

## Final report

### **The 5th EuroIndia Summit 13 – 14 October 2011 Leuven (Belgium)**

The 5th Euro-India Summit on « Smart, Sustainable and Innovative Cities » marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EuroIndia Centre. It has been hosted by the city of Leuven, a Partner Member of the Centre and co-organized by the *Confederation of Indian Industry*, the City of Leuven, *IMEC*, *K.U. Leuven* and the *EuroIndia Centre*.

Participants were greeted by Louis Tobback, Mayor of Leuven; Carl Devlies, State Secretary, Govt of Belgium; Prof. Dr. Mark Waer, Rector, K.U.Leuven; Adi Godrej, President Designate, CII and Chairman, *Godrej Group*; Mercedes Bresso, President, *Committee of the Regions of the European Union*; Kamal Nath, Minister of Urban Development, Government of India; Mohamed Ridouani, Alderman, Leuven, and our two co-Presidents, Colette Mathur and Dr. Harjit Singh Anand.

It was attended by 140 participants, out of which 40 from India, a quantum jump from the last Summit. 20 European cities from 10 different States were represented: Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. 14 Indian cities from 11 States were represented: Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, New-Delhi, Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West-Bengal.

The Summit was supported in Europe by 9 civic organizations and 10 corporate organizations: On the civic side by *Agence Nationale de Rénovation de l'Urbanisme* (France), *Casa de la India* (Spain), *Cités Unies* (France), the *Committee of the Regions of the European Union*, *European New Towns and Pilot Cities Platform* (Brussels), *FEMP* (Spain), *Staedtetag* (Germany), *VVMG* (Belgium), *UK Communities and Local Governments*.

On the corporate side by: *the Belgo-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry*, *Brainport Development Eindhoven*, *Business Europe* (Brussels), *CEOE* (Spain), the *Europe India Chamber of Commerce* (Brussels) the *Indo-French CEO Forum*, *The Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry*, *MEDEF* and the *Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors* (UK) and the *UK India Business Council*. Philips, EGIS, The Indus Entrepreneurs and Veolia Environnement sponsored the Summit.

*DG Energy* of the *European Commission* that manages the *Covenant of Mayors* committed to local sustainable energy supported the ESCA.

On the Indian side, the Summit has been supported by the *Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India*, and by the *Confederation of Indian Industry*.

The Summit started with the presentation of the Environmentally Sustainable City Awards (ESCA) to the cities of Mysore (Karnataka) and Vijyawada (Andhra Pradesh). In addition, the technical partner who helped the latter city in its environmental achievements also received the award: *Arvee Associates* ([www.aarvee.net](http://www.aarvee.net)). Four more cities were also felicitated: Ajmer (Rajasthan), Bangalore (Karnataka), Raipur, (Chhattisgarh) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). All received the Award



from the hands of Mr. Kamal Nath, among 29 Indian cities which had participated in the competition. The Indian delegates from these awarded cities were also given the opportunity to present their city environmental achievements in detail. It has been announced that the next Summit, due to take place in India in a year's time, will also attribute ESC Awards jointly to Indian and European cities.

The Summit enabled a fantastically productive exchange between city managers, high public officials, academics and members of the corporate sector and the civil society, all exceptionally competent in the field of urban environment, thus highlighting the importance of innovative, sustainable and smart urban development:

- Innovation

High technology and rapid dissemination of innovation through education and research, backed by pro-active public policies, have a strong impact on Indian and European cities, as demonstrated in field of energy, transportation and water management. Examples of innovation in the field of affordable housing and inclusive job creation have been developed in the Indian and Belgian context.

All presentations stressed the importance of the link between education, research, innovation and implementation for cities to stand out internationally. Local knowledge of sustainable development should be taken into account and education has to be valorized at all levels, whether through local skills development or through high level education.

The Summit also enhanced the urgent tasks concerning energy management and innovations. There is a collective responsibility to make sure those innovations percolate, and are multiplied, whether in the building industry or in the management of cities: the pace of progress in renewable energies utilisation and building techniques reforms will have a direct impact on cities development.

- Sustainable city development

The long term environmental commitment at the level of the participating cities is backed by the alliance with the research institutions, civil society and corporate groups, as demonstrated in the case of the construction of green buildings and energy efficient practices. Green building techniques are now rapidly expanding in Europe and are closely monitored and controlled, and they have started being developed in India. In both cases, they still need to be applied to all and adapted to the case of the existing housing stock, so the efforts will have to be pursued for quite a few years to come. It is foreseen that India's building stock will develop, in the next 20 years, from 20 billion sq. feet to 100 billion sq. feet. Building five times the present surface in such a short span of time gives India an opportunity to build differently, in order to progressively integrate all components of sustainable development and include innovation towards greener buildings and townships.

Water management is also deeply transformed by the imperatives of sustainable development and the consequences of climate change. Rapid improvements in conservation, treatment and citizens' consciousness are bringing good hopes to generalize sustainable water management techniques in a close future.

- Smart cities



# The *Euro*India Centre

This session focused on the role of research and development , the incubation of companies and the development of knowledge hubs to show how, whether in Europe or in India, these initiatives and alliances between research, the corporate sector and the cities has a decisive impact on city development. The cases of Bangalore, of the knowledge hub developed by IMEC near Leuven, of nanoelectronics and Indian biotech are demonstrating how cities are deeply transformed and dynamised by the presence of innovating enterprises. Information technologies can also considerably improve the city governance and citizen's involvement, as is demonstrated by the cases of Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and by FEDICT (Federal Public Service ITC) in Belgium.

Participants have been fantastically hosted by the City of Leuven on the first day of the Summit and by IMEC on the second day. Noteworthy is the 10th anniversary of the Centre that was celebrated at a gala dinner hosted by Leuven Mayor at the Norbertine Abbey.

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