

MoU Signing and Workshop with Odisha State Housing Board



MoU Signing between Odisha State Housing Board and Development Alternatives
 Ms. Sagarika Patnaik, Managing Director, Odisha State Housing Board (left)
 and Ms. Zeenat Niazi, Senior Vice President, Development Alternatives (right)

Under the project '*Ashraye (Odisha Chapter)- Transforming the Built Environment through Sustainable Materials*', to take the initiative of decarbonising and implementing circular construction practices in the state, Development Alternatives signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Odisha State Housing Board on 7th of December 2023. This strategic partnership is dedicated to promoting sustainability in Odisha's affordable housing sector, emphasising the use of eco-friendly materials and circular economy principles.

Ms. Sagarika Patnaik, Managing Director, Odisha State Housing Board emphasised the importance of confronting the challenges spurred by rapid urbanisation and climate change. She also mentioned that the shift to decarbonisation requires united and systematic endeavors. In these addresses she needed that the consultation is dedicated to fostering the development and implementation of sustainable housing solutions, resilient infrastructure, and cost-effective, eco-friendly housing practices. She believes that the overarching goal is to establish a noteworthy example for other Indian cities, highlighting that sustainability is more than a mere goal—it's a shared responsibility for the collective well-being.

Followed by the MoU signing, a hybrid-mode consultation was held with the 'Market and Finance' working Group was held on the same day. This session, chaired by Mr. Manoj Kar, Chairman, IGBC, and upheld by the participation of Ms. Rasmita Rani Tarasia, OAS (S), Secretary, Odisha State Housing Board was a critical component of the larger initiative, focusing on the seamless integration of sustainable materials into affordable housing development.

Bringing together an array of stakeholders from governmental bodies, ULBs, academia, industries, and the construction sector, the consultation was a dedicated endeavor to dissect market dynamics and financial intricacies pivotal to embedding sustainable materials within affordable housing projects across Odisha. The crux of discussions centered on strategising for a radical market transformation, pinpointing key barriers and challenges that impede the



widespread adoption of sustainable materials. The discourse ventured into unearthing innovative financial instruments, spanning fiscal and non-fiscal market mechanisms, and underscored policy interventions imperative for surmounting these hurdles.

Continuing the collaborative fervor initiated in the preliminary 'Materials and Technology' consultation, this session transited into a platform for comprehensive dialogues on the challenges and prospects entwined with market-centric approaches to sustainable construction practices. Central themes encompassed the imperative of addressing demand-side dynamics while fostering resilient and competitive supply chains for alternative materials. Stakeholders contributed strategic insights aimed at refining the project's roadmap and action strategies, identifying synergistic opportunities for collective action. This consultation stands as a pivotal stride in advancing the overarching objective of championing sustainability in the built environment, in tandem with the principles of decarbonisation and circular economy integration.