



Online Certificate Programme on *Urban Resilience and Covid 19 Pandemic* 28th November to 19th December 2020

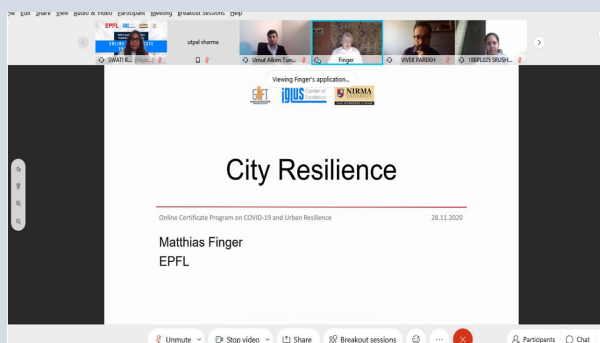
COVID-19 once again brought the need for resilient cities on the forefront. During the pandemic, most affected areas around the world have been the populated ones. Taking this into account, IGLUS Center of Excellence (ICE) conducted its first ever online certificate programme titled 'Urban Resilience and COVID-19 Pandemic'.

ICE was established in Gujarat, India, as partnership between École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, NIRMA University and Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). This certificate programme helped participants learn more about the IGLUS approach in managing urban infrastructures, cities' response to the pandemic and future implications with examples from countries world over through IGLUS network.

The first online certificate programme on Urban Resilience and Covid 19 Pandemic concluded on 19th December 2020. The Programme saw participation from students, academicians and professionals from the field of Architecture and Planning in equal measures. There were some participants from other countries too.

52 participants attended sessions taken under various topics related to Urban Resilience and Covid 19 Pandemic. The sessions planned over the weekends of November and December 2020 focused on one theme each week. Experts from IGLUS global network and Nirma University in Switzerland, Mexico, UAE, South Korea and India came together to take 10 online interactive sessions with new focus each week in an international teaching and learning environment.

The programme began with an introductory address from Dr. Swati Kothary. She welcomed the dignitaries and participants giving a brief introduction on IGLUS Center of Excellence (ICE), its activities and outreach program. This was followed by a prayer recitation by Yashvi Dhruva invoking Goddess Saraswati. A welcome address by Prof. Matthias Finger and Prof. Utpal Sharma introduced the participants to Urban Resilience and various approaches that would be discussed in the certificate programme.



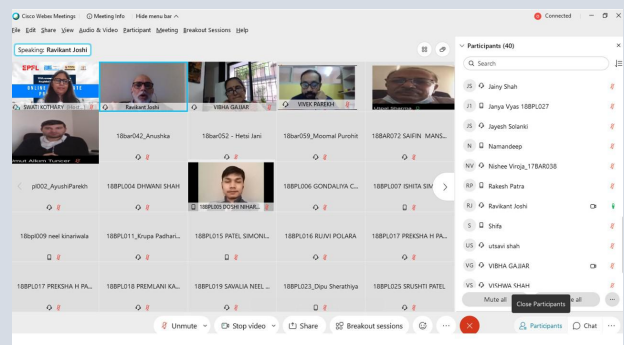
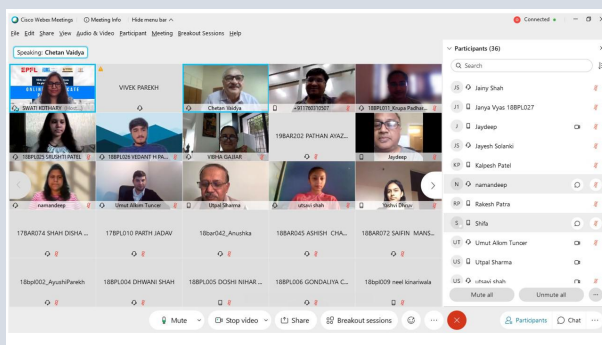
In the inaugural session, Prof. Matthias Finger Professor Emeritus, EPFL, Switzerland Founder IGLUS Executive Programme, presented the conceptual framework underlying the IGLUS program. The framework that builds on complex systems theory and attributes a particularly important role to

resilience The session also highlighted the role of resilience in urban systems and why its governance matters and how such governance affects the performance of urban systems.

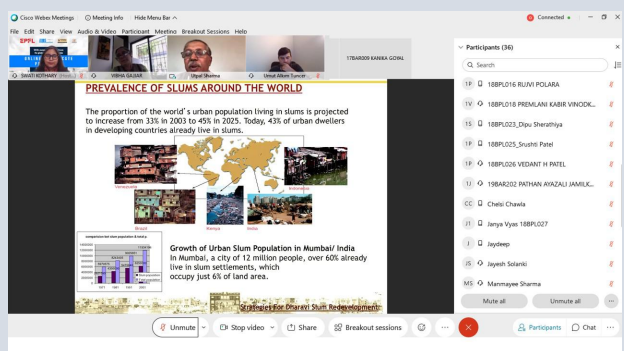
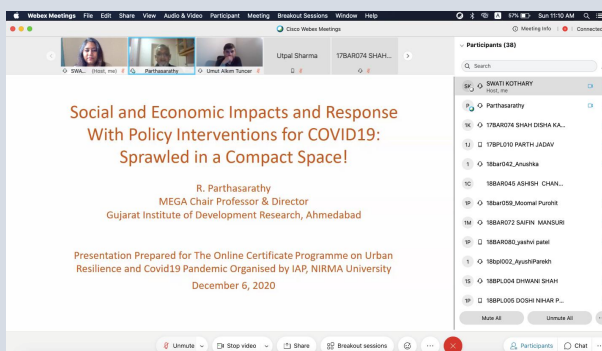
In the second session Dr. Arnaldo Matus Kramer, Co-founder and Director Ithaca Environmental, Mexico presented an overview of city level response and resilience to Covid-19 and explored key differences between developed and developing city contexts, in particular, related to how informality changes the response and effectiveness to Covid-19 at the city level.

Focus for the second week was Best Practices in Governance and Management in India where Prof. Chetan Vaidya, Senior National Urban Adviser Kochi Smart City supported by GIZ (German International Co-operation) shared the response to pandemic challenge in Urban India with examples from various cities and states and assessing the response in context of the governance structure. He discussed that this pandemic has shown that state leaders, knowing the demography of each city/state have tried to incorporate measures that were in sync with the mindset and culture of those states. He also highlighted that COVID-19 requires a change in managing India's urban centers with Public Health being central to urban management and reiterated the need to address weakness of local government by giving a new look by empowering local governments.

Dr. Ravikant Joshi, an Urban Finance and Management Specialist shared response in terms of governance and infrastructure to pandemic challenge in Urban India with examples from various cities and states explaining these response in context of the existing governance structure.

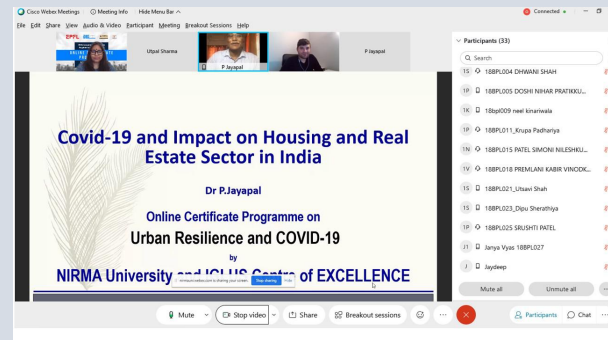
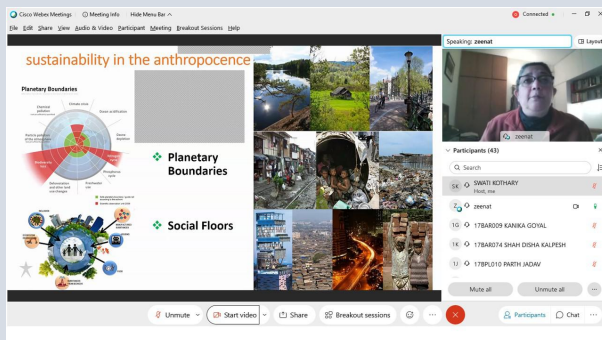


Prof. R. Parthasarthy, MEGA Chair Professor and Director, Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad, India first presented the broad socioeconomic framework in India; the different levels of government and their policies toward different sections of the society and utilized some on-going urban infrastructure project like the construction of Metro Rail to discuss the impact and effect on one of the social issues namely labour in particular with the case of COVID-19 as the underlining factor in all these.

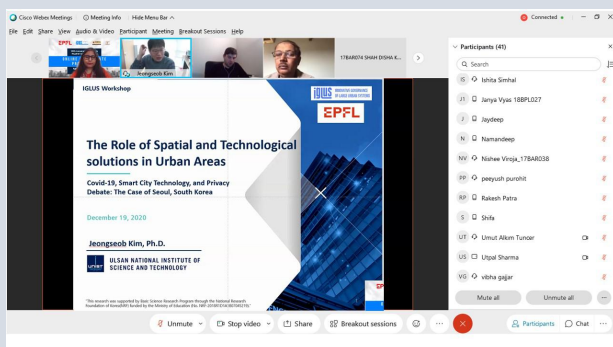


In the third week of the Certificate programme the focus was Spatial Analysis and Pandemic. Dr. Zeenat Niazi, Vice-President of Development Alternatives Group reflected on aspects of resource metabolism in human settlements and imperatives to move to circular models. She coupled nature of urban systems with natural systems and highlighted the need for a resilience thinking approach to design solutions for complex problems in human settlements taking COVID 19 Pandemic as one example of a system breakdown.

Dr. Jayapal, an Urban Housing Specialist session complimented the session on Resource Efficiency and Circularity in Cities – Economy, Ecology and Human Well Being by a Systematic Analysis of Housing and Infrastructure Issues and impact of Covid-19 on the housing and real estate industry at large in the country. He elaborated on the pattern expected to evolve in the coming months. He also discussed the demand and supply aspects of housing and other constituents of real estate sector. He shared the event initiatives of the government in promoting housing and relaxed estate industry in terms of investments, tax concessions and related initiatives.



Prof. Utpal Sharma, Dean and Director, Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University through his session looked at the limits of densities and approach to affordable housing for marginalized population in cities. He shared the problems in Metropolitan cities having large slums with high densities with majority of the population living in 6% of land. HE also presented an analogy of congested, one room living aggravating the COVID-19 situation in metropolitan cities and government struggling with the situation. He raised the issue of artificially higher land prices exhausting land resources, creating a need to find different solutions like redevelopment of slums with private participation, incremental housing, etc.



The final and fourth week highlighted international Innovations adopted in Crisis Management. Prof. Jeongseob Kim from Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea shared smart solutions that have been very effective in controlling the spread of Covid 19 in South Korea. He shared that Seoul has been one of the good examples in this case. His session focused on technological solutions adopted in combating the COVID-19 pandemic with information on Seoul's practices.

The concluding session on Cities After Covid-19-Forecasts was taken by Prof. Jerry Kolo Professor, American University of Sharjah, UAE. He shared the issues on how during the pandemic, most affected areas have been urban areas with lock downs and social restrictions. He then focused on pandemic implications for future in terms of urban planning, cities, social and economic relations and what the changes will be in cities after these times.

The certificate programme concluded after an intense discussion between participants, Prof. Jerry, Prof. Utpal, Prof Matthias, Dr. Swati and Mr. Umut. They debated on approaches adopted in different scales of planning and natural resource allocation optimization for future. The programme was concluded by a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Swati Kothary.