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Urban Resilience and Adaptation for India and Mongolia: curricula, capacity, ICT and stakeholder collaboration to support green & blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions
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URGENT *Lecture Series*

4th
Lecture

Mainstreaming Climate Actions at Local Level

Date : 30 October 2021, Saturday
Time : 1315 – 1445 Hrs IST

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Speakers



Dr Nambi Appadurai

Director & Strategy Head
Climate Resilience Practice
World Resources Institute (WRI)

Trained in Public Policy and Development Studies, his overarching research interest intersects the areas of sustainable development, climate risk management, adaptation, environmental policy, institutional development and governance. Most of his research work is focused on Community Based Adaptation to climate change in the Asian and African. His international career includes stints with the World Bank, UNEP, ADB, CGIAR, MEA, among others. He has immensely contributed to UNFCCC COP, IPCC-AR and many others of similar kind.



Ms Prarthana Borah

India Director
Clean Air Asia
New Delhi

An Economist by training, she leads the implementation of India Strategy, working towards advancing better air quality in Indian cities. Prior to this, she led policy support initiatives at the Centre for Environment Education like GoI's policy documents for UNFCCC, COPs, CBD and SDGs. She is also involved in public and youth engagement programmes. She is member of Management Sub Committee - Forum for Global Change, University of Birmingham and Steering Committee Member - Clean Environment and Planetary Health of Australian National University and IIT Chennai

Facilitating Institution

National Institute of Urban Affairs

Speaker: **Ms. Prarthana Borah**, India Director, Clean Air Asia, New Delhi

Topic: **Localising Climate Action with Air Quality Management**

Ms. Prarthana's presentation focused on the local climate action plans. Her presentation starts with the introduction of Clean Air Asia, which is an Asian NGO based in the global south and look at three areas primarily – (i) air quality and climate change, (ii) sustainable urban transport and (iii) low emissions urban development. She emphasized on key functions which determine the exposure to poor air quality, such as where we live, where we work/learn, where we socialize, where we pray and how we travel between. These factors make localized climate action important. Next, the key pollutants which are generally not talked about, but adds to urban air pollution are highlighted i.e., black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone and hydrofluorocarbons. The sources, lifespan and their localized or global impacts are also discussed. Co-benefit approach, which looks at both development and private benefits in a single policy or measure is discussed next. The advantages of reducing short term pollutants are also highlighted. Along with this, the issue of crop burning and the lack of data capturing its affect on human health is also highlighted. Next part of the presentation focused on Air Quality Management. She emphasized on the data which points out that about 97% of the cities in Asia do not meet PM₁₀ WHO standards and about 99.5% of the cities do not meet PM_{2.5} WHO standards and thus have unhealthy air quality levels. Next, the main priority and guidance areas for air quality management are presented. Priority areas include setting and strengthening of AAQS, developing and updating emissions inventories and modelling, linking AQ levels with health and other impacts, communicating air quality, health and co benefits, developing and implementing CAAPs and governing approaches in air quality management. An example of Delhi city was discussed, emphasizing on the need of local scale data. Next, few air quality management goals were discussed. This included – elimination or reduction to acceptable levels of ambient air pollutant concentrations. Air quality management principles are discussed with the emphasise that it is based on the polluter pays and precautionary principles. It also takes into consideration the local circumstances such as sources of air pollution, background air pollution concentrations, technology feasibility etc. It also looks into economic, institutional and political constraints that hinder the full implementation of guidelines. Also, the areas of importance for assessment of air quality were discussed. Next, the key steps for better air quality management were discussed in detail. Key step 1 focused on – Air quality monitoring and source apportionment studies, key step 2 focused on – comprehensive emission inventory and air quality modelling and key step 3 focused on – air pollution exposure and health assessments, and air pollution prevention and control strategies. The development of clean air action plan was also discussed. The four key steps emphasized were – (i) assessment, (ii) action plan development, (iii) implementation and enforcement, and (iv) review and improvement. She also emphasized on mainstreaming urban air pollution issue by identifying interventions that create co-benefits for both long term urban development and better air. Lastly, she emphasized on the needs of having more low emission mobility options and urban development plans that are more inclusive of mobility and accessibility. More questions pertaining to Ms. Prarthana's research work can be corresponded through her email- borah.prarthana@gmail.com

Speaker: **Dr.Nambi Appadurai**, Director and Strategy Head, Climate Resilience Practice, World Resources Institute (WRI)

Topic: **Mainstreaming climate actions at the local level**

Dr.Nambi's presentation starts with definition of mainstreaming in context of climate change, which is described as the "process of including climate aspects in development programs, management policies or strategies, in place or being implemented, rather than developing adaptation and mitigation initiatives that are activated separately". The key steps for implementation of mainstreaming are also discussed. He emphasizes that adaptation being a local phenomenon, it is multi sectoral and have multifaceted dimensions and it's important to recognize that it is also connected to the lives and livelihoods of people. Thus, mainstreaming activity should ultimately help devise strategic and long-term climate sensitive development plans. Another benefit of mainstreaming pointed out was how it helps to avoid potential trade-offs between adaptation and development strategies that could result in maladaptation in the future. The importance of understanding of impacts is discussed in the context of nature and degree of impacts. Next, the importance of local level mainstreaming climate actions was discussed in detail. He emphasizes on importance of stakeholder participation which includes active participation of citizens, representations from relevant sectors, local government offices and population of diverse backgrounds. An important schematic diagram that focused on the iterative steps in mainstreaming climate actions by including mitigation and adaptation pathways was also discussed. WRI's mainstreaming framework is discussed next. This framework emphasized on few important process – leadership, coordination mechanisms, information and tools, and supportive financial processes, which can help bridge the implementation gap. Next, knowledge framework for mainstreaming was discussed including the important information that needs to be obtained such as climate related, demographics, environmental context, social and economic context and town planning context. Using Nepal's example, two action plan implementations were discussed – National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) and Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA). LAPA is described as a framework that provides a way to integrate local people's adaptation needs for climate change resilience into local to national planning systems, while also ensuring that the process of integrating climate change resilience into local planning is bottom up, inclusive and flexible. Important areas where LAPA has made an impact was also discussed. An example of *Meenangadi* panchayat – the first panchayat to develop a carbon neutral action plan was also discussed. The methodology used in this panchayat calculated carbon equivalency based on the standard values accepted at international level for India. Next, the principles of locally led climate actions were discussed. The main principals discussed included – devolution of decision making to the lowest level possible, simpler access, patient and predictable funding, investing in local institutions to leave institutional legacies, addressing structural inequalities etc. Different participatory approaches at the community level were also discussed, such as Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (PVA), Participatory Scenario Development (PSD), Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection and Learning (PEMRL) etc. Next, the leverages for effective mainstreaming were discussed which focused on factoring local knowledge, ensuring financial flows, resource mobilization strategies etc. Lastly, the key messages to be considered for mainstreaming climate actions at the local level were presented. More questions pertaining to Dr.Nambi's research work can be corresponded through his email- nappadurai@wri.org

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prarthana borah

1:23 PM | URGENT Lecture Series

Participants: arivudai nambi, Sarath Babu M.G., Debjani Ghosh, prashanth maratha, M.M. ANEES, Swati Kothary, Aniruddh Vaghela, SATISH SAINI, 10 others, You

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20

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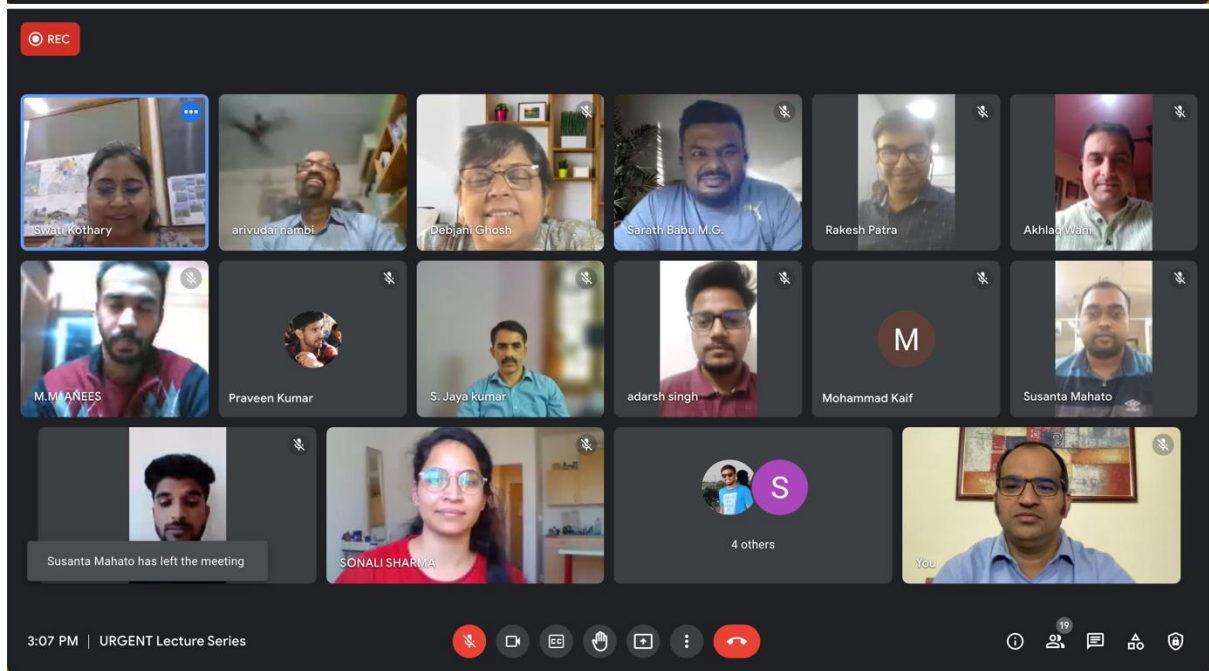
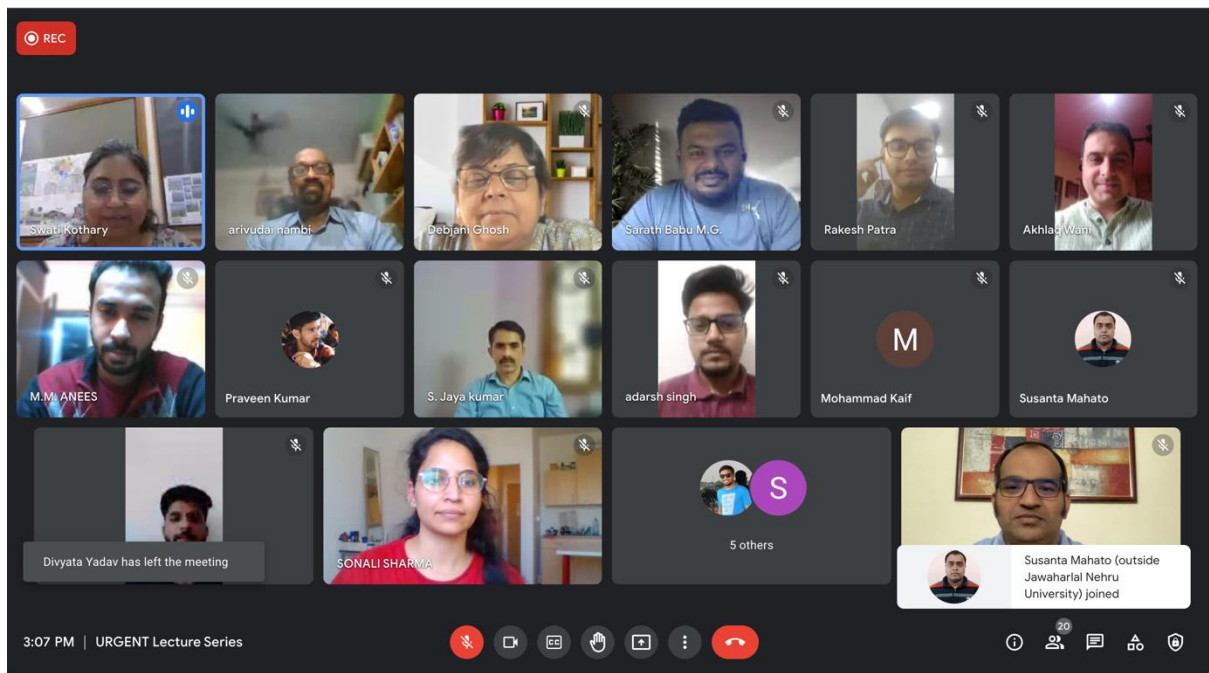
arivudai nambi

2:02 PM | URGENT Lecture Series

Participants: Debjani Ghosh, prarthana borah, Sarath Babu M.G., Swati Kothary, Shadman Nahid, khushnoodaa anjum, Aniruddh Vaghela, M.M. ANEES, 14 others, You

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24



Link to Lecture

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