

Consultative Workshop for Urban Observatory for Karnataka- Data for Decision Support

| Date:- 16th September, 2017

Venue: Radisson Blu, Bangalore

Cities are stretched to their limits, thanks to increasing urbanisation. 377 million people live in cities in India (31% of its population). Karnataka is the seventh most urbanised state with 36% of its urban population living in Bangalore. Skewed and unplanned urbanisation is pulling our cities apart. Bangalore, the most urbanised city in Bangalore has a population of 4 million; in comparison, Mysore, the second most urbanised city in the state, has a population of just over 9.5 lakh.

Data is key; however, data needs to be processed through analytics, low cost processing and transparency in order to enable policy level decision making.

“Data is the digital fuel... [It] can substantially contribute towards data driven governance,” said SV Ranganath, former Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka, at a workshop on building a Karnataka Urban Observatory, jointly organised by the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy and the National Institute of Urban Affairs.

| -The aim of observatories is to equip urban management and development through tools for data collection, analysis, presentation, visualisation and application. Such an observatory can effectively generate suitable policy response to local and state level concerns.

However, the data we have is often not the data we need.

“95% of the data is unsuitable... [However] knowledge is there in more than one accessible form,” said Jagan Shah, Director, NIUA.

He stressed on the need for decentralised collection of data and contextualised interpretation of the data to solve local problems.

Anjali Mohan, urban and regional planner currently associated with the Indian Housing Federation (IHF) said that it is important to have a closed feedback loop for the observatory. “Simply collecting data is not enough. The collected data should be analysed in order to make data actionable. It is important that government institutions be invested in the observatory.”

The objective of the Consultative workshop was to deliberate on the collaborative ways and priorities for creating an Urban Observatory for Karnataka.

The thematic groups discussions, post lunch, focussed on sources and types of data, properties and boundaries for the digital environment that will host such a platform,

institutional ownership and governance structure of the proposed observatory and the priority Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which can be tracked.

National Institute of Urban Affairs

National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is a premier institute for research, capacity building and dissemination of knowledge for the urban sector in India. It conducts research on urbanisation, urban policy and planning, municipal finance and governance, land economics, transit oriented development, urban livelihoods, environment and climate change and smart cities.

Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP)

With a vision 'To become the foremost institution for policy innovation and analysis', the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) was established in 2005. CSTEP has emerged to be one of India's well regarded think tanks. Today, CSTEP has a multi-disciplinary research team of 103 (out of which 15 are PhDs) from a variety of backgrounds including Engineering, Information Technology, Public Policy, Natural Sciences, Social Science and Economics. Our approach to policy research is quantitative, objective and computation intensive. In a short period of time CSTEP has established robust research groups in several areas. In **Energy** and **Climate Studies**, our focus is on examining technology and policy options for low carbon and inclusive energy growth. This includes studies on:

- ☒ Improving energy efficiency
- ☒ Use of renewable energy resources like solar, wind and nuclear
- ☒ Exploring improved application of energy storage systems
- ☒ Smart grid applications
- ☒ Developing solution for issues with grid integration of renewable energy.

Our **Urban Infrastructure** group examines models for transportation, sanitation and urban development that are scalable and sustainable. We are also examining **Water** related challenges in urban and rural areas.

As part of our **Materials Research** programme, we are studying advanced materials for energy critical applications including energy storage and clean energy technologies.

In **Governance Studies** we are exploring the use of technology for efficient delivery of public services – be it in education, nutrition or health.