



The EuroIndia Centre

Our new strategic thrust in 2010:

**FOSTERING EURO-INDIAN CO-OPERATION
ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

As part of our “FLY A GREEN KITE” strategy

- The Centre: a key experienced facilitator of Euro-Indian local level exchange

The Centre has demonstrated its unique capacity to unlock Euro-Indian relations at the local level of cities as well as regions/federating states and to get them and their stakeholders mobilized to exchange and co-operate on issues of mutual interest across the K.I.T.E. spectrum of Knowledge, Investment and business, Tourism and Excellence in urban governance with tangible achievements: 3 Indian missions to Europe, 3 co-operation agreements between European and Indian cities, 3 Euro-Indian events culminating with the successful *EuroIndia City Summit* in Valladolid in October 2009.

- Our prime focus: Urban Development

Urban Development has been and will remain our prime focus that will provide an opportunity to both European and Indian civic bodies, companies, academic and research institutes, NGO's, etc. to exchange expertise and undertake joint projects. The *Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission* and the *Rajiv Awaas Yojna* on social housing launched by the Government of India offer great opportunities for exchange of technical know-how as well as project design and implementation.

- Our new focus: Environmentally Sustainable Urban Development

Heritage conservation and urban security have taken precedence in our action in the last 3 years with tangible results: 2 dedicated city-to-city agreements, an Urban Heritage Centre in Ahmedabad and a first-time EuroIndia conference in Mumbai on urban and corporate security. While these issues will keep being addressed, the Centre now wishes to focus on the environmental sustainability side of urban development.

According to GIEC, 50 to 70% of greenhouse gas emissions originate from cities. Europe and India would do well to share their best technical know how in the field and to assist their cities in its application on the ground.

- The local level: A pertinent level for action

Central/Federal governments may not be the best equipped to fulfil their international pledge to fight global warming and urban pollution, as urban policies are usually out of their direct constitutional purview. They also often lack efficient financial and technical transfer mechanisms to the local level.

Cities and their parent regions/federating states are hands on and do not believe in diplomatic posturing as seen at Copenhagen. They may, however, find it hard to source the best technology and/or funding for lack of access to international co-operation mechanisms. It is, here, that the Centre can play a critical role.



The *Euro*India Centre

- City-to-city co-operation: A proven means for tangible results

Enduring win-win exchanges of technical know-how and funding can take place at city level for direct hands-on application with all concerned local stakeholders, be it public agencies, specialized companies, academic and research institutes or NGO's.

- The Centre: A nimble exchange facilitator between all governance tiers

Harnessing its demonstrated capability to network amongst all different stakeholders at all governance tiers, be it central/federal governments, regions/federating states or cities, the Centre can offer a privileged channel to both Europe and India for meaningful exchange and co-operation.

European players with little or no access to Indian States and cities can use the Centre as their preferred channel for transfer of technical know how, and vice versa. Thus, the Centre could add value to the ambitious programmes of the Government of India by facilitating beneficiary States and cities to access European state-of-the art technical know-how.

- New focus, new services

All our planned activities, such as missions and events, have been given a green orientation and accordingly new services are being launched:

- A *EuroIndia Urban Sustainability Innovation Fund* and the *EuroIndia Environmentally Sustainable City Award (ESCA)* to be presented to one city and one associated company of India and Europe during our Assembly General or City Summit.
- A network of Indian and European institutes and NGO's of excellence in the field of Environmentally Sustainable Urban Development to be developed and made accessible through the Centre to local governments in need.
- Similarly, they will have access to our qualified corporate and civic members.

In this manner, exchange of technical know-how and formulation of institutional co-operation agreements in our new strategic field of Environmentally Sustainable Urban Development between Europe and India will be facilitated.

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