

**Sanjay Chauhan**

Mayor

Municipal Corporation Shimla



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Ref. No. : MCS/Mayor/CCA/101

Date :

19<sup>th</sup> February 2015

To  
The International City/Country Management Association  
ICMA  
United States

Subject: Commitment of Shimla city for the CityLinks Adaptation Partnership Program

Dear Sir/Madam,

Hereby I confirm the participation and commitment of the city of Shimla in the above mentioned programme of ICMA.

Ms. Komal Kantariya, City Project Coordinator under the GoI-UNDP-USAID project on 'Urban Climate Risk Management through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation' will be the point of contact and Project Manager for this program.

We look forward to a learning and collaboration opportunity through the CityLinks Climate Adaptation Partnership Program.

Sincerely,

  
(Sanjay Chauhan)

Copy to,

Hon'ble Dy. Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Shimla

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# Climate Adaptation Partnership Program Application

## Contact Information

City or Local Government Authority: **Municipal Corporation of Shimla**

State/Province: **Himachal Pradesh**

Country: **India**

## Proposed Program Manager and Point of Contact

Full Name: Komal Kantariya

Street Address: The Mall, Shimla Municipal Corporation

City: Shimla

State/Province: Himachal Pradesh

Postal Code: 171001

Country: India

Email Address: komal.kantariya@gmail.com

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1. Provide a brief description of your community including population, demographic, economic drivers and current or anticipated climate challenges.

Located in the middle ranges of the Himalayas, Shimla is a lovely hill station which is favorite among tourists. In 1864, Shimla was declared the summer capital of the British Raj in India. A popular tourist destination, Shimla is often referred to as the "Queen of Hills," a term coined by the British and situated at an altitude of 2205 meters (7,234 ft) above mean sea level. The city is spread over an area of 25 square kilometers and comprises of 25 wards under the Municipal Corporation. The total population of the city is 169,578 (2011 census) with a population density of 4197 person per sq. km. The economy is mainly dependent on government services and tourism. More than 98% of its population is employed in the tertiary sector such as tourism, hospitality, and handicrafts industry.

Climatic data trend analysis and projections at City level are rarely available. Hence, in order to better understand the past trends in temperature and precipitation for Shimla city, preliminary analysis of climatological parameters was undertaken based on regional assessment report published by Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA, 2010)<sup>1</sup>, recent reports published by India Meteorological Department (IMD) and State Strategy & Action Plan on Climate Change, Himachal Pradesh (HPSSAPCC, 2012)<sup>2</sup>. As per these scientific assessments there has been 40% reduction in annual rainfall over the last 25 years (1987-2009) in Shimla city. The mean average winter temperature has increased by 2.4 °C during this period. Because of changing rainfall patterns with increased variability in future in south-eastern parts of the State of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla is likely to experience less rainfall in future. This might result in drought-like conditions in and around the city resulting in tremendous pressure in the water and food supply systems in the city. The city is also at risk of flash floods because of its dilapidated drainage system and severe alternation of the natural drains (ACCCRN, 2013)<sup>3</sup>. Water contamination and water-borne diseases such as jaundice and diarrhea are very frequent in the city and such cases are likely to become severe during flash floods. Change in snowfall pattern is also likely to impact the local weather and it has severe implications for the tourism and recreation industry.

2. What adaptation challenge facing the city or region do you propose addressing during the partnership? Please provide a brief summary of the context surrounding the proposed topic area including past efforts and current initiatives. Please provide links or site any relevant climate data/observations that have informed this problem. (Maximum 500 words)

Shimla city, located in the highly climate-sensitive and seismically active Himalayan regions in northern India, is highly exposed to natural hazards. The city, which was originally planned as the Summer Capital of the British-administered India in 1864, has witnessed rapid geographic expansion and demographic increase. Two of the key adaptation challenges the city would like to address as part of partnership is on city-level climate risk governance and mobilizing adequate finance to implement the adaptation actions. We are interested to learn from institutional innovations which are effective in facilitating city-level adaptation strategies involving a cross-section of actors and planning departments. Shimla city has identified a series of climate adaptation needs and opportunities through the City Disaster Management Plan (2012, reviewed in 2015) and the City Resilience Strategy (2013). But the city administration encounters constant challenge in mainstreaming the adaptation strategies as part of the larger city development plans and ensuring continuous engagement of other sectoral bodies and departments. To

<sup>1</sup> [www.moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/fin-rpt-incca.pdf](http://www.moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/fin-rpt-incca.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://hpsdma.nic.in/disastermanagement/hpsdmp.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> ACCCRN, 2013. *Climate Resilience Strategy-Shimla*, ICLEI and Shimla Municipal Corporation, June 2013

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address these institutional challenges we are preparing an Action Plan to Mainstream CCA into city development and identify the opportunities through which adaptation actions at the city level could be sustained on a long-term basis. Very recently, we have successfully mobilized the support of elected Councillors to organize Ward Disaster Management Committees (WDMCs) in all the 25 wards of Shimla city.

- 3. What factors have prevented the community from addressing the proposed challenge? Examples include but are not limited to: budget, capacity, organizational culture, regulations/laws, etc. (Maximum 500 words)**

Some of the factors that prevent the communities in Shimla city in addressing these challenges are lack of capacity to better understand the climate risks they are exposed to and lack of adequate budgetary provision and support to undertake community-level adaptation actions. Although there is a well-established network of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) in the city, there has been limited effort to mobilize their participation in undertaking climate risk assessments in their respective locality. A scientifically robust climate risk assessment of city is lacking and most of the knowledge pertains to macro-scale climate change projections such as at the provincial and national level. The municipal authority doesn't have adequate financial and technological capacities to undertake such assessments which further limit its capacity to make decisions to better prepare the communities and systems in the city to adapt to climate change.

- 4. Please describe the roles of any key stakeholders that are currently engaged in the challenge both inside and outside of government. (Maximum 250 words)**

Some of the key stakeholders currently engaged in the challenge are the Municipal Commission, elected representatives (Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 25 Councillors), UNDP-India, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), research and scientific agencies, the Himachal Pradesh State Center on Climate Change (HPSCC) and private sectors (such as those in tourism and waste management).

- 5. Please describe the commitment of the leadership in your community to address this issue. (Maximum 250 words)**

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and the Municipal Corporation are committed to and enthusiastic about city adaptation planning and resilience building. As mentioned earlier, all the twenty five Councillors are facilitating the organization of Ward Disaster Management Committees (WDMCs) in their respective wards. These WDMCs are inclusive and ensure adequate representation of the most vulnerable such as women and people with disabilities (PWDs).

- 6. What would a successful partnership look like? What are some short and long term outcomes that you envision as a result of this partnership? (Maximum 250 words)**

We envision a long-term learning and exchange alliance through this partnership. We aim to gain from the experiences of the resource cities and identify further opportunities through which we can collaborate to address common adaptation challenges. Key sectors we aim to focus for adaptation planning are infrastructure planning and maintenance (such as water and sanitation, waste, and electricity and early warning system). CityLinks would provide us with opportunities to further strengthen the collaboration and networking among cities and become advocates for resilient urban systems at the national, regional and global level. One of the short-term outcomes would be in terms of capacity enhancement of our municipal officials and elected representatives on climate change adaptation planning as part of larger city development planning and investments. As noted earlier,

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climate risk governance is a key challenge for us and through this increased capacity and enhanced skills we will be in a position to institutionalize effective risk governance institutions and systems in the city.

7. Please provide a CV or bio of the proposed project manager that would lead the partnership.

-Enclosed-



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