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## **IRADe organizes Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Urban Development in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

### **Key Highlights**

- Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) organized a Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Development in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019. More than **75 participants** from Gujarat ministry, state departments, research institutes, private companies and academic organizations attended the event.
- The policy workshop was a part of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of IRADe, with support from International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada and Department of Science and Technology (DST); and focused on Climate Change, Air Pollution, Vector Borne Diseases like Dengue, Heat Stress in Indian cities, Building Disaster Resilience.
- IRADe has a long association with Gujarat from the inception itself and has carried out 16 studies in the state in the areas of Energy, Climate Change, Environment and Resilient Urban Development in collaboration with different stakeholders; state institutions, urban local bodies, NGOs and research institutions.

**06<sup>th</sup> March 2019: Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), a reputed South Asia Think Tank**, organized Policy Dialogue on Climate Change & Development in Gujarat on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at Indian Institute of Management Ahmadabad (IIMA) in collaboration with Mahila Housing Sewa Trust. Inaugurating the occasion, Prof. Kirit Parikh said that for having climate resilient development in cities it is important to link the climate and disaster risk issues with the existing smart city plans as in the absence of appropriate strategies for addressing climate change impacts the suffering of the cities can be colossal.

Dr. Kuldeep Arya, Jt. CEO, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation chaired the session on Building Climate Disaster Resilience. He congratulated IRADe on designing climate hazard index for Indian cities. Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe provided an overview of work done by IRADe in past 15 years and need for disaster resilient smart cities. The workshop was well attended by more than 75 representatives from Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Rajkot Municipal Corporation, CEPT University, Ahmedabad University, Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) Gandhinagar, Urban Health and Climate Resilience Center of Excellence (UHCRCE) Surat, India Meteorology Department (IMD) who also appreciated the concerted efforts by IRADe to promote sustainable development and public health in the state of Gujarat.

Mrs Bijal Brahmhatt, Director, Mahila Housing Sewa Trust (MHT) shared the work done in cool roof tops and community level initiatives for managing vector borne diseases.

**On this occasion, IRADe also released report "Review of status of Marine National Park, Jamnagar (MNP) & Evolving Vision Statement for Management of MNP"** The report reviews the ecological changes in MNP, and provides a macro-view of the status of MNP in the wake of various challenges it has faced over the years. It also provides a detailed assessment and mapping of various stakeholders and conflicts/relationships among them and "Common Vision Statement" highlighting the

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potential roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, which should be adopted for sustainable and holistic management of MNP.

The report was released by Prof Kirit Parikh, Chairman IRADe, Prof Jyoti K Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe, Dr. C N Pandey, retd PCCF and visiting Professor, IIT- Gandhinagar, Dr. R D Kamboj, Director, GEER Foundation, Dr. S J Halder, Principal Scientist, CSMCSRI, Bhavnagar, Mr Rohit Magotra, Deputy Director, IRADe and Dr. Mohit Kumar, Research Analyst, IRADe.

This workshop encompassed two research studies being undertaken by IRADe in Rajkot City in the area of Climate Change and Human Health. The first study; 'Climate adaptive action plans to manage heat stress in Indian cities' supported by International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada aims to assess the impact of heat stress on the health, livelihood and productivity of the people. The second study on 'Prediction of Dengue with Climate Change' with support of Department of Science and Technology (DST) aims to build the early warning systems for dengue on a fine spatial scale while co-relating the variations of meteorological parameters with the Dengue intensity.

Gujarat Government has been pro-active in combating the challenges posed by Climate Change and has taken innovative and appreciable initiatives for the protection and conservation of its natural and built environment. IRADe has a long association with Gujarat from the inception itself and has carried out 16 project studies in the state in the areas of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Resilient Urban Development in collaboration with different stakeholders; state institutions, urban local bodies, NGOs and research institutions. Its Report on 'Environmentally Sustainable and Integrated Energy Strategy for Gujarat' was released by Ms. Anandiben Patel, former Chief Minister of Gujarat in January 2016.

### **About IRADe**

IRADe is an independent advanced research institute which aims to conduct research and policy analysis to engage stakeholders such as government, non-governmental organizations, corporations, academic and financial institutions. Energy, climate change, urban development, poverty, gender equity, agriculture and food security are some of the challenges faced in the 21st century. Therefore, IRADe research covers these, as well as policies that affect them.

IRADe's focus is effective action through multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder research to arrive at implementable solutions for sustainable development and policy research that accounts for the effective governance of techno-economic and socio-cultural issues. Being Asia Centre for Sustainable Development, we have been carrying out policy research and its implementation for enabling socio-economic growth and charting pathways for sustainable development in South-Asia.

IRADe was established under the Society's Act, in 2002 at New Delhi. It is certified as a Research and Development Organization by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST). It has also been selected as a Centre of Excellence by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) for urban development and climate change. In addition, it provides expertise to other ministries, national and international institutions and partners with other reputed organizations.

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For more details please visit [www.irade.org](http://www.irade.org)

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