

Report

Mayors' Conference *Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform (RCMLP) Project*

Hotel Amantra Comfort,
Udaipur, Rajasthan

April 27, 2016

CUTS
International

The Asia Foundation

Mayors' Conference
Rajasthan City
Mayors' Learning Platform

April 27, 2016, Udaipur, India

Local Host

With active collaboration of
Department of Local
Self Government,
Government of Rajasthan

City Managers
Association Rajasthan

Context

Since August 2012, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), International in partnership with The Asia Foundation (TAF) is implementing an urban governance intervention named 'MyCity' in Jaipur city. Its specific objective is 'Improving the Service Delivery by Urban Local Government through Enhanced Civic Engagement' using social accountability approaches.

Project remained quite successful in reaching its outcomes as it was visible in its recognition among various stakeholders including citizens, officials and public representatives of the targeted wards of the City. Citizens are benefited by the platform provided to them to resolve ward level issues through elected representatives and concerned officials. Local problems are being resolved at the local level. Our effort is aimed to make Jaipur city more convenient and livable for its citizen through their active engagement. There are several other larger issues, which need to address at higher level of decision makers.



Apart from other findings, one major finding of the intervention is lack of resources available with Urban Local Government and delegation of powers from state to Urban Local Government. Coupled with this there are policy related issues which need to be taken forward through a collaborative effort of all the stakeholders including Heads of Urban Local Governments i.e. Mayors. In this sequence it has been realized that there is no formal platform where Mayors from Rajasthan can discuss the Urban Governance related issues and come out with a strategy.

In this context, CUTS in partnership with The Asia Foundation, India created a 'Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform (RCMLP)' with specific objective to improve the urban governance in Rajasthan through enhanced sharing of experiences and learning from each other. Under this project, CUTS organizing mayors' conferences where Mayors and Deputy Mayors from various municipal corporations, Chairmen of municipal councils and officials are taking part and sharing the experiences. This platform is being used to discuss the larger issues of urban local governance.

In the series of mayors' conferences, next conference was organised at Udaipur city with active collaboration of Department of Local Self Government, Govt. of Rajasthan and Udaipur Municipal Corporation on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at Hotel Amantra Confort.

Participation

The conference was witnessed with the presence of Chandra Singh Kothari, Mayor of Udaipur; Nirmal Nahata, Mayor of Jaipur and Sunita Vyas, Deputy Mayor of Kota; Madhubala Purohit, Chairperson of Banswara; and K K Gupta, Chairperson of Dungarpur. Himani Tiwari, Coordinator, City Managers Association of Rajasthan (CMAR), Department of Local Self Government, Government of Rajasthan was special invitees in the conference represented the state nodal department. Few other elected representatives from Kota, Udaipur as well as officials from Udaipur Municipal Corporation, Zonal office of City Planning Department were present in the conference.



Proceedings

Conference started with the welcome of the guest by Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS. George Cheriyan, Director CUTS in his opening remarks mentioned that this is second conference under Rajasthan City Mayors Learning Platform (RCMLP) initiated by CUTS under which mayors, deputy mayors and chairman of various urban local bodies takes part. This is an exclusive platform for Mayors of Rajasthan state to discuss the issues of urban local governance and learning on sharing basis.

Himani Tiwari, Coordinator, City Managers' Association of Rajasthan (CMAR), Directorate of Local Bodies, Govt. of Rajasthan also participated in the conference and shared the city related centre and state sponsored schemes and their implementation. Mentioning about the formal agreement between Department of LSG and CUTS for capacity development of the City managers, she said that department is willing to continue such platform and wants to provide more exposure on urban planning and management to its elected as well as appointed officials. CMAR is nodal agency of DoLSG for conducting training and orientation programme.

Best practices and innovative approached were presented in the conference by resource persons of prominent organisations of urban governance. Dr. A. Parumal, Former Director, National Remote Sensing Agency presented GIS base mapping method which is helpful in improving finance of local bodies as well as overall urban governance. He shared the example of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation which adopted the GIS base planning and successfully increased its revenue without increasing the property taxes.



Satyarupa Shekhar, Director, Consumer Action Group (CAG) Chennai presented data driven approaches for city planning & management. Available data and maps can be used for the local planning with the involvement of local citizens. City officials and citizens can sit together for these planning.

Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS shared a zero waste management case study of Coimbatore City which is implemented by the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation. Under this project waste is segregated and managed in the manner which converts waste in different useful forms. And particular area becomes a zero percent waste generating area. Each household segregates garbage in two different bags. One is Bio-degradable and another is dry waste including paper and plastics. With active role of Municipal Corporation and citizens' participation, this project is very much successful in Coimbatore which can be replicate in other cities as well.

Chandra Singh Kothari, Mayor, Udaipur Municipal Corporation (UMC) mentioned that schemes should be designed keeping in mind the regional and local situations rather than just blindly copying other cities. Also, a special emphasis should be put on maximum utilization of regional resources. He also suggested organising some exposure visits for Mayors to various cities in India where good practices are happening. He mentioned that only presentations in conferences are not that much helpful.



Nirmal Nahata, Mayor, Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) said that innovative approaches like using data and maps for local planning is good and can be used in our city. Uses of existing resources are easier than finding any new technologies. Regarding GIS base technology, he mentioned that JMC has engaged some agency to use GIS technology for planning. Further in discussion he added, that Jaipur city is facing lots of problems in the walled city, transportation issues but there seems to be not solution for all these. He further added that there is a need of enhancing civic engagement. He mentioned about his innovative initiatives like green top initiative, file tracking system, opening up JMC unified smart card, extension offices in all the 91 wards, using software to pass the building designs etc.

Sunita Vyas, Deputy Mayor of Kota Municipal Corporation appreciated efforts to bring together City Mayors to learn the best practices and also applauded the presentations made by resource person. She said that there are several issues in the cities but we are only concern about sanitation. Innovative approaches like using GIS technologies, local available data and maps, engaging citizens in solid waste management are good to learn. Such examples can be share with down the line officials to adopt these practices.

K K Gupta, Chairperson of Dungarpur spoke about the initiatives taken by his ULB to manage solid waste of the city. Door to door garbage collection has been started. Municipal office sends SMS to mobile number of common citizen to take feedback about sanitation facilities. Mobile numbers of concern officials are also mentioned in these SMSs so the residents can approach concern officials if they are not satisfied with the work. He also mentioned that Dungarpur city will also soon become polythene bag free. Municipality is working hard to engage citizens in the various campaigns. Manjubala Purohit, Chairperson of Banswara Municipal Council shared the issues happening in her city Banswara as there is lack of sanitation workers.

Concerns raised by participants were addressed by the Dr. Himani Tiwari mentioned that she will be reporting all the concerns to higher ups and also agreed to visit Banswara just after the conference.



Before concluding, Amar Deep Singh also shared next planned activities and told that knowledge enhancement workshops will be conducted in selected cities. Finalise programme will be informed to concern cities. Sunita Vyas express interest to organise one of the workshop in Kota City on solid waste management.

At the end of discussion, Madhusudhan Sharma, Senior Project Coordinator, CUTS summarized the discussions held and delivered the vote of thanks to all delegates.

Mayors' Conference

Hotel Amantra Comfort, Udaipur on Wednesday, 27th April 2016

Rajasthan City Mayors' Learning Platform

Programme Schedule

10:30-11:00	Informal Discussion with Tea	
11:00-11:15	<p>Welcome of Dignitaries & Brief about City Mayors Learning Platform : <i>Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks: <i>George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International</i></p> <p>Introductory remarks: <i>Dr. Himani Tiwari, CMAR, Directorate of Local Bodies, Govt. of Rajasthan</i></p>	
11:15-11:30	<p>Inaugural Address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sh. Chandra Singh Kothari, Hon'ble Mayor <i>Udaipur Municipal Corporation</i> 	
11:30-12:-:30 (20 minutes each speaker)	<p>Presentations: Innovative Approaches/Best Practices for City Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Waste Management-Case study from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu <i>Amar Deep Singh, CUTS Jaipur</i> Data Driven Approaches for City Planning & Management <i>Satyarupa Shekhar, Director, CAG, Chennai</i> Improving Urban Governance and Finance by GIS base mapping <i>Dr. A. Perumal, (Former Director, National Remote Sensing Agency) Director, Centre for Environment and Development, Hyderabad</i> 	
	Tea Break	
12:30-01:25	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>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> 	
01:25 - 01.30	<p>Summing up & Vote of Thanks: <i>Madhu Sudan Sharma, Sr. Project Coordinator, CUTS</i></p>	
01.30 onwards	Lunch	

जीरो वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट पर किया गया मंथन

कार्यशाला में जयपुर के मेयर नाहटा ने भी शिरकत की

उदयपुर @ पत्रिका

कार्यशाला में जयपुर के मेयर निर्मल नाहटा ने भी भाग लिया। कार्यशाला में कोयम्बटूर के जीरो वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट को समझा और उसके तहत कार्य करने पर भी चर्चा की। विशेषज्ञ डॉ. ए. परूमल ने जीआईएस बेस मैपिंग व शहरी विकास के लिए डाटा बेस मैनेजमेंट की जानकारी दी। मेयर नाहटा ने जयपुर में स्वच्छता को लेकर नगर निगम की ओर से किए जा रहे प्रयास की जानकारी दी। तो उदयपुर के मेयर चन्द्रसिंह कोठारी ने उदयपुर में डोर-टू-डोर व स्मार्ट सिटी को लेकर किए जा रहे कामकाज पर फोकस

निकायों के सामने डूंगरपुर की मिसाल

कार्यशाला में डूंगरपुर नगर परिषद के सभापति के.के. गुप्ता ने बताया कि डूंगरपुर में डोर-टू-डोर कचरा संग्रहण का काम शुरू कर दिया गया है तथा वहां प्रत्येक स्टीवर को जल्ता से पीडब्लैक लेने के लिए उनके मोबाइल पर निगम की ओर से संदेश भेजा जाता है। संदेश के अखिर में आयुक्त का नंबर दिया जाता है ताकि किसी भी तरह की शिकायत वहां की जा सकती है। गुप्ता ने बताया कि डूंगरपुर डहर को स्वच्छ डूंगरपुर बनाने के लिए वहां सर्वे करवाया, जिसमें 1800 शौचालय बनाने की जरूरत जिसमें से 1400 तो बना दिए हैं। गुप्ता ने बताया कि वहां प्लास्टिक पर प्रतिबंध पर सख्ती के लिए जल्ता को पाबंद कर रखा है कि पॉलीथिन का उपयोग करने पर सख्त जवाब दे दिया जाएगा।

किया। कार्यशाला में डूंगरपुर के सभापति के.के. गुप्ता, बांसवाड़ा की सभापति मंजुबाला पुरोहित, कोटा की उप महापौर सुनिता व्यास आदि उपस्थित थी। आरंभ में कट्स के प्रोजेक्ट डायरेक्टर अमर दीप सिंह ने सभी का स्वागत किया।

मेयर कांफ्रेंस में शहरी विकास पर चर्चा

‘कट्स’ संस्था की ओर से बुधवार को मेयर कांफ्रेंस हुई। इसमें जयपुर के मेयर निर्मल नाहटा, उदयपुर के मेयर चंद्रसिंह कोठारी ने अपने-अपने शहर में निगम के माध्यम से हो रहे कार्यों की जानकारी दी। नेशनल रिमोट सेंसिंग एजेंसी डॉ.ए. परूमल ने जीआईएस मैपिंग की उपयोगिता की जानकारी दी। सत्यरूपा शेखर और अमरदीप सिंह ने शहरों से जुड़े विषयों की जानकारी दी। डूंगरपुर के सभापति के.के. गुप्ता ने डूंगरपुर में चल रहे कार्यों की जानकारी दी। सीएमएआर की कोऑर्डिनेटर डॉ. हिमानी तिवारी के साथ ही तीन शहरों के डिप्टी मेयर, तीन सभापति भी मौजूद थे।