

Climate Centre for Cities, National Institute of Urban Affairs signs MoU with IRADe Centre of Excellence for building Climate Smart Cities

October 08, 2020: The Climate Centre for Cities (C-cube) within the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), instituted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), has partnered with Integrated Research & Action for Development (IRADe), for developing climate-smart cities across India. C-cube will work with IRADe's Centre of Excellence Urban Development and Climate Change to strengthen capacities of cities in order to understand, implement and monitor the actions needed for addressing climate change impacts in their local context.

IRADe's Center of Excellence (CoE) with its 12 years of research and expertise, will impart technical knowledge and guidance to C-cube, in making Indian cities become climate-smart. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the C-cube, NIUA and IRADe CoE was signed by Prof. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe and Mr Hitesh Vaidya, Director, NIUA.

Mr Rohit Magotra, Deputy Director, IRADe shared that the MoU establishes an agreement to jointly work together to cooperate and collaborate on various aspects of climate change and cities through the Climate Smart Cities Alliance. Both the organisations will collaborate and work together to handhold the cities on their Climate Smart Assessment Framework, develop and share knowledge products, capacity building modules/ tools, advocacy, and innovative practices for mainstreaming and implementing city level climate action in India.

The aspects of Climate Change are a pressing environmental concern in cities and is creating an additional stress on urban infrastructure and lifeline services. In this scenario, adaptation and mitigation to climate risks in cities is an important aspect of the Indian government's efforts to fulfil its commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In India most of the cities are vulnerable to these climates induced natural hazards. As per the National Disaster Management Authority, 58.6 percent of the Indian landmass is vulnerable to floods and river erosions, 5700 km of the country's coastline is prone to cyclones and Tsunamis and more than half (68 percent) of its cultivable area is drought-prone.

IRADe has designed and developed Urban Climate Vulnerability Assessment Framework (UVAF) with an aim to make Indian cities climate-resilient uses seven broad thematic indicators - physical, hazard, social, demographic, financial provisioning, infrastructure and administration vulnerabilities, and their sub-indicators to evaluate the climate vulnerability in

Indian cities. Secondary information sources available at the city level were used for assessing climate vulnerability of the cities.

About IRADE, CoE

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) is a reputed Public Policy Think Tank. IRADe is designated as a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Urban Development and Climate Change since 2008, by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. The CoE addresses critical issues related to Urban Development and Climate Resilience in India, through capacity building, research, and training, integrating various urban development efforts, and documenting best practices and policy level prescriptions.

CoE research findings have facilitated decision-making for various ministries, including the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Niti Ayog, Ministry of Power, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Urban Development, Department of Science and Technology, among others. COE has also contributed to the low carbon pathways and the Nationally Determined Contributions until 2030 and 2050. The research outcomes are widely shared in platforms like IPCC SREX, European Union, Rockefeller Foundation (ACCCRN), UN-Habitat, and other international forums.

About C-cube, NIUA

The Climate Center for Cities (C-Cube) within the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is instituted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), GoI. It works for climate-informed urban development actions by fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovation; conducting capacity building, advocacy, and policy research; and developing knowledge products and proof of concepts to initiate and sustain climate actions in Indian cities.