



Development Alternatives at the Urban Nexus Training

The Urban Nexus training was organised under the project 'Integrated resource management in Asian Cities: Urban Nexus' funded by German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented jointly by GIZ and ICLEI South Asia in two cities - Rajkot and Nagpur on 28th February – 1st March 2019. The training was designed to include participation from other Indian cities. This was the 3rd Urban Nexus training conducted with an aim to reach to maximum number of administrative, training institutes and other institutions.

The purpose of the workshop was to evolve contextual and localised understanding of importance of integrated resource management (water, energy and food systems) using the framework of the New Urban Agenda. The training aimed at enhancing the capacities of the participants to implement various National Urban Development Missions and Schemes in an integrated manner, thereby maximising the impact.

The Urban Nexus Guide is an interactive training toolkit that aims to communicate and anchor the Urban Nexus planning and management approach in Asian cities and countries. It is an action-oriented guiding principle for integrated resource management considering the interrelations of the nexus sectors - water, waste water, energy, food security and solid waste at local, district and national level. The Urban Nexus training toolkit also takes relevant global agenda, such as 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement and the New Urban Agenda into account. The Urban Nexus Guide is based on knowledge gained and resources produced in the course of the project on 'Integrated resource management in Asian Cities: the Urban Nexus' implemented by GIZ in collaboration with UNESCAP, ICLEI SA and ICLEI SEA.

The Urban Nexus Workout offers options for different learning paths, addressing a variety of target groups and their specific training needs. The toolkit comprises three training modules - on understanding the Urban Nexus approach, analysing the major challenges and exploring solutions for cross-sectoral planning. Each module combines introductory training elements to familiarise participants with the training topic and/or method, with advanced training exercises to gain a deeper understanding, and tools for reflection of the contents with regards to the situation in the home country of the participants.

This training concept combines integrated resource management (“Nexus”) with a systemic approach to analyse complex challenges, against the background of the Global Agenda. The first day of the training workshops focuses on a deeper understanding of the Nexus approach by analysing major challenges regarding cross-sectoral coordination to formulate coherent, multisectoral policies and development plans on national level. The second day focuses on the development of possible multi-sectoral, inter-institutional, coordinated solutions based on key elements of the Design Thinking method.

During the training, participants work in groups, each group addressing one of the major ecological, economic and social challenges identified prior to the training workshop. The trainers emphasise the link to the Urban Nexus and integrative solution approaches at all times. Each phase of the training is introduced by a short visualised input on the tools and methods used. Furthermore, each working group is provided with supplementary instructions. Relevant technical state-of-the art and governance background information to integrated resource management is provided complementing the training and setting the framework.

During the course of the workshop, DA's work on resource efficiency and circularity was highlighted by emphasising on the projects ‘Mapping water flows in Indian cities’ funded by HBF and ‘Mapping resources in Indian cities’ funded by GIZ. Some key findings and the plan of action for the next phase for the above mentioned projects were shared during team exercises and discussions.

DA would be incorporating the learnings from the workshop into the next phase of the project ‘Mapping water flows in Indian cities’ as one of its objectives is to explore and understand the urban-nexus of water and energy flow systems within cities. The urban nexus approach can also be utilised and incorporated in projects which include dealing with multiple stakeholders from different divisions and departments. This approach enables one to prioritise the key factors and stakeholders which affect the project in all possible ways.