

Website link: <http://southasia.iclei.org/newsdetails/article/launch-workshop-for-building-efficiency-accelerator-project-conducted-by-iclei-south-asia-and-partne.html>

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## **Launch workshop for Building Efficiency Accelerator project successfully conducted by ICLEI South Asia and partners in Rajkot**

ICLEI South Asia, in partnership with Rajkot Municipal Corporation and with support from World Resources Institute (WRI) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has conducted a half-day project launch workshop in Rajkot, Gujarat on November 18, 2016.

The workshop was primarily organised to identify locally-appropriate building efficiency policies and actions for Rajkot city. Other than the representatives from Rajkot Municipal Corporation, people representing builders' association, architects association, civil engineers association, local NGOs, industries and commerce, academicians and experts also participated in the workshop.

The event has enabled the stakeholders to know the city leaders' commitment to pursue building efficiency actions. In a brief address to open the workshop, the mayor Dr. Jaimanbhai Upadhyaya and the commissioner of Rajkot Municipal Corporation Mr. Banchhanidhi Pani shared the historical commitments and actions made and implemented by Rajkot city to address limited conventional resources. They also assured to take strong and innovative steps in future to enable the city to achieve sustainable development. Ms. Darshita Shah, Deputy Mayor, Rajkot Municipal Corporation and Mr. Bharath Jairaj of WRI were also present during the launch.



*Dr. Jaimanbhai Upadhyay, Honorable Mayor of Rajkot Municipal Corporation speaks at the workshop*

The workshop was seen as a platform to provide with many options and opportunities which a local government can have to build policies and implement actions across building efficiency space. Experts in building efficiency, green rating and sustainable low carbon housing shared information and their experiences with examples so as to set the context for the further rounds of discussions and to develop a shared vision regarding the importance of building efficiency and prioritizing certain policies and actions for further implementation.

A group discussion was facilitated in the latter half of the workshop where participants were divided into different groups and were asked to discuss and prioritize the policies and actions in the areas of energy, renewable energy, building codes & standards, incentives, awareness etc. At the end of the group discussion, each of the group representatives presented the summary of recommendations to be taken up under the project. The workshop also helped to identify and engage a diverse set of stakeholders who are critical to the effective implementation of building efficiency actions locally and to identify partners who are interested in assisting the city to achieve the project goals.

At the end of the workshop the municipal commissioner shared his views on each of the prioritized actions and policy areas and recommended to establish a shared body of knowledge amongst stakeholders with different levels of technical expertise which will eventually help the city to identify and refine the specific actions to further assess and potential implementation.