

# ecoBUDGET - ASIA

## Project Brief No. 3 / March '07



### WORDS FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the third project brief of the ecoBUDGET - ASIA project!

The project has entered its third and last year. A lot of news, events and successes must be reported. Most of the first two pages are devoted to the **third Project's Workshop in Guntur** (report at page 1 and press echoes at page 2).

Page 3 reports on three different events in Asia, Africa and Europe, where results of our project have been shown: the third **Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Thrid Assembly** in Cape Town, the **PRO-ACT final conference** in Mumbai and the visit to Bologna by the Governor of Bohol and the Mayor of Mumbai within the **Premio Alta Qualità (High Quality Award)** ceremony.

Page 4 reports on Växjö's victory in the prize **Sustainable Energy Europe Award 2007** and introduce the **Fifth European Conference of Sustainable Cities and Towns 2007**, taking place in Sevilla (Spain).

Enjoy reading!

Holger Robrecht, Andrea Burzacchini (ecoBUDGET Agency)

## Guntur Workshop paves the way forward for the project!

Cities delegations and ICLEI staff (from Europe, South Asia and Southeast Asia) flocked to the fascinating and culturally-diverse country of India last September 25-30, 2006 for the 3rd Partners' Meeting hosted by Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC).

The main goals of the Partners' Meeting were to verify the progress of the part-



ners in implementing the ecoBUDGET; review the Environmental Master Budgets of both Guntur and Tubigon, discuss project management issues and carry on the initial preparation of an Asian version of the ecoBUDGET manual.

Guntur showcased their targets, as well as on-going and planned measures relevant to their Environmental Master Budget. Their priority areas are water quality and quantity, waste management, urban greening and air quality. During the city tour, Bologna delegates (who had been to Guntur twice previously) were impressed with the great improvements particularly on street maintenance (i.e. cleanliness, structures, organisation of hawkers).

Atty. Juanito Cambangay (the Local Project Manager of Bohol), Engr. Noel Mendana (Municipal Planning & Development Officer & Team Leader of the Local Implementing Team) and Mr. Marlon Amila, (elected councillor & member of the Local Implementing Team) represen-

ted Bohol. Tubigon highlighted their on-going measures. For several indicators, like in the case of accounting for non-revenue water and no. of households segregating their waste, Tubigon has already exceeded its targets.

The workshop was also an opportunity for partners to compare and contrast administrative/political systems, environmental issues and community response. Among the events within the workshop the meeting with District Collector Mrs Jayalakshmi plays an outstanding role. The District Collector is an officer of the Indian Administrative Service and is the most powerful government official of the district. Mrs Jayalakshmi posed several questions about the project and also advised on integrating ecoBUDGET with existing other projects, so that on each and every project environmental resources can be taken care of.

The workshop was enriched by technical visits (including the water testing laboratory established at Takkellapadu and two



water reservoirs were almost completed at LB Nagar and SVR Thota) and cultural sightseeing (the enormous chilli market, the self-help group at Kolping Centre, an entertainment park for children living in suburbs and old temples).

Press and television were actively present during the whole workshop and interviewed not only Guntur's politicians

(Mayor Kanna Nagaraju, Deputy Mayor Murali Mohan, Commissioner D. Rama Rao and ex-Mayor and Project Coordinator Ch. Yesuratnam) but also the guests from Europe and the Philippines.



During the evenings receptions at Gandhi Park, Crazy World Water Park and Mayor's Residence offered the participants samples of Indian music and dance and helped the group to create a strong and friendly atmosphere.

### LAST MINUTE

#### Tubigon and Guntur approve Master Budgets 2007!

On 22nd December 2006 Tubigon City Council presented a welcome Christmas gift to the population: Master Budget 2007, with new ambitious target have been unanimously approved!

At the end of January 2007 The City Council of Guntur Municipal Corporation did the same, after a long and discussed debate.

Both elements, with the Budget Balances 2006 - which will be ratified soon - will be published in the next project brief and in the website [www.ecobudget-asia.net](http://www.ecobudget-asia.net)

During the workshop in Guntur, project partners from Bologna, Bohol, Växjö and ICLEI staff from Europe, South Asia and Southeast Asia who visited the city, were in awe of the Indian media. This event caught, in an overwhelming way, the media and press attention during the four days of the Workshop. Many newspapers like Andhra Jyothi, Andhra Prabha, Vaartha, The New Indian Express, Eenadu, The Hindu and many others, published several articles daily, both in English and in Telugu, the official language in Andhra Pradesh state. The press release was so astonishing that, in many cases ecoBUDGET dominated the cover pages of the newspapers.

This article aims to compile and convey the press releases, in order to highlight the influence that the ecoBUDGET-Asia project has on the city of Guntur.

The article showed on the right is an example of one of the many articles published in Telugu. The headline of the article means: "Prepare plans to reach ecoBUDGET goals", and it is focused on the necessity to prepare a plan to achieve the ecoBUDGET indicators on time. Among all the published articles, a lot of them referred to the importance of the ecoBUDGET project when promoting sustainable development for future generations. Some small

anecdotes regarding small disagreements between the project partners and the GMC corporations were also revealed in some articles. To follow with, many articles emphasized in the importance of the ecoBUDGET workshops to exchange information and technical knowledge in order to carry on a good implementation of ecoBUDGET.



### PREPARE PLANS TO REACH ecoBUDGET GOALS

*"The meeting mainly discussed the GMC indicators on quality water, quantity of water, greening of the city and air pollution. Commissioner also said that enough quantity of water is released to citizens, but the quality of water not just the chlorination but all other 15 parameters need to be checked".*

*Andhra Jyothi, page 4, 28 September 2006*

### EUROPEAN EXPERTS PUSH FOR ECO BUDGETING

*"Andrea Burzacchini, ecoBUDGET - Asia Technical Coordinator said: If the 19th century belonged to Europe and the 20th century to American economy, it was the Asian economy that was zooming at a fast pace. The ecobudgeting was one of the means to promote sustainable development for future generations". "GMC corporators were in arms against the officials connected to the project for not posting them with the latest developments and happenings, to which the Commissioner promised to hold a special session".*

*The Hindu, page 5, 27 September 2006*

### ecoBUDGET, PANACEA FOR FIVE MAJOR PROBLEMS

*"Workshops like this, facilitate the sharing of information and technical know-how of implementing ecoBUDGET would solve the five major problems, wastage of drinking water, enhancing the quality of water, traffic management, increasing the green cover and implementing the solid waste management programs". "Former Mayor of GMC Ch Yesuratnam termed ecoBUDGET as a 'boon' for the city".*

*The New Indian Express, page 3, 27 September 2006*

On a more technical point of view, some articles did also focus on more detailed information regarding the project targets to be achieved and the indicator measures.

### EARLY VICTORY FOR GUNTUR CIVIC BODY

*"GUNTUR: The GMC has achieved a majority of short-term targets in the five parameters it has taken in the master ecoBUDGET passed by the council in March 2006, the four - nation workshop observed on Wednesday".*

*The Hindu, page 3, 28 September 2006*

### EUROPEAN SCEPTICS ON ecoBUDGET SILENCED

*"Rafella Gueze, technical expert in environmental aspects of the Bologna Municipality, said: it was difficult to physically measure some of the parameters. However, on solid waste management what we found was a sea change in the garbage liting and today streets of Guntur do not smell like what we found in June".*

*The Hindu, page 5, 30 September 2006*

Finally, the weekly cultural section of the Hindu devoted a long article on the intercultural exchanges in the project, showing the human importance of such experiences, far beyond the mere environmental and technical point of view.

### EUPHORIC EXPEDITION

*"The warmth and generosity with which they were received at Lord Venkateswara temple never ceased to surprise the European delegates from Växjö, Bologna and Bohol". "There is so much beauty in the diverse natural terrain here", said Anders Franzen"*

*METROPLUS, The Hindu, page 2, 30 September 2006*

## BUILDING UP COOPERATION...

### Mayor of Guntur and Governor of Bohol invited to Bologna to act as Jurors in an international award ceremony

The Premio Alta Qualità (High Quality Award), now at its sixth edition, offers recognition to "people of value":

women and men from around the world who work, live and devote themselves to reaching higher quality in their fields of activity. Instituted in 2001 by a private organisation (Granarolo S.p.A.), the Award received the High Patronage of the President of the Republic of Italy in 2005, and has been



Mayor of Guntur, Kanna Nagaraju, meets Mayor of Bologna, Sergio Cofferati

promoted in co-operation with the Municipality of Bologna in 2006. In virtue of this collaboration, the Jury for the 2006 edition has also included some of the mayors of the towns and cities that have important relationships with Bologna: Bethlehem (Palestine), Guntur (India), Bohol (Philippines), Nueremberg (Germany), Itabashi (Tokyo, Japan), Tuzla (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Kharkiv (Ukraine). Due to the relationships that were developed with Guntur and Bohol during the 2 years of running of the ecoBUDGET-Asia project, Mayor of Guntur, Kanna Nagaraju, and Juanito Cambangay, representing the Governor of Bohol, were invited to Bologna to take part to the Award ceremony which took place on the 29th of November 2006, at Bologna Municipal Theatre.

This event was considered a success of the Asia-Urbs project in promoting wider relationships between the Partners. Due to the recent elections which took place in Guntur, it also gave the opportunity to the newly elected Mayor of Guntur to meet the Mayor of Bologna, Sergio Cofferati, and visit the city. High Quality Award Web Site:

(<http://www.premioaltaqualita.org>)

## ...MEETING OTHER PROJECTS...

### ecoBUDGET-ASIA representatives join "PRO-ACT" project final conference in Mumbai

Kanna Nagaraju, Mayor of Guntur, and Pamela Lama from the Municipality of Bologna, Project Manager of ecoBUDGET-Asia, were invited to join the PRO-ACT final conference, which took place in Mumbai (India) on the 2nd and 3rd of November 2006,



Mayor of Guntur (centre) meets Mayor of Mumbai (r.) and Mayor of Yokohama (l.)

together with the 22nd Citynet Executive Committee meeting. The event brought together representatives of Asian and European public bodies, international organisations and donors, with the aim of fostering the Euro-Asian dialogue and matches the needs of the two continents, giving impetus to new forms of co-operation and projects.

The conference represented the last of a series of events organised by PRO-ACT, a two-years networking and capacity-building project, funded by the Asia-Urbs programme and co-ordinated by Grand Lyon (F).

Bringing together partners from Europe (Grand Lyon, City of Lyon, Eurocities, Economie et Humanism) and Asia (Colombo Municipality, the largest city of Sri Lanka, and Citynet), PRO-ACT intends to pave the way for better interaction between Euro-Asian decentralised co-operation and bilateral



Technical visit in Mumbai Bio-gas production

and multilateral support of urban projects.

Materials and leaflets related to the ecoBUDGET-Asia project were distributed, raising the interest of several Asian local bodies.

## ...BEING RECOGNISED AS OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

### ecoBUDGET-ASIA presented at the Third GEF Assembly in CapeTown, 28-30 August 2006

The Assembly is the governing body of the Global Environmental Facility in which representatives of all 176 member countries participate. It meets every three to four years, and is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the GEF's general policies, the operation of the GEF, and its membership. During the Assembly a **side event on ecoBUDGET-Asia** took place. Prof. **Johan Nel** from North-West University Potchefstroom (South Africa) welcomed all participants to the event and introduced the speakers and session details. In his presentation he explained the importance of conserving natural resources and ecoBUDGET as tool for urban environmental management. He explained the successful implementation of ecoBUDGET in European cities and now pilot implementation in Asian cities. Finally he stressed the application of ecoBUDGET is not only limited to local level it can also be adopted for regional or national level. Mr **Paolo Natali**, President of the Environmental Committee of Bologna City Council, showed Bologna's case in relationship to change of ruling majority.

Ms **Joy Bailey**, ICLEI South-East Asia and Mr **Anurag Mishra**, ICLEI South Asia presented the pilot implementation of ecoBUDGET-Asia funded by European Commission at Province of Bohol in Philippines and Guntur city in India. Ms Bailey explained the importance of ecoBUDGET in terms of addressing the issue of Poverty at the Municipality of Tubigon. Mr. Mishra informed the adoptability of ecoBUDGET in Indian local conditions and its demand by other cities in the region. Following issues were raised by participants, selection of focal areas, defining indicators for Master Budget, integration of ecoBUDGET with other programs of ICLEI like CCP, Water Campaign, LAB and others.



Mr. Paolo Natali, Prof. Johan Nel and Ms Joy Bailey (left to right)

## Växjö wins Sustainable Energy Europe Award 2007!

During the European Sustainable Energy Week, which took place between 29 January and 2 February 2007, the Sustainable Energy Europe Award 2007 was presented to outstanding projects that support the achievement of the EU's energy policy targets. Our European partner, the city of Växjö, which is also one of the European Cities for Climate Protection (CCP)<sup>TM</sup> Cities of Ambition, received the award in the category Sustainable Communities. The award was won in recognition of the city's work on Fossil Fuel Free Växjö.



Växjö took the decision in 1996 to become a fossil fuel free city to reduce the human impact on climate change. Between 1993 and 2005 the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels were reduced by 24% per inhabitant and the share of renewable energy is now over 50%. The Fossil Fuel Free Växjö program incorporates different types of activities, such as biomass-based district heating and power generation, district cooling, biomass boilers for households, energy efficient street lighting, energy efficient construction, use of solar panels, cycle paths, environmental friendly cars, biogas production, large scale bio-DME production etc. The city thereby expects to meet its target by 2010. To read more about the concept and results of Fossil Fuel Free Växjö, visit [www.sustenergy.org/](http://www.sustenergy.org/)

## ecoBUDGET - ASIA AT LARGEST EUROPEAN STAGE!

The **Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Town** will take place the 21-24 March 2007, in Seville, Spain. The conference will meet with more than 1000 delegates committed to sustainability. The events builds on the success of local governments to meet, to series of conferences held in Aalborg 1994, Lisbon 1996, Hannover 2000, and Aalborg 2004.

Bologna and Växjö will be present at highest level with the Environmental Mayor **Anna Patullo** (Bologna) and Lord Mayor **Bo Frank** (Växjö). Our project will be presented in different sessions: "Integrated management systems: operating at the heart of the city" by **Anna Carlsson**, from Växjö. As for Bologna,



**Giovanni Fini**, head of Environmental Department, will speak in the Workshop C1 "The whole cycle- The Aalborg Commitment implementation process" while **Raffaella Gueze** will introduce project's result in the session C9 "City-to-city cooperation towards urban sustainability". Finally the methodology *ecoBUDGET* will be presented by **Andrea Burzacchini** (ICLEI) in the sessions of "Tools Demonstration".

Presentation and reports on the conference will be downloadable at <http://www.sevilla2007.org>

### PROJECT NEXT STEPS

#### Workshop 4 - Växjö - 10-14 April 2007

Within the fourth Workshop of the project, the Asian cities will show their European partners the achieved results. For this special occasion the *ecoBUDGET* pioneer cities of Dresden, Kaiserslautern (both Germany) and Lewes (UK) will be invited.

#### Final Conferences - Hyderabad / Bohol 11-16 October 2007

The results of the whole project will be exposed and discussed in two subsequent final conferences, addressed to wide public in India (11-12 October in Hyderabad) and in the Philippines (15-16 October in Bohol). In the next issue the programmes of the conferences will be published.

### PEOPLE GO, PEOPLE COME

Britta Jankay was born in Mexico, but has a German mother and an US father. She holds an Master degree in Urban Environmental management and replaces Marta Anglada for the position of Project Assistance at ICLEI European Secretariat. She will assist with the the up-dates of webpages and preparation of the project briefs. The consortium welcomes Britta on board!



## CONTACTS

### Bologna (Project leader)

#### Project Manager

Ms. Pamela Lama  
[pamela.lama@comune.bologna.it](mailto:pamela.lama@comune.bologna.it)

#### Scientific Co-ordinator

Ms. Raffaella Guèze  
[raffaella.gueze@comune.bologna.it](mailto:raffaella.gueze@comune.bologna.it)

### Växjö

Ms. Torun Israelsson  
[torun.israelsson@kommun.vaxjo.se](mailto:torun.israelsson@kommun.vaxjo.se)

### Guntur

Mr. Sadhu Sudheer  
[sadhu.sudheer@rediffmail.com](mailto:sadhu.sudheer@rediffmail.com)

### Bohol

#### Municipality of Tubigon

Mr. Noel Mendana  
[ncmmpdc@yahoo.com](mailto:ncmmpdc@yahoo.com)

#### Province of Bohol

Mr. Juanito Cambangay  
[ppdc\\_bohol@yahoo.com](mailto:ppdc_bohol@yahoo.com)

### ICLEI

#### European Secretariat

Mr. Andrea Burzacchini  
[andrea.burzacchini@iclei-europe.org](mailto:andrea.burzacchini@iclei-europe.org)

#### South Asia Office

Mr. Emani Kumar  
[emani.kumar@iclei.org](mailto:emani.kumar@iclei.org)

#### Southeast Asia Office

Ms. Joy Bailey  
[joy.bailey@iclei.org](mailto:joy.bailey@iclei.org)

[www.ecobudget-asia.net](http://www.ecobudget-asia.net)

### Editors

Holger Robrecht, Andrea Burzacchini,  
Britta Jankay

### Print & Layout

Holger Robrecht, Andrea Burzacchini,  
Britta Jankay

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**Asia Urbs Programme - funding  
Europe-Asia local government partnerships for urban development**

