

# PRESS RELEASE

## Sustainable Neighbourhood Kochi – Pilot project launched

A very innovative showcase project “Sustainable Neighbourhood”, which has been piloted at the Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Elamakkara Ward in Kochi has been launched by H.E. Dr. Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India, in presence of Adv. M. Anilkumar, Mayor of Kochi Municipal Corporation, Dr. Rajan C, Director, C-HED, Ms. Anandi Iyer, Director, Fraunhofer Office India, Dr. Debjani Ghosh, Associate Professor at NIUA, and other key dignitaries from the city and state administration on 08 June 2023.

The pilot project “Sustainable Neighbourhood” demonstrates implementation of nature-based sewage treatment, green and cool roof, and roof-top solar photovoltaics.



Dr. Ackermann inaugurating the pilot.  
Dr. Anilkumar and Ms. Anandi Iyer along with other dignitaries on the podium.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. German Ambassador Dr. Philipp Ackermann, in his Inaugural Address said, “Fraunhofer is the smartest and most unique German organization in India”. He expressed his satisfaction on the successful implementation of the pilot, which is a testimony of formidable and long-term cooperation between Fraunhofer and Germany with the State of Kerala. He congratulated the entire Morgenstadt project team (Fraunhofer, NIUA, C-HED and KMC) for their efforts for a successful showcase of the demonstrator. Given the potential impact this pilot could have in resource optimization and climate change mitigation, he urged the State Government and Industry both from India and Germany to work with Fraunhofer for scaling this pilot not only at the city-level but also replicating it in other cities of India.

The Hon’ble Mayor of Kochi Municipal Corporation Adv. M. Anilkumar, in his Presidential Address, commended Fraunhofer’s methodology and mentioned the major areas of intervention, which were identified by Fraunhofer with support of NIUA and C-HED. He said that the Sustainable Neighbourhood Project is the most innovative project implemented by Germany in Kochi and further added that he extends full support of the Municipal Corporation and the State Government to Fraunhofer in scaling up of this project.

**Ms. Anandi Iyer, Director, Fraunhofer Office India**, in her Keynote Address, appreciated the support of KMC, NIUA and C-HED in co-designing and successful realization of this project, through multistakeholder collaboration. She emphasized on the importance of proactive involvement of the citizens and the city staff for a successful implementation. Fraunhofer with its in-house expertise in developing innovative solutions of the future is the ideal partner to Kochi, she added. She also further announced the commitment of Fraunhofer towards a much bigger vision for Kochi in developing low cost but scalable solutions for sustainable development.

**Dr. Marius Mohr, Project Coordinator and Mr. Gerhard Stryi-Hipp, Energy Expert** who joined online from Germany shared their experiences in developing the pilot with respect to the unique city dynamics of Kochi.

**Dr. Debjani Ghosh, Associate Professor from NIUA** in her address spoke on the project journey from conceptualization to implementation.

Under Indo-German cooperation in Smart Cities, Fraunhofer and University of Stuttgart have partnered with Centre for Heritage, Environment and Development (C-HED), an institution under Kochi Municipal Corporation (KMC) to launch “Morgenstadt Global Smart City Initiative” in Kochi in 2018. This partnership is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany (BMWK), under its International Climate Initiative (IKI). The other prominent partners include Frankfurt School of Finance and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Govt. of India. Dr. Marius Mohr, Head of Innovation Field Water Technologies and Resource Recovery from Fraunhofer IGB is lead coordinator of this project.

Morgenstadt Global Smart City Initiative has been implemented in three global cities – Kochi (India), Saltillo (Mexico) and Piura (Peru) to strategize the measures against climate change. This initiative focuses on the mitigation and adaptation of climate change in vulnerable cities. In Kochi, this initiative was launched on 10 Dec 2018 in presence of H.E. Dr. Martin Ney, Former German Ambassador to India and key dignitaries from the Kerala State Government. The implementation of this initiative has provided state-of-the-art and long-term vision tools to support and strengthen Kochi’s current approach towards smart cities Mission and leverage Kochi to become a successful model to showcase Indo-German Cooperation in Smart Cities and sustainable urban development.

With an ambition to make Kochi a visible lighthouse city of a successful Indo-German cooperation, the pilot “Sustainable Neighbourhood” has been implemented. The pilot is the first step to demonstrate a sustainable neighbourhood, consisting of a sewage plant, a green roof and 15 PV rooftop systems on residential homes. This also has been recommended for further scaling up with support from Industries in which all buildings will be energetically renovated, all buildings will receive a photovoltaic system and will be served by a sustainable water and sewage system. The experiences with the holistic approach of the Sustainable Neighbourhood would be scientifically evaluated to gain knowledge on how the inter-sectoral and integrated planning and implementation can be used for the roll-out of Smart Cities in future.

The project team now invites corporates, start-ups and stakeholders from the civic society to collaborate for expanding and scaling up the activities.

Supported by:



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Project Weblinks:

- <https://mgi-iki.com/en/city/kochi-india/>
- <https://new.solminds.in/c-hed-designs/html-conversion/index.php>

Publications:

- [Kochi Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment](#)
- [Kochi City Profile Summary Report](#)

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