



ACTIVITY REPORT OF YEAR 2010

Presented at the 9th AGM on 5th of June 2011

By executive co-Presidents Colette Mathur and Harjit Singh Anand

Paris, the 5th of June 2011

Dear fellow-members,

In August 2008, we flagged off our new 3-year F.L.Y. A. K.I.T.E. strategy. You may recollect that it entails creating a congenial platform for enhancing Euro-Indian exchanges at city-level and **Foster Links Yielding Assets in Knowledge, Investments and business, Tourism and Excellence** in urban governance, the latter area being our main focus.

Indeed, the main strategic plank has been since 2006 to seize the opportunity of Indian cities' much needed modernization and bring European expertise into the mainstream of the Indian urban renewal process that was triggered in 2006 by the launch of the path-breaking *Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission* by our founding Co-President Emeritus and Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, who suggested that we organize a Euro-Indian Forum on urban issues:

[Quote] *"This challenging mission [the N.U.R.M.] would be greatly facilitated if our cities could imbibe the wealth of experience and the state-of-the-art and know-how that European cities have developed over decades of being confronted to similar social and economic pressures.* [Unquote].

We followed his suggestion and successfully organized two EuroIndia Fora in Goa in February 2007 and April 2008, two follow-up missions of Indian cities to Europe in November 2007 and October 2008, leading to three signed co-operation agreements between Ahmedabad and Halle (Germany), La Rochelle (France) and Valladolid (Spain) on Tourism Promotion, Vocational Training, Energy Saving and Heritage Conservation, with the establishment of a *Heritage Conservation Centre* in Ahmedabad.

It then paved the way for our first *EuroIndia Summit* on European soil in Valladolid, Spain, on 4th-6th October 2009 on "*Leveraging urban legacy for sustainable City development*", with the subtitle "*Heritage tourism promotion: a key enabler*", with a following European tour from 4 to 9 October to Madrid and Paris.

This new success emboldened us to organize the **4th EuroIndia Summit in Halle, Germany, on from 10th to 12th October, 2010**, on "*Reinventing Dynamic and Sustainable Indian Cities*".

Thus the Centre made history by organizing one Summit and two missions and in the same year:



The EuroIndia Centre

- An Indian civic, corporate and academic mission to France (Val de Reuil, Paris) and Spain (Barcelona, Madrid, Valladolid) on “Affordable Housing” in June
- A similar mission as a ramp-up to the Halle Summit to Leuven, Brussels, Lille and Paris, which proved to be **the largest ever such mission from India, as 7 federate States of India and the Government of India were represented** at the highest administrative level.

Another **historic first was achieved with the Plenary Session of Open Days 2010 at the European Parliament** organized by the European *Committee of the Regions* being attended by an official Indian delegation for the first time.

Participating in some of the workshops organized on *Open Days* every year to foster intra-European dialogue among European regions and cities on issues of common concern by the said *Committee* and the *European Commission* was another attractive feature for the delegates.

We also decided to make sustainability a strategic focus of our endeavours in urban development, thus **greening our KITE strategy**. Hence the announcement at the Halle Summit of the ***Environmental Sustainability City Award (ESCA)*** followed by a technical discussion.

A jury of Indian and European experts will give the ESCA to one European City and its partner and one Indian City and its partner. The partner can be a company, a knowledge institution or an NGO.

The first ESCA Award will be presented at the **5th EuroIndia Summit to be held in Leuven on 13-14 October 2011** on “Smart, Sustainable and Innovative Cities” with the City and University of Leuven playing host.

This Summit will be prepared under the best of auspices. Indeed, the assessment tour of potential partners in the Summit that the Dr Anand undertook with our SG, has yielded **a few path-breaking rallies in support:**

- The City of Leuven agreed to pay a decent fee to the Centre as co-organizer
- The *European Committee of the Regions* will support the Summit
- So will *Business Europe* and *MEDEF* and *ANRU* in France

Noteworthy is the strengthening of **our partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry** thanks to the signing of a formal partnership M.O.U. on 10th of 2010 that notably provides for joint events and projects for the next 5 years.

Last but not least, to help us fulfil our motto “For our members by our members” **we are beefing up our information tools, be it our Website or newsletter**. The latter is now issued on a bi-monthly basis. We also intend to build-up a member-only area on our portal that will allow 24/7 exchanges among members and provide a repository of expertise, on sustainable urban development subjects to start with, by way of presentations, publications, articles, etc.

Besides, we plan to **change the paradigm of membership rules in 2011** by 1) elevating our existing institutional members to Partner Membership with exclusive benefits, 2) creating a new category of Associate Members with no voting rights for a moderate fee that is commensurate with membership benefits offered, 3) enforcing a strict control on admission of individual members, only on invitation or screening of application.

In the process, it is hoped that we shall broaden our membership base multi-fold, while not diluting command by a select steering group of members, which is necessary to steward our critical expansion.

Expanding our membership is indeed called for. As as on 31 December 2010, we had 64 members consisting of:

- Emeritus members: **9**
- Institutional members: **28**
 - Corporates: **24**
 - Civic: **4**
- Individual members: **26**
- Student members: **1**

35 are India-based, 29 Europe-based

It shows an increase from 50 the end of the previous year, which can be explained partly by our decision to give free membership to all Indian delegates of the “Affordable Housing” mission, as an attempt to attract new faithful members.

The Centre has been able to count on a very supportive Board, each member bringing skills, ideas or contacts to our common endeavour. We wish henceforth that we continue with this policy of electing to the Board only members who are willing to support the Centre to the hilt.

We’ll need every member’s support indeed at this critical juncture whereby the Centre is poised for a leap forward more in line with the huge and growing potential for Euro-Indian relations and co-operation at the local level, particularly on sustainable urban development, where Indian and European expectations are high, but it is weakened by a severe fund squeeze due to a loss in 2009 and 2010.

In spite of this recurring loss resulting in accumulated debt, we have been able to carry on and expand our activities, thanks to individual members offering philanthropic help, including the undersigned, and thanks to our system of conditional remuneration of our Secretary General’s services.

Our challenge is tall in the next 3 years: we need to consolidate and grow at the same time. Indeed, only growth in activity will give us more members and partners. In turn it will hopefully translate into more financial means, which we need to expand our human and physical means to be able to deliver quality services at all times and to clear our debt.



The *Euro*India Centre

This will only happen with a brilliant success of the Leuven Summit and Mission and our ability to convert the thus generated goodwill on both sides into a broader membership base and perennial funding, so as to operate **a critical and gradual shift from philanthropic work put up by the “founder” members to hiring a new breed of hired collaborators at market rates.**

Thank you for your patient hearing. We are now pleased to submit the present activity report to your approval.

Colette Mathur
Co-President

Dr. Harjit Singh Anand
Co-President