ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is the world’s leading network of over 1,000 cities, towns and metropolises committed to building a sustainable future. By helping our Members to make their cities and regions sustainable, low-carbon, resilient, ecomobile, biodiverse, resource-efficient and productive, healthy and happy, we impact over 20% of the world’s urban population.

Under our Smart City agenda, we facilitate City-Business Cooperation to develop and implement sustainable city solutions. Creating a mutual understanding between the supply and demand side of urban solutions is vital to steer innovation and solution development in the private sector, increase knowledge of local decision makers on technological and systemic options available on the market, and to identify real innovation for sustainability. More info: http://www.iclei.org/activities/our-agendas/smart-city.html

Besides research on City-Business Cooperation models with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and other partners, information on technological solutions through the Solutions Gateway (www.solutions-gateway.org) consulting services for member cities and the private sector, ICLEI engages in global events like Metropolitan Solutions to provide platforms for in-person exchange and networking between cities and businesses.

From 20-22 May 2015, ICLEI partnered with Deutsche Messe AG for the third time to establish Metropolitan Solutions as leading congress fair and city-business interaction platform on Smart Cities, infrastructure solutions and sustainable urban development. Originally a part of the Hannover Fair, this year’s Metropolitan Solutions was a stand-alone congress fair in Germany’s innovation capital and pioneering smart city Berlin.

Metropolitan Solutions 2015 attracted an international audience of over 4,000 experts from cities, businesses and academia to the CityCube in Berlin. Local government officials from across the globe were represented by delegations from China, Israel, Latin America the Middle East, Mongolia, Russia, Thailand and a wide range of European cities.

A total of 130 exhibitors included companies like BuroHappold Engineering, Cisco Systems, Doppelmayr Cable Cars, Microsoft, PwC, Siemens, Schneider Electric, Tünkers, Vattenfall and Vodafone exhibited their products and services for cities alongside unique stand concepts like the BrainBox by TU Berlin, showcasing Smart City concepts and solutions from Germany’s vibrant capital. Metropolitan Solutions 2015 hosted 27 specialized conferences on topics from Smart Lighting and Sensing to EcoMobility and Sustainable Urban China.

www.metropolitansolutions.de/home

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Sustainable Urban China Conference

In the next decade, China will experience rapid urbanization with severe environmental impacts, including increased air pollution, water and resource scarcity, and fast increasing demand for public services and infrastructure.

To facilitate the exchange and cooperation between Chinese and European actors on sustainable urban development, ICLEI held the first edition of the Sustainable Urban China conference at Metropolitan Solutions in cooperation with the GIZ on behalf of the German Ministry for Environment (BMUB) and HEXUN Consulting, with the support of Siemens and the Urban LEDS project.

During the opening of the Sustainable Urban China conference, Aixing Han from the Chinese Ministry of Housing and Urban and Rural Development (MoHURD), demonstrated the Chinese government’s commitment to foster sustainable urbanization and protect the environment. Franzjosef Schafhausen from the German Ministry of Environment (BMUB), highlighted the positive impacts of Germany’s energy transition. Both sides stressed the benefits of the cooperation between Germany and China in fostering sustainable urban development.

In the afternoon, workshops on green buildings and planning, education for sustainable urban development, building information modeling and smart energy allowed for more in-depth debates. The highlight of the afternoon was Aixing Han joining a lively green buildings debate with Vera Rodenhoff, BMUB, Jennifer Layke, World Resources Institute, Stephan Anders, German Sustainable Buildings Council (DGNB) and Architect Peter Ruge.

Aixing Han
Deputy Director General, Energy Efficient Buildings, Science and Technology, MoHURD, Beijing, China

“The most rapid urbanization happens in Asia countries. Protecting our ecosystems is vital for our development.”

Franzjosef Schafhausen
Director General, Climate Policy, European and International Policy, BMUB, Berlin, Germany

“Sustainable solutions for urbanization challenges need to extend beyond the boundaries of the city.”

Pedro Pires de Miranda
Corporate Vice President, Siemens AG, Munich, Germany

“We see a huge potential to be ‘smart’, but at different levels. You can’t compare London with developing cities.”
ICLEI Highlights @ Metropolitan Solutions 2015

Siemens’ City Performance Tool

Siemens presented its City Performance Tool (CyPT), an instrument to advise cities on sustainable technology solutions. Collecting more than 300 data points from cities, CyPT uses this information to assess which of 73 available technology solutions can most effectively benefit a city. The city of Copenhagen shared their experience with testing the CyPT one day before the official launch of the tool in Berlin.

ICLEI Lounge Talks

ICLEI organized interactive roundtable discussions and presentations at the ICLEI Lounge on the exhibition floor of Metropolitan Solutions. Representatives from cities, businesses, international organizations and research institutions discussed topics from Green Buildings and Planning, EcoMobility and Smart City initiatives to Urban Finance and City-Business Cooperation in a networking-friendly environment.

City-Business Cooperation

Local governments and private sector experts need to cooperate in order to jointly develop effective answers and applicable solutions for today’s rapidly urbanizing world. Cisco, GDF Suez / ENGIE, CSR Europe and WBCSD, the city of Stockholm and Innovation City Management GmbH from Bottrop discussed new forms of city-business cooperation, best practices, and strategies to streamline collaboration.

Gustaf Landahl

Head of the Department of Planning & Environment at the Environment and Health administration, City of Stockholm, Sweden

“You might have the idea that city-business cooperation is just cities ordering products as offered by the industry. But it’s often the cities who create new markets and steer innovation.”

ICLEI Highlights @ Metropolitan Solutions 2015

Smart Cities
City representatives and experts from the UN Economic Commission, Climate-KIC, the Asian Development Bank, the European Commission and ISOCARP discussed Smart City initiatives like A Coruña’s “city brain,” which improves energy and waste management through smart sensors, and CityGML, an information model for purposes like environmental simulations and city life-cycle management.

Pietro Elisei
Urban Planner, Vice President, ISOCARP, Bucharest, Romania

“Smart City initiatives are a big opportunity to rethink, redesign, maybe even rebrand our cities and the tools we use to develop, manage and improve them.”

Green Buildings and Planning
Green buildings and planning are at the heart of low carbon development strategies for cities and contribute significantly to the global reduction of CO₂ emissions. Representatives from ISOCARP, World Ressources Institute, the Fraunhofer Institute and the German Sustainable Building Council exchanged and discussed good practice examples, projects and expertise in green building and planning with an audience of experts and local government delegates.

Morten Højer
Chief Advisor on Climate and Economy, Technical and Environmental Department, City of Copenhagen, Denmark

“companies are aware that they’re part of a society that has challenges and opportunities, and they have a role to play in that. They need to cooperate with cities, and vice versa.”
Financing Urban Solutions

KfW and Asian Development Bank representatives both estimate that financing necessary infrastructure and municipal services in the future will require twice as much funding to become available to cities today. New finance models are urgently needed to close this gap. Informed decision making and prioritizing is key in this context. The Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) introduced a tool that helps local governments to form well-planned and realistic financing strategies.

Amy Leung

Deputy Director General, East Asia Regional Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines

“We need more bankable projects in the private sector, more different ways of working with them and other means of creating funding which haven’t been explored.”

Klaus Gihr

Head of Division, Sector Policy Unit Energy, Water and Agriculture, KfW Development Bank, Frankfurt, Germany

“Cities need a huge amount of money in the years to come, and that goes beyond the usual ways to raise funds through taxation and fees. They need to tap additional sources, such as international finance.”

SpeedUP! EUROPE: Smart City Solutions

SpeedUP! EUROPE selected ten Start-ups to present their innovative solutions for urban challenges, including a small and affordable air quality sensor, a trash can that gamifies recycling, and a multi-modal ride-sharing platform. Featured companies were:

- Croffee
- Kidsy
- Bat Sharing
- DataLook
- Obergudt
- We Build Hamburg
- Gerabo
- 3D CityPlaner
- Breeze
- SunnyRev

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EcoMobility

To meet increasing mobility demand, cities must improve and redesign their transportation and mobility systems. Doppelmayr Cable Cars open a “second floor” for public transportation above the street level with successful examples in Toronto, Canada and Caracas, Venezuela. Rupprecht Consult GmbH presented Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPS) as strategy for environmental-friendly transportation and mobility.

Mobility Start-Ups meet EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta Bulc

Start-up companies Urban-e, Zeitmeilen, parku, Carzapp, Clevercity and the Streetlife project presented their urban mobility solutions from cargo bikes, carsharing and commuter information apps to reduction strategies for traffic-based CO₂ emissions to the European Commissioner for Transport Violeta Bulc.

Urban Solution Platforms

Where can local governments find solutions to tackle urban sustainability challenges? ICLEI’s Solutions Gateway provides holistic solutions and solution packages for low-carbon development in cities. Metropolis’ Policy Transfer Platform collects case studies to foster city-to-city exchange of good practices. The Sustainable Living in Cities Impact Map by CSR Europe displays cases where cities work successfully with businesses to improve urban sustainability.
Sustainable Urban China 2016

After the success of 2015, ICLEI will host a second edition of the Sustainable Urban China conference at Metropolitan Solutions 2016. The event will see an extended program on a wider range of topics around urbanization and sustainable development in China. Topics under consideration include frameworks for EU-China and Sino-German cooperation, Low Carbon Development Strategies and energy efficiency, clean air and water, urban resilience and „sponge cities“, as well as municipal finance and investment.

Urban Trends

Cities are changing fast. Demographic and technological trends, disappearing resources and the changing climate will fundamentally reshape urban space, life, governance and cityscapes. Which currently innovative technologies will be obsolete 10 years from now? Will the resources and ecosystem services that we take for granted today still be available in the future? ICLEI invites thinkers and experts to provide food for thought on observable trends and cities of tomorrow.

Smart Cities

Smart Cities need to put ICT and innovative technologies in a real, holistic urban context. The conference will discuss both technical and non-technical solutions to urban challenges and address trade-offs between data collection and data security, systems integration and resilience, automation and conscious citizen participation. Going beyond win-win romanticism, the conference aims to synthesize sustainable “smartness” through critical debate.

CONTACT

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability e.V.
Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. 7
53113 Bonn, Germany
www.iclei.org · iclei@iclei.org

Roman Serdar Mendle
☎ +49 228 976299 00
✉ city-business@iclei.org

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