Report of the Inception Meeting with the City Task Force for the Preparation of City Sanitation Plan in Kochi

19th May, 2010

Venue: Council Hall, Corporation of Cochin

Submitted to:

GTZ – Advisory Services in Environmental Management (ASEM)

ICRA Management Consulting Services Ltd.

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Session 1: Welcome Address **Honorable Mayor, Professor Mercy Williams, Corporation of Cochin (CoC) and** **Mr Essaki Raj and Dr. Ramesh Nair, GTZ, Advisory Services in Environmental Management (ASEM)**	
The meeting was headed by Hon. Mayor, CoC and convened by Additional Secretary, CoC. The meeting started with a welcome address, which was delivered by the Hon. Mayor Prof. Mercy Williams and was followed by the introduction of the participants. Mr. Esakki Raj and Dr. Ramesh Nair, GTZ ASEM, briefed all participants of the GTZ's ongoing support to the CoC, the proposed CSP preparations and introduced the ICRA Management Consulting Services Limited (IMaCS) team members to the City Task Force (CTF).	

Session 2: Introduction to City Sanitation Plan (CSP) and City Task Force (CTF) **Mr. Anand Madhavan,** **Head, Urban Infrastructure, IMaCS** **and** **Mr Sunder Subramanian, Advisor, Urban Infrastructure, IMaCS**	
Mr. Anand Madhavan and Mr. Sunder Subramanian, IMaCS presented the background of the NUSP, its objectives and goals, proposed CSP preparations, methodologies, time frame, role of CSTF, and required support from the line departments/ members.	

Session 3: Open Discussion

Mr. Rangadasa Prabhu, President, Ernakulam District Residents Association Apex Committee (EDRAAC), asked about the type of waste which will be addressed under the CSP. It was informed by the Mayor / IMaCS team that liquid waste/ wastewater issues are of paramount importance in the area of city sanitation and would need to be addressed on priority basis. The IMaCS team also highlighted the minimal coverage of sewerage network, which is only about 5% of their total wastewater generation.

The Mayor spoke of the ongoing drain cleaning programmes in the major drains by the Irrigation Department and the subsequent problems faced in the tertiary drains. The Mayor asked the team to address both the technical and the non-technical aspects of city sanitation.

Mr. K.M. Abdulla, President, Kerala Hotel & Restaurants Association (KHRA), pointed out on the old pipelines, inadequate collection capacity which leads to breeding of mosquitoes and other water borne diseases. The Mayor mentioned that some solid materials, reaching the drains from Hotel & Hospital wastewater, leads to choking of

drains and stressed the needs for organizing the catering units. The Mayor suggested to the team to incorporate medical waste and hotel waste generation in the proposed study. The KHRA also pointed out the necessity of Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) structures and that the best practices should be highlighted in the study.

The Residential Association members suggested the need for a coordinated approach in managing the wastewater, storm water, solid waste and water supply in the corporation area for the overall city sanitation improvement. They suggested decentralized treatments units, which could be suitable for Kochi, and stressed the need to promote rain water harvesting structures in the buildings. They also suggested considering both human and animal excreta in the CSP preparation. The IMaCS team ensured that the livestock population will be taken into account and will be incorporated in the study.

Mr. Baby Antony, Additional Secretary, CoC, asked the study team to highlight the uncovered area which lacks proper urban services. Mr. K.V. Sukumaran, Jt. General Manager, Fertilisers and Chemicals of Travancore Ltd., (FACT), Mr. Alakali Joji Paul, Cochin Port Trust, & Mr. K.S. Shine, Secretary, District Tourism Promotion Council, Ernakulam expressed their support and interest for this programme.

Mr. G. Karthikeyan, Kerala Merchants Union, suggested that the team adopt a holistic approach in CSP preparation, by coming up with concrete solutions that could benefit the urban residents and could reach grass root level.

Mr. Mathew Joseph, S.E. & Project Coordinator JNNURM Projects, Kerala Water Authority, briefed all attendees on the existing wastewater and water supply service, its coverage area and the ongoing JNNURM and KSUDP schemes for the wastewater management of the city. He also explained the difficulties faced in Kochi in implementing new schemes, due to its geographical nature.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan, Senior Town Planning Officer, Greater Cochin Development Authority, highlighted the need of the CSP and pointed out the health issues due to lack of proper sewerage and adequate storm water networks, which poses serious threat to

city residents and the urban environment. He also suggested the set-up of decentralized treatment units in Kochi, due to the city's unique geographical setting and its adequate institutional mechanisms and legal framework.

Mr. Kabeer B. Haroon, Project Director, CREDAI (Formerly Kerala Builders Forum), extended his cooperation for this study and shared his group's ongoing waste management experiences in apartments /flats.

Also during the discussion Mr. Sunder, IMaCS expressed the non-availability of data on the number of septic tanks, septic tank cleaning operators, the lacunae in organizing the private operators, and the dearth of septage treatment and disposal. He ensured that necessary attempts will be made to incorporate the existing status of these issues in the CSP.

The Mayor explained the difficulties faced by the Corporation in managing waste and highlighted "best practices" in other cities. She expressed the need to share "best practices" in other cities and bye-laws in tackling waste management issues. She also mentioned that there may be some initial resistance in collecting tax or user fee, but she hopes the residents will cooperate for better urban services. Additionally, she called for a systematic and strategic approach during the CSP preparations.

The Mayor read out the list of members of City Sanitation Task Force and asked for comments. It was suggested and agreed by the CSTF to include following agencies as a stakeholder in the CSTF.

1. Kerala Chamber of Commerce
2. Kerala Vyabari Vyabasai Samiti
3. Sujithwa Kerala Mision (by District Administration)
4. District Sanitation Committee

Finally the meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Mayor.

Annexure – I

List of participants for the CTF Inception Meeting:

S.No	Name & Designation	Organization	Contact Number/ Mobile/LL	E-mail address
1	Prof. Mercy Williams	Mayor, CoC, Kochi. (Head of CSTF)	9847034034	
2	Mr. Baby Antony	Additional Secretary, CoC	9846849557	babyantonykgm@yahoo.co.in
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