ICLEI Africa March 2014 eNews

2014 has started with a whirlwind of activity from local governments on sustainability throughout Africa! Considering the dire outlook of the future that comes from the latest IPCC report just published today, it’s good news that local governments are taking such action. This year already cities have been holding their own climate summits, launching climate change strategies, developing new by-laws and much more! Awards and recognition are also coming to the continent, highlighting that Africa is taking action on climate change at the local government and city levels. However, there is always space for further advancements; we have a long journey ahead of us towards sustainability, but together we can go further than by ourselves – which is why being part of the largest global network of cities on sustainability is one of the keys to your success! Lastly, to our members and partners attending the World Urban Forum and the Global Town Hall at Metropolitan Solutions next month we hope these inspire you in your work and send you back home with new inspirational ideas and sustainability solutions!

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Latest IPCC report published today

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is finalising their latest Working Group II report, and released a version of it today in Japan (download it here). This news is hot off the press and further emphasises the need for rapid action by everyone. We can no longer be asleep at the steering wheel. For Cities and Local Governments in Africa, it emphasises the danger our citizens are in; that poverty, hunger and water stresses are all likely to increase. Failed cities caused by resource shortages and economic turmoil as a result of climate chaos can lead to failed states. Thus we need to be planning for the worst case scenarios in order to be well prepared.

Sustainable Urban Water Resilience for Africa: Developing Local Climate Solutions

The European Commission funded “SURE Water 4 Africa: Developing LoCS” project is being implemented in six southern African cities - Botswana (Francistown), Malawi (Blantyre), Namibia (Walvis Bay), South Africa (Nelson Mandela Bay), Zambia (Lusaka) and Zimbabwe (Bulawayo). It addresses the challenges of widely felt concerns around water quality and quantity, as well as the need for more efficient and integrated water and sanitation management at the local level. The project also takes into account the climate change factors that are evident in increasing droughts and floods that affect health, livelihoods and damage infrastructure. More.

The 6th Lagos State Climate Change Summit Turns a Pragmatic Eye to Mitigation and Adaptation

The 6th Lagos Climate Change Summit was held from 18 – 20 March on Victoria Island in the large ICLEI Member City of Lagos, Nigeria. This important African congress series has dealt with a range of themes in turn. Last year’s event had focused on adaptation and vulnerability in the area housing and infrastructure; this year, the topic was pragmatic and local: “Exploring Business Opportunities in Climate Change: Lagos State in Focus”. More.

The State of African Cities 2014: Re-imagining Sustainable Urban Transitions Radio spot

ICLEIAfrica was commissioned by UN-Habitat to coordinate and lead in the development of the State of African Cities 2014: Re-imagining sustainable urban transitions. Following the successful launch in NDjamena, Chad, Classic FM had an
interview with ICLEI Africa for insights on emerging issues from the report as well as their implications for the continent. For the full interview between Classic FM’s Michael Avery and Marlene Laros, Advisor of Policy and Strategy ICLEI Africa, please download the podcast here.

What’s your vision for your city? Short film from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

In this short film ICLEI Africa asked everyday citizens, as well as some delegates at the Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, what their hopes and dreams were for the city they call home... this is what they had to say. View the video here!

Development planning – The Urban Nexus

The time has long since past when development of cities via silo and singular implementation outcomes was best-practice. Nowadays with the cumulative risks associated with climate change and resource depletion, cities have to change how they progress, build, develop and plan. More.

People of Steve Tshwete vision a low emission future for their Municipality

From 27-28 February 2014 workshop participants from Steve Tshwete mapped out four possible low-emission development futures for the area. This workshop was the first of two exciting scenario planning exercises designed to bring local people together around a common vision for sustainable, low-emission growth and prosperity in the region. More.

Cape Town crowned Earth Hour Capital 2014!

On 27 March Cape Town was crowned as the winner of the Earth Hour City Challenge 2014, a competition developed by WWF and ICLEI to identify cities around the world playing their role in combating climate change. 6 South African Cities entered this year for the first time, and all should be congratulated on their great efforts on climate change. Both Durban and Cape Town went through as finalists to the global competition. That the award came to Africa is something to inspire all African local governments and cities to also aspire to become Earth Hour Capitals. More.

cewas - Start your own Business in the Water Sector!

cewas is the international incubator for Start-Ups in water, sanitation and resource management based in Switzerland, with the 4th Start-Up programme directed at graduates who want to start their own business or NGO in this field. More.

Latest ICLEI memebers:

- Kinondoni District Council in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Mbombela Local Municipality, South Africa
- Matsapha Town Council, Matsapha, Swaziland
- Mushin Local Government Area, Lagos State, Nigeria
- Savanne District Council, Mauritius

-Events-

Livable Cities Forum
2-4 April 2014
Vancouver, Canada

World Urban Forum
5 - 11 April, 2014
Medellín, Colombia

Global Town Hall @ Metropolitan Solutions
7-11 April 2014
Hannover, Germany

African Utility Week 2014
13 – 14 May 2014
(focus days: 12 May, site visits: 15 May, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC)

Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security
15 - 17 May 2014
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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