



Creating Resilient & Inclusive Cities

Urban Thinkers Campus in Mumbai

Safecity, Developmatrix and The Urban Vision co-hosted a 2 day programme - Creating Resilient and Inclusive Cities on behalf of The Swedish Institute and The UN Habitat as part of the Urban Thinkers Campus on 21-22nd June at ISDI ACE, Mumbai. The programme was conducted in partnership with the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai, Indian School of Design and Innovation (ISDI), Tata Capital and BMW Foundation

The Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) model is an initiative of UN-Habitat's World Urban Campaign, conceived as an open space for critical exchange between all stakeholders and partners, and aims to promote sustainable urbanisation. Only 27 such UTCs have been approved for 2018 from around the world.

Creating Resilient and Inclusive Cities, served as a platform to bring together diverse voices to deliberate on existing barriers of gender equality and women empowerment, and finding localised, community driven solutions for addressing the same. This is envisaged as a yearly program comprising of the following:

- a) Stakeholder dialogue sessions with interactive innovation labs that generate action plans.
- b) Social incubator to engage youth to work on hyper local, community based solutions through a 5-month programme.

Key Highlights:

- Mentorship on design thinking and urban planning (to 100 + the 10 teams)
- Participation by youth on contributing to making the city resilient and inclusive
- Hyper local solutions for the city of Mumbai
- UNDP India will be mentoring potential projects ideated by female led teams and help pitch them to Start Mission Launch (Government of Maharashtra).
- BMW Foundation will be sponsoring the youth retreat in August and September.
- The U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai is the knowledge partner and the final pitch session will be on 14 December at the Dosti House, U.S. Consulate Mumbai.

The platform included the following activities:

- a) 21 June - A stakeholder dialogue session talking about gender in regards to safety, mobility, urban environmental challenges and involvement in the planning/governance process, group Innovation Labs on themes like 'Sexuality & Disability' and 'Cities for All'.

b) 22 June - Youth Design Innovation challenge, a 5 month social incubator programme that commenced with an introductory session on how to define a problem and design solutions from a user's perspective. This was then followed by a formal application to apply for the challenge through submission of ideas to create Women-Friendly cities towards the youth studying in the colleges of the Mumbai Metropolitan area. 10 teams of diverse gender were selected for mentoring through experiential sessions, expert mentoring and capacity building support. Conclusively, the final working prototypes will be pitched to a jury in December and top 3 solutions recognised.

The event witnessed influencers like Faye D'Souza and Meghna Pant moderating the panel discussions; Harish Iyer leading an Innovation Lab and Sapna Moti Bhavnani doing a spoken word piece, among others. ▲

About the Co-Hosts

Safecity is a platform that crowdsources personal stories of sexual harassment and abuse in public spaces. The idea is to make this data useful for individuals, local communities and local administration to identify factors that causes behaviour that leads to violence and work on strategies for solutions. Developmatrix is a women-led social enterprise working in the area of sustainability - environment and CSR. Some of its partners are Adani Port & SEZ, Larsen & Toubro Infotech, and Safecity. The Urban Vision has been initiated with the core belief that cities offer a remarkable way to create a socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and economically vibrant society. It profiles best practices and the finest thinking in the key components of city building -Urban Design, Architecture, infrastructure planning, policy strategies, etc.

