

INTEGRATED RURAL URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT FOR CLIMATE BASED ADAPTATIONS IN INDIAN CITIES (IAdapt)

Report on Exposure Visit to Hyderabad

21 January 2019, Hyderabad

Proposal Code:	Proposal # A-69683
Submitted to:	International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada
Submitted by:	ICLEI South Asia
Project Consortium:	ICLEI South Asia (Lead Member) Athena Infonomics LLC International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT M)



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An exposure visit to Hyderabad was conducted on 21st January 2019, for catchment managers of Vijayawada micro-catchment under the project IAdapt. The objective of the visit was to introduce the stakeholders to the best practices in urban water management in Hyderabad, with the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) recently being awarded the ISO certification for best practices in urban water management. The exposure visit was attended by 2 officials from Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, and 1 official from the Water Resources Department.

The exposure visit began with an introduction to integrated water management concepts by Dr. Dinesh Kumar, IWRM expert at Athena Infnomics, where he talked about the different water management techniques that can be implemented on both the demand and supply sides. The participants had an in-depth discussion with Dr. Dinesh about various water management techniques including waste water management, storm water management, lake conservation etc. on the supply side, and water pricing and metering, water rationing etc. on the demand side.

Following the introduction to IWRM concepts, the participants visited the Sewage Treatment Plant at Amberpet, where they were given a brief about the infrastructure and the functioning of the STP by the Deputy General Manager. The STP in Amberpet has a total capacity of 339 MLD spread over an area of 170 acres, and has both primary and secondary treatment units. The Engineer in charge at the STP arranged the participants a tour of the primary and secondary treatment units (which consists of 24 UASB reactors), and explained in detail the treatment process at the plant.

The participants then proceeded on to visit the lake restoration site at Durgam Cheruvu. Durgam Cheruvu was one of the most polluted lakes in Hyderabad, with the foul smell emanating from the lake due to the sewage disposed into the river causing constant problems to the people residing in the area. As part of the lake restoration project, an STP of capacity 5 MLD was constructed near the lake to treat the water entering the lake. The manager of the STP gave the participants a brief about the functioning of the treatment plant, and gave them a tour of the lake premises. As part of the lake restoration project, the lake premises were also beautified with components such as walk way, play area, open gym etc., thereby acting as a revenue generation source for the municipal corporation.

The exposure visit was wound up with a visit to the HMWSSB where the participants had a detailed discussion with the Chief General Manager (CGM), Revenue regarding metering in Hyderabad. The CGM explained in detail the various components of metering including tariff structure, tariff slabs, technology used, payment modes etc., and exchanged ideas with the participants regarding methods to make metering more efficient. The CGM emphasized on the use of smart meters in Hyderabad and explained how it was helpful in restricting the UFW, and also suggested the path of action to be followed to make implementation of smart meters a smooth process in Vijayawada. Participants appreciated initiatives of Hyderabad and found replication potential for their catchment.

