

ASIAN PARTNERS VISIT BOLOGNA

A public meeting was held at Bologna's Urban Centre on Wednesday 14th November for the public presentation of results of the co-operation project *ecoBUDGET -Asia* with the participation of Hon. Kanna Nagaraju, Mayor of Guntur, Hon. Erico B. Aumentado, Governor of Bohol Province and Att.ny Juanito Cambangay, *ecoBudget* co-ordinator for the Province of Bohol. The Asian representatives were in Bologna as they'd been invited by the Municipality to figure among the jury of the High Quality Awards, promoted by the dairy products company Granarolo S.p.A.

Anna Patullo, Bologna Municipality's Deputy mayor for the environment, and a representative of the indian community in bologna, were also present at the project event.

The project results were presented with direct testimonies from the Asian representatives, but also with the projection of images and videos of the workshops and the field visits and a display of newspaper articles. The event ended with a performance of oriental music.

The presence in Bologna of the Asian partners is further proof of the results obtained by the project, showing how links between the organisations in the two different continents have been reinforced.



TWO BOOKS ABOUT *ecoBUDGET*

***ecoBUDGET* Guide for Asian Local Authorities** is the title of the new *ecoBUDGET* manual, specifically written for the Asian context. It represents one of the main results of the project. It presents an introduction, an insight of the Asian reality, a what-to-do for the five steps of *ecoBUDGET*, and the two case studies of Guntur and Tubigon. Apart from the Project Consortium, the book has the valuable contribution of two guests: Professor **Johan Nel**, of the Center for Environmental Management, Potchefstroom, South Africa and Professor **Asesh Maitra**, of the Delhi School of Planning & Architecture.

The book is downloadable at the website of the project in pdf and can be ordered via mail by Pamela Lama at the address pamela.lama@comune.bologna.it

***ecoBUDGET* - Introduction for Mayors and Councillors** is the 24-page brochure published by **UNEP**, **UN-HABITAT** and **ICLEI** and written by **Holger Robrecht** and **David Meyrick**. It focuses on utilisation of *ecoBUDGET* in the developing countries. A short insight of the content:

The full cost of municipal action, Managing Resources Through a Budget, Money is not the only Resource, *ecoBUDGET*: Integrated Management of all Municipal Resources, The Phases of the *ecoBUDGET*, Why manage environmental resources through a budget?, 6 Good Reasons for *ecoBUDGET*, *ecoBUDGET* is Participatory Budgeting, Responding to the Climate Change Challenge, *ecoBUDGET* in practice, *ecoBUDGET* Resources. It can be downloaded at www.ecobudget.com or ordered at ecobudget@iclei.org

ecoBUDGET AWARDED AT UCLG CONGRESS

The final declaration of the United Cities and Local Governments Congress (The "Island of World Peace" "Changing Cities are Driving our World") held in Jeju (South Korea) on 31 October 2007 states that the following: "Since climate change has a cross-cutting impact on water, soil, biodiversity and human health, local governments must manage our natural resources and environmental quality in an integrated fashion through systems such as *ecoBUDGETING*, linked to economic development and financial planning, and integrating biodiversity issues into local planning."

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Europe-Asia local government partnerships for urban development

ecoBUDGET - ASIA

Project Brief No. 5 / December '07



WORDS FROM THE EDITORS

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

The project is now at the end. The long travel came to the great celebration of the two conferences, which are reported in the first three pages of this project brief. Moreover, on page 4, further information on events and publication.

We do want to thank all people who contributed to this challenging, creative project, whose success went beyond any prediction. Without them, all this would have not been possible.

Thank you, grazie, salamat, danyavadalou, takk!

Holger Robrecht, Andrea Burzacchini (ecoBUDGET Agency)

Two conferences celebrate project results

It is not very common that an international project is celebrated by a double final conference, within a few days, in two different world regions. The effort of the project's consortium was enormous, nevertheless it was the only way to honour in the proper way the first two non-European municipalities, which adopted ecoBUDGET as sustainability management instrument.

It was a big challenge, from the identification of the venues and dates, to all logistic needs. Above all it was interesting to develop a common conference framework, that could be adapted to each of the local contexts. The conferences has been held in the Indian metropolis Hyderabad - capital of the federal state Andhra Pradesh, where Guntur is situated - and in the picturesque island of Panglao, close to Tagbilaran, Bohol capital.

The first conference, held on 11th and 12th October, was entitled "ecoBUDGET: An Innovative System for Natural Resource Management & Urban Governance". Besides the



delegations of the four cities, relevant speakers and contributors enriched the programme. The conference was inaugurated by the Minister

of Transport for Andhra Pradesh, **Sri Kanna Lakshminarayana**; Professor **R. Rama Rao**, advisor of Indian presented his views on the possibility of incorporation of the concept of ecoBUDGET in the cities of JNNURM, the biggest national-wide urban renewable programme. The concluding remarks were made by Mr. **Vikram Roy**, Advisor for Economic Cooperation of European Union, who spoke on the need to motivate the staff of municipal corporations and the linkages with institutions, financial sustainability through charges of services to public. The conference was attended by about 90 participants including mayors of about 20 Indian municipalities.

At the beginning of the following week, on 15th and 16th October, the conference "ecoBUDGET: An Instrument to Good Local Resource Management and Governance" was held. Among the most distinguished guests welcomed by Bohol's Governor **Erico Aumentado**, **Alistair MacDonald**, Ambassador of European Union, **Inger Ultvedt**, Ambassador of Sweden and **Mario Alberto Bartoli**, Deputy Head of Italian Embassy contributed to the conference with their speeches and interventions. Delegations from a number of Filipino cities, as well as from GTZ and UN-Habitat took part actively in the conference. On the second day the about 90 participants could visit either the new mangroves plantation or the Bohol Poverty Fair; the first represents one of the targets approved by Tubigon, while the latter shows all initiatives undertaken by Bohol municipalities aiming at pover-

ty alleviation, which are strictly linked to ecoBUDGET interpretation within the provincial government.

All four cities were represented by delegations in both conferences. In particular several politicians travelled for the occasion: both Mayor of Gun-



tur Mr **Kanna Naga Raju** and Vice-Mayor Mr **Tadisetty Mural Mohan** travelled to Bohol. The Deputy Mayor to Environment of Bologna Ms **Anna Patullo** represented her local government in Hyderabad and the President of Education Committee of Växjö City Council Mr **Patric Svensson** stood for his city in Bohol. ICLEI was represented by **Andrea Burzacchini** of European Secretariat, as well as by the Regional Directors **Emani Kumar** (South Asia) and **Vic Aquitania** (Southeast Asia), both with their teams. ICLEI staff co-ordinated the conferences and awarded Guntur and Tubigon as ecoBUDGET cities. Finally the conferences paved the way forward for the co-operation between ICLEI and other institutions (GTZ, UN-Habitat, regional and national governments and agencies) for a further development of ecoBUDGET in Asian countries.

Every end is a new beginning...

Message of Her Excellency Inger Ultvedt, Ambassador of Sweden to the Philippines



When we consider the earth's future there is much to worry us, not to say even depress us. News is constantly pouring in about disasters the world over. Floods, typhoons, heat waves, island states about to disappear due to the rising sea level, Antarctic and Arctic ice masses melting away, and accelerating global warming. At the same time, the prospect of reaching the already modest 2 degrees Celsius target for rise in global temperature set by the UN is slim. The problems indeed seem overwhelming. But the possible solutions are not just on the environmental side, the social implications are also overwhelming. This global problem can create affinities between widely differing places all over the world, and opens the possibility of fostering a sense of global human community, something we would do well to focus upon.

With those thoughts in mind and with a strong sense of anticipation, I took part in the final conference of the *ecoBUDGET* Asia project, co-organised by ICLEI and co-funded by the EuropeAid Cooperation Office. The key background theme for the conference was knowledge sharing.

In the different sessions the four municipalities mentioned above all contributed their pieces of the puzzle on how to achieve sustainable governance. Bohol impressed by their ability to meet the environmental standards of the Millennium Development Goals. The municipality of Tubigon told how decentralized cooperation practices and demonstration of *ecoBUDGET* led to increased effectiveness and sustainability. Växjö in Sweden presented a model of how an ecological master-budget can be created using the four steps of identification, measurement, preparation and ratification. The south Indian city of Gudur showed how they were able to continue implementing the ecological master budget despite changes in local government. Bologna, the initiator for the event, also demonstrated the effective application of the *ecoBUDGET* tool in a medium sized town. Naturally, the great diversity the municipalities represent means that not all the solutions are applicable to everyone, a fact which was also stressed by the participants, but generally the lesson is clear: *ecoBUDGET* is a useful tool. It can be regarded as a survival mechanism that with variations is applicable to all societies.

To see this applied more widely would be wonderful. It would elevate the environmental effort to a new level that in the end should lead to a better livelihood and economic growth for all of us. A forum such as this plays an important part in that effort. It creates attention, it advances networking and not least, it gives the participants a sense of community and context. This encourages the will to continue, because it clearly shows that the work is not being done alone, but simultaneously in a multitude of ways all over the world, from Sweden to the Philippines and from Italy to India. I hope these good examples will be shared and will spread to many more cities and municipalities.



In many places, I have seen that there is an engineering approach to development. Think of the biggest possible project with the biggest possible budget and try to obtain funds for it, but what ecoBUDGET is all about is really going ahead anyway, money or no money, and a lot can be done without those large capital expenditures that development planners really love.

Vikram Roy, Advisor,
Economic Cooperation, European Union

Before, we did not know that we lost up to 60% of our water in transit due to leaks in the water pipes. Through the monitoring system introduced by ecoBUDGET, we were able to discover this huge loss. We are now working on bringing down the amount of losses to the minimum. By preventing the loss of water in transit, we can reduce the cost of production as well as conserve water.

Noel Mendana, *ecoBUDGET* Manager,
Tubigon, Philippines



Alistair MacDonald,
Head of the Delegation of the
European Commission,
Manila, Philippines



The twenty-first century faces massive urbanization, with a large portion of the world population living in urban areas. As such there will be increased demand for urban services as well as conflicts about scarce natural resources. Cities will be unable to provide the increased resources if existing resources are not utilized in a sustainable manner. ecoBUDGET is an environmental management system, specially designed for local governments that provide a framework to assist in sustainable local development and effective management of the urban environment.

Mr. Kanna Lakshminarayana, Honorable Minister of Transport for Andhra Pradesh, India



We all know that there is a massive destruction of our environment. Our forest cover is thinning and we are experiencing scarcity of some natural resources. Knowing that it can help us protect the environment, I welcome ecoBUDGET even if it was my political opponent who started its implementation.

Luna Piezas, Lord Mayor,
Tubigon, Philippines



ecoBUDGET is aimed at encouraging local governments and civil society to work together in introducing improved methods of development and environmental planning, through the introduction of improved systems for environmental management.

FROM THE CONFERENCES

The complete integration of the monetary and environmental budgets has given environmental issues and initiatives a higher status and resulted in greater environmental awareness among municipal councillors. As a result, Växjö is able to generate and implement innovative projects such as the construction of highly energy efficient buildings to implement their ecoBUDGET and meet their ambitious targets.

Anna Karin Unger, *ecoBUDGET Manager*, Växjö, Sweden



ecoBUDGET has helped Bologna to more effectively coordinate municipal initiatives and consequently provided a better structure for these initiatives since it is easier to see links and gaps between and among them. The process of setting targets and then carefully monitoring progress towards them has also been a valuable exercise for Bologna.

Raffaella Guèze, *ecoBUDGET Manager*,



Message of His Excellency Erico B. Aumentado, Governor of Province of Bohol

It is with great pride and deep gratitude that I, along with the Chief Executives of our *ecoBUDGET* partner cities, present the results of this project to this international audience. I take great pride in the knowledge that the Province of Bohol, particularly the Municipality of Tubigon, has been a successful project partner in the pilot stage of *ecoBUDGET ASIA*. I am also filled with gratitude to the European Commission, ICLEI, and our partner cities of Bologna, Vaxjo and Guntur for their inestimable assistance to us in this pilot project.

As Provincial Governor of Bohol, an island province in the Philippines, I can very well relate to the imperative for environmental sustainability in the midst of development efforts, and am all too familiar with the dilemma of balancing environmental conservation efforts and sustainable natural resource use with the urgency for maintaining livelihoods for rural communities in the light of poverty reduction and economic growth priorities.

This balancing act is a tall order for any local government, and *ecoBUDGET* has given us the perfect tool to address this dilemma. In fact, the success of Tubigon in its pilot stage of the *ecoBUDGET ASIA* project has roused the interest of other municipal local governments throughout Bohol. In my humble opinion, this is a project that is ripe and ready for replication.

With our experience of success in Tubigon in hand, we are ready to replicate the project in other local governments, with the final products serving as a handy reference to those local governments that wish to play a more responsible role as stewards of their natural resources.

Let this be the first step in our global advocacy for environmentally-responsible local governance!



Message of Honorable Kanna Naga Raju, Mayor of Guntur



As the Mayor of the first Asian city to introduce *ecoBUDGET* to Asia, it is with great pleasure that I write these words. The application of *ecoBUDGET* in the Asian cities of Guntur and Tubigon has helped to fine tune and adjust the process of *ecoBUDGET* to Asian conditions.

The city of Guntur found in the process of *ecoBUDGET* an extremely opportune method to manage its environmental resources and attain sustainable development in a systematic manner. The city, being the district headquarters, faces rapid urbanization and has a large floating population, and is naturally plagued by related environmental and developmental problems. The Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) applied the process of *ecoBUDGET* to relevant environmental issues such as water quality and quantity, waste management, greenery development and air quality, chalking out indicators, setting short term and long-term targets based on their baseline value, and implementing various measures to achieve these targets. In spite of initial hiccups, the process has now been successfully streamlined in the city, and Guntur, after meeting most of the short term targets, is now on its way to implement the second annual *ecoBUDGET* cycle, steadily progressing towards long term targets. Implementation of *ecoBUDGET* has helped to incorporate environmental issues in its routine administration in Guntur.

In spite of challenges like lack of coordination or financial resources and initial scepticism of government officials, *ecoBUDGET* was fairly successfully implemented in Guntur and innovatively addressed problems of each of the resources identified. The programme has also generated jobs in the process of implementation of various activities and has been largely accepted by the citizens of Guntur by addressing common problems in an orderly and time-bound manner. Another important spin-off of *ecoBUDGET* was to bring together different political parties for the good of the city as a whole.

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 in India has introduced environmental management as one of the functions of municipal governments. In most of the cities in India and also in Asia, environmental resources are scarce and under intense stress from the growing population and consumption rates. Unless resources are managed efficiently, it will be difficult to meet the increasing demands placed on them in future. During the Final Conference on *ecoBUDGET-Asia*, several Indian cities have acknowledged the problem of environmental management faced by the Urban Local Bodies, and from the experience of Guntur, *ecoBUDGET* can be identified as a suitable and efficient management tool that can be easily replicated in different cities according to their needs. I hope the wider acceptance and application of *ecoBUDGET* in Asian cities will usher in an era of sustainability much called for by the exigencies of the modern world today!

