

GCoM SA Regional Workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal

Advancing Climate Action and Enabling Access to Climate Finance

December 5-7, 2023

Venue: The Soaltee Kathmandu

All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG) as the Networking and Governance Coordinator for Global Covenant of Mayors South Asia (GCOM SA) in association with the EU-funded Global GCoM Asia Support Project organized the Global Covenant of Mayors South Asia Regional Workshop 'Advancing Climate Action and Enabling Access to Climate Finance' at the Soaltee, Kathmandu, Nepal on December 5-7, 2023.

The primary objective of this three-day workshop was to provide signatory GCoM cities with hands-on training to use essential tools and insights to access climate finance opportunities effectively and connect them with EU businesses providing technical solutions. A total of 67 delegates participated in the workshop including 18 South Asian cities, 3 Southeast Asian cities, one Japanese city and 11 representatives of various businesses from across European Union. Shri Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, graced the inaugural session and his endorsement of GCoM South Asia for Nepalese cities underscored the initiative's potential in empowering cities to combat climate change effectively.

The cities receive hands-on training on drafting clear and compelling Expressions of Interest (EOI) for their project proposals. This activity served as the foundation for their discussions with EU businesses. A couple of sessions were dedicated to business matchmaking with signatory cities to support them in implementing their actions based on their urgent requirements.

A key highlight of the event was the Business Matchmaking sessions on the concluding day. European business representatives, armed with innovative climate solutions, engaged with cities to explore collaborations where their expertise could make a significant impact on ground. Business Matchmaking was a unique platform for one-on-one interaction between GCoM Signatory cities and EU businesses. It concluded in 50 meetings between the cities and various businesses, allowing the possibility of fostering mutually beneficial partnerships and driving sustainable urban development.

