to own this platform.

Prof. V. S. Vyas, Professor Emeritus, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur and former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of Rajasthan talked about the urban governance in Rajasthan. He mentioned that for getting quality municipal services, people should not only need to pay the required minimum user charges but also participate effectively in the planning process.



Professor Vyas further mentioned that Local Self Government need to further explore the possibilities of introducing some more taxes like professional taxes etc. which requires fewer efforts from ULBs and ensures maximum revenue collection.

Narayan Chopra, Mayor of Bikaner Municipal Corporation said that Mayors of Rajasthan need more capacity building and exposure to enhance their effectiveness and decision making process. He suggested sending set of recommendations to the state Government for empowering the Mayors, introducing best practices of other states in Rajasthan and making ULBs more financially viable. He also suggested that more and more mayors shall participate in such conference for sharing their experiences.

Shiv Singh Bhont, Mayor of Bharatpur shared his views and also shared non-cooperative behaviour of the administration and Government and insufficient fund to implement their programmes. Proper planning of the programmes is missing. He also

stated that sewage infrastructure work is not all discussed with Municipal Corporation it is not as per proper planning. Narayan Chopra, Mayor Bikaner shared his experiences and difficulties they are facing in implementation of the programme and lack of support from administration.

Session: Best Practices & Innovative approaches of City Management

Saroj Badgujar, Deputy Director of Pune based organisation *Janwani*, shared her experiences related to Zero Garbage Project in which a Swachh Cooperative has been formed and scientific disposal of the solid waste is managed. She also shared her experiences related to people's participation in the municipal budget making process in Pune municipality.



Sunil Nair, Project Manager of Bangalore based organisation *Janaagraha* shared Community participation using civic data and digital tools in city of Bangalore. It was difficult for the migrant population of the Bangalore to know about the facilities available in their respective wards. Initiatives like 'I Change My City' have been proved very helpful for the migrant people to know not only about their wards but to register their complaints and suggestions.

D. Sudhakar, Executive Engineer (Retd.), Hyderabad Municipal Corporation shared his valuable experiences about the Solid Waste Management practices in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. He said that his municipality is known in the country for taking several innovative practices like, night sweeping, decentralized garbage disposal of kitchen waste, centralised scientific disposal of municipal solid waste, Self-disclosure of land and building taxes and so many.



He further talked in brief about recently amended solid waste management rules and some technical key provision in Swachh Bharat Mission etc.

Other Chairperson of selected ULBs also shared their experiences of city management and support from government side. Some of the chairpersons raised the need of implement intervention like MyCity to engage community in their local wards.

At the conclusion of event, Amar Deep Singh summarized the discussion took place in the conference. He mentioned that since there is need felt by participants to sustain this platform, Mayors need to take agenda forward. It was decided that next knowledge enhancement workshop for municipal officials will be organised for Bikaner and Jodhpur division very soon. Madhu Sudan Sharma, CUTS proposed vote of thanks to all the delegates to take part in the event.



Programme Schedule

Mayors' Conference
Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform
Hotel Country Inn & Suites, Jaipur on 14th September 2016

10:30-11:00 am	Informal Discussion with Tea	
11:00-12:00	<p>Welcome of Dignitaries: <i>Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks: <i>George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International</i></p> <p>Brief about Rajasthan City Mayors Learning Platform</p> <p>Inaugural Address: Sh. Narayan Chopra, <i>Hon'ble Mayor of Bikaner</i></p> <p>Key note speaker: Prof. V. S. Vyas, <i>Professor Emeritus, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur</i></p> <p>Special Address: Sh. Shiv Singh Bhont, <i>Hon'ble Mayor of Bharatpur</i></p>	
12:00-12:05	Break	
12:05-01:05 (15 minutes each speaker)	<p>Session: Best Practices & Innovative approaches of City Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Garbage Project-Case study from Pune, Maharashtra <i>Ms. Saroj Badgujar, Dy. Director, Janwani, Pune</i> • Community participation using civic data and digital tools- Bangalore <i>Mr. Sunil Nair, Project Manager, Janaagraha, Bangalore</i> • Solid Waste Management practices in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh <i>Mr. D. Sudhakar, Executive Engineer (Retd.), Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Hyderabad</i> 	
01:05-02:05	<p>Discussion: Hon'ble Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Chairperson of ULBs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discussion on points emerged from the first session</i> • <i>Sustainability of the Platform and way forward</i> 	<p>Chair by: <i>Sh. Narayan Chopra, Mayor of Bikaner</i></p>
02:05 - 02.15	<p>Summing up & Vote of Thanks: <i>Madhu Sudan Sharma, Sr. Project Coordinator, CUTS</i></p>	
02.15 Onwards	Lunch	