

### WORDS FROM THE EDITORS

Ten years ago, Nordhausen, together with Heidelberg, Dresden and Bielefeld, initiated the development of an environmental management system for local governments ecoBUDGET. Who imagined that today we would have reached Asia?

Concerns that ecoBUDGET was too tailored for German administrative procedures were dispelled by the experiences of the participating local governments. Bologna, Växjö, Amaroussion, Ferrara, Kalithea, Lewes (then Kaiserslautern and Ravenna) proved that ecoBUDGET is tailor-made for local governments and can successfully be applied regardless of geographical, cultural, and economic differences. They showed that ecoBUDGET can help harmonise urban environmental management at European level.

Today we know that the journey has just begun. Guntur and Tubigon (Province of Bohol), with the support of Bologna and Växjö, will show that ecoBUDGET is a flexible and efficient environmental management system, even on a global scale and also, able to integrate other aspects of sustainability. An application of environmental management in Asian local governments will be challenged by issues like poverty alleviation. The challenge has begun, successes are approaching. We are happy and proud of this long journey and thank warmly all colleagues and partners which have accompanied us so far.

Holger Robrecht, Andrea Burzacchini (ecoBUDGET Agency)

## The Voice of Bologna



Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I would like to present the first edition of the newsletter dedicated to the ecoBUDGET-Asia project. The project, for me and for all those working on it, represents a world-wide challenge, for the improvement of the environment in which we live and which we will leave for future generations to inherit.

In Europe, we are currently going through an emergency linked to the fall in supplies of Russian gas, which could turn out to be the first in a series of increasingly serious emergency situations that could threaten the world in the near future. This thought leads to the consideration that **natural resources must be treated as a precious commodity** and not as inexhaustible. Their use must be programmed and monitored ever more closely, so that the unrestrainable development characterising the world today, can proceed hand in hand with sustaina-

bility, to be employed not just at local level, but more importantly at global level. Following on from the success deriving from the application of the ecoBUDGET environmental management system in Bologna, as well as in other European cities, our administration has welcomed with enthusiasm the challenge of coordinating this ambitious project. The aim is to export the ecoBUDGET model to those countries that are undergoing a period of particularly rapid economic development and urbanisation, such as those in Asia.

The objective is not just to improve the capacity for managing natural resources, but also to introduce a system of programming that is transparent and participative, able to involve local citizens and to sharpen public opinion on the themes of environmental protection.

**A healthier environment does in fact add to an improved quality of life and increased opportunities** for development both on a personal level and for society as a whole. Thanks to the project and the field visits carried out, the link between the conditions of the environment and the quality of life has become even clearer to our eyes. Simply consider India, and the city of Guntur, where the redevelopment of the slum areas and a correct management and distribution of water supplies are

fundamental elements for the improvement of public hygiene and the living conditions of the local population.

The same consideration emerged from the reality of the Philippines, and in particular the Province of Bohol, where employment and the reduction of poverty are closely linked to the protection of the rich natural heritage which is the main draw for tourism on the island.

In conclusion, there are today two opposing ways of regarding development. The first sees financial profit as the only criterion with which to measure success. The second, on the other hand, considers development to be profoundly linked to such essential aspects as the personal dignity of the worker, public health and the conservation of natural resources.

**I believe that ecoBUDGET is a tool that can be used by cities** aiming to respect this second concept of development.

Finally, I would like to thank the European Commission, which, with the funding granted through the Asia-Urbs Programme, once again demonstrated its faith in the project and in the commitment of the partners to attain the project objectives.

The Lord Mayor of Bologna,  
Sergio Cofferati

# ecoBUDGET ASIA - WHO'S WHO?

## Bohol Province with the municipality of Tubigon, Phillipines



Bohol Province, with a population of close to a million, is the tenth largest island in the Philippines. It is a tourist hub, which is one of the sectors of investments in the province, alongside agriculture and manufacturing. Of the total land area, 19% has been classified as protected areas.

Wishing to acquire the capacity to implement a sustainable development management system, Tubigon turned to their provincial government to act as broker and deliverer of sustainability management tools.

Tubigon, with a population of 40 385, is a fast urbanising municipality. It has the largest timberland area in the province, and due to a high population growth rate is now experiencing urban problems, e.g., waste and air pollution. Hence the need for action to be taken.

The implementation of *ecoBUDGET* will help to reinforce their position as an eco-tourism centre and assist their pursuit of sustainable development.

## Guntur, India



Located in the south west of India, in the province of Andhra Pradesh, the extent of Guntur's Municipal Corporation encapsulates an area of 48 km<sup>2</sup>, with a population of 512 000 as per 2001 census. Guntur has a population density of 10 550 persons / km<sup>2</sup>.

In the aftermath of democratic decentralisation, municipal governments were enabled to initiate environmental management programmes.

However, faced with lack regard for the environment and limited infrastructure, it is difficult for local bodies to exercise their powers and functions and make substantial improvements in this area. However, as a topic, it cannot be simply ignored and the GMC has taken the initiative to integrate an environmental management system into their programme for government.

The choice of *ecobudget* as this instrument will pilot a new approach to environmental management in the subcontinent

## Bologna, Italy



With a population of 380 000 and an area of 141 km<sup>2</sup>, Bologna is the capital of the Emilia-Romagna region in northern Italy. The landscape ranges from copse belts to lawns, hedges, sowings, and vineyards. Along the Reno valley there are many sandstone walls, shelter of rock fauna.

An interesting initiative in Bologna is the Statement of the Environment report, which analyses the quality of the environment using data on 73 indicators, focusing on urban environmental quality, urban flows and urban patterns.

Here, the focus of *ecoBUDGET* is to become a communication instrument within the Local Agenda 21, thereby supporting environmental communication of scenarios defined by a new structural plan. Bologna city council ratified the *master budget* for the first time on February 3, 2003.

## Växjö, Sweden



With nearly 75 000 inhabitants, Växjö is the regional capital of Småland, a region located in the middle of Southern Sweden. It is also the home of 'the Kingdom of Crystal', so called because of its world renowned glass works. Vast forests and a multitude of lakes characterize the geographical area, creating an attractive environment for inhabitants and visitors.

Växjö was the winner of the Local Initiatives Award for Excellence in Atmospheric Protection and aims to remain a leader in environmental work by adopting a progressive management system.

The focus of Växjö's *ecoBUDGET* is to improve the structure of their environmental management and become a pioneer for sustainable development. Växjö city council ratified the *master budget* for the first time on March 27, 2003

## ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability



ICLEI is an international association of local governments implementing sustainable development. Its mission is to build & serve a worldwide movement of local governments in order to achieve tangible improvements in global environmental and sustainable development conditions through cumulative local actions.

The *ecoBUDGET* method was originally developed by ICLEI European Secretariat.

# ecoBUDGET GOES EAST!

## Implementing ecoBUDGET in Asian Local Governments

ecoBUDGET-Asia is a project funded by the EU's Asia Urbs programme and co-ordinated by the Municipality of Bologna. It aims to transfer the knowledge and experience of ecoBUDGET in European cities to their Asian counterparts.

Växjö and Bologna are able collaborate at peer-to-peer level with the Asian partners, Guntur and Bohol, under the framework of ICLEI's advisory activities.

The project is going to last three years, from 2005 to 2007. Below is an overview of the events of the first year.



### WORKSHOP 1 Bologna, March 2005

The kick-off meeting was an opportunity for the partners to get to know each other and the project better. While some, Växjö and Bologna, were seasoned veterans of ecoBUDGET, the new partners, Tubigon/Bohol and Guntur were just beginning their journey. Consequently, the first session was largely an introduction to the project itself. Participants were given the chance to volunteer their expectations and the administration of the project was discussed.

In the following days, the themes concerning the project, namely the process from priorities to resources to indicators and from indicators to targets, were dealt with in more depth. This is a very important part of the ecoBUDGET preliminary process. Further sessions included descriptions of the organisational set-up necessary for the successful introduction of the ecoBUDGET cycle. Initial ideas for Bohol and Guntur's possible organisational structure were developed.



The final session was dedicated to highlighting the next steps of project implementation. The findings of the previous days were summarised and a path to progress was derived.



### FIELD VISIT 1 Guntur and Bohol, June 2005

Two field visits of the European partners to their respective Asian counterparts is a key element of the project.

When Bologna and ICLEI went to visit **Guntur**, the primary issue was the acquaintance of the European delegation with the administrative and political faces of the Guntur Municipal Council. Local officials were interested as to how the implementation of ecoBUDGET would involve them and this was duly clarified. A stakeholder forum was held to meet with interested third parties. This resulted in the suggestion of many potential indicators.



Concurrent to the above field visit, representatives from Växjö and ICLEI voyaged to **Bohol**. The process was enhanced by a high level of local involvement, with the kick-off meeting being well attended by 15 municipalities and numerous representatives from the private and non-governmental sector.

After establishing what capacity gaps needed to be filled and defining a politico-administrative structure, Tubigon was encouraged to find a local solution to the challenges of ecoBUDGET integration.

Site visits were instrumental in allowing the parties to understand more comprehensively, the challenges of introducing an environmental management system to the municipality.



### WORKSHOP 2 Bohol, October 2005

The second workshop gave all partners a chance to assess progress to date. It was also an excellent opportunity to analyse any problematic elements that had arisen, on all levels and to derive solutions to these.

Significantly, the workshop in Bohol represented the conclusion of the preparation phase of ecoBUDGET and the move onwards to the implementation phase. Bologna and Växjö explained to Bohol and Guntur how, in their experiences, actions had been related to targets. Importantly, actions were chosen to facilitate the implementation of relevant targets.

The test city, Tubigon, was visited for a first hand look at the local focal point of all proposed improvements. Local councillors and stakeholders had the chance to meet the team and all were given the chance to discuss what was important to them within the framework of the project. Recommendations were made for the successful implementation of ecoBUDGET in Asia. A special slot was dedicated to the preparation of Master Budget in both the municipalities. During the closing sessions of the workshop, dissemination strategies were addressed and outlined. Feedback was supplied to help tailor the web kit to meet the projects needs.



# ecoBUDGET - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

"As we can manage artificial resources - money- in term of budget, why shouldn't we do the same with natural resources?"

## The Concept

This question is the backbone of *ecoBUDGET*, the environmental management system developed with local governments in mind. Based on the physical description of use and consumption of natural resources within the municipal territory, *ecoBUDGET* allows local governments to present tangible achievements of their sustainability oriented policies to the greater public. Without assigning monetary value to the environment, *ecoBUDGET* applies principles and routines of financial budgeting to the management of natural resources. Unlike other environmental management systems, *ecoBUDGET* is concerned with the management of natural resources within the municipal territory and community as a whole. *ecoBUDGET* is unique in its requirement

that established quantitative long term and annual targets must be ratified by the city council and so, can influence the direction of local environment policies. The figure below shows briefly the nine steps of *ecoBUDGET*, with preparation, implementation and evaluation phases.

## Applications of the system

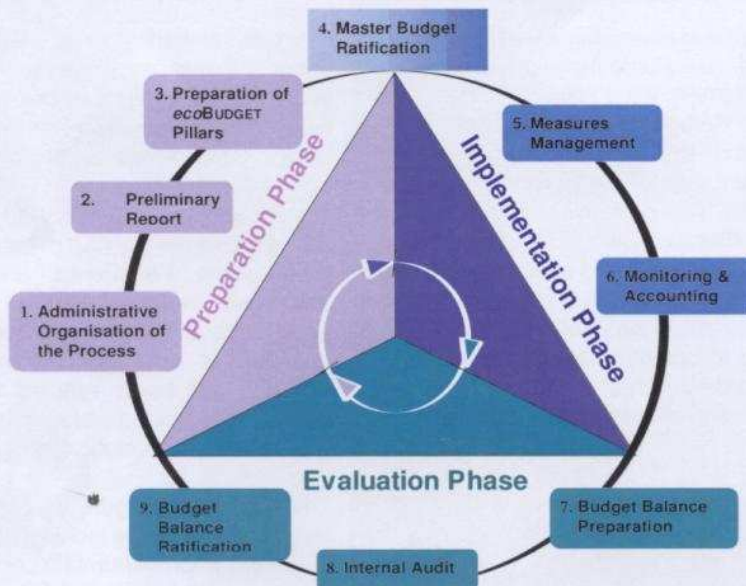
The system, firstly tested in Germany (1996-1999) in four local authorities, is now successfully applied in Europe in twelve different municipalities.

## The *ecoBUDGET* - ASIA project

The project, co-ordinated by the municipality of Bologna, represents the first attempt of applying the system beyonds European borders.

A further aim of the project is to evaluate if *ecoBUDGET* is able to address other aspects of sustainability.

At the bottom of the page the next events of the projects are listed.



## PROJECT NEXT STEPS

**April-June 2006:** Field Visits 2. Bologna will visit Guntur and Växjö will visit Tubigon. Advisory on measures implementation and experts consultancy according to the needs of the Asian municipalities

**September 2006:** Workshop 3 in Guntur.

Main themes: measures management within implementation phase, training on budget balance preparation, overall mid-term evaluation

**February 2007:** Workshop 4 in Växjö.

Guntur and Tubigon/Bohol will travel to Europe to show their results. European *ecoBUDGET* pioneers, as well as European Union representatives will be invited.

**October 2007:** Workshop 5 and Final Conferences in India and Philippines. Results will be celebrated and disseminated. The project will be evaluated.

## CONTACTS

Bologna (Project leader)

Project Manager

Ms. Pamela Lama  
pamela.lama@comune.bologna.it

Scientific Co-ordinator

Ms. Raefaella Gueze  
raefaella.gueze@comune.bologna.it

Växjö

Mr. Anders Franzén  
anders.franzen@kommun.vaxjo.se

Guntur

Mr. Sadhu Sudheer  
sadhu.sudheer@rediffmail.com

Bohol

Municipality of Tubigon

Mr. Noel Mendana  
ncmmpdc@yahoo.com

Province of Bohol

Mr. Juanito Cambangay  
ppdc\_bohol@yahoo.com

ICLEI

European Secretariat

Mr. Andrea Burzacchini  
andrea.burzacchini@iclei-europe.org

South Asia Office

Mr. Emani Kumar  
emani.kumar@iclei.org

Southeast Asia Office

Ms. Joy Bailey  
joy.bailey@iclei.org

Editors

Andrea Burzacchini, Ciara Leonard,  
Holger Robrecht

Print & Layout

Andrea Burzacchini, Ciara Leonard,  
Holger Robrecht

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