A Study Tour of Municipal Government Official from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to Jaipur, India

Organised by CUTS International
With the support of The Asia Foundation, India

December 08-10, 2015

Introduction
Mongolia is a landlocked country in east-central Asia. It is bordered by Russia to the north and China to the south, east and west. While they do not share a border, Mongolia is separated from Kazakhstan by only 36.76 kilometres (22.84 mi). Ulaanbaatar, the capital and largest city, is home to about 45 percent of the population. Mongolia is divided into 21 provinces (aimags), which are in turn divided into 329 districts (sums). The capital Ulaanbaatar is administrated separately as a capital city (municipality) with provincial status. Thus being a federal municipality, the city is not part of any province.

Ulaanbaatar is divided into nine districts: Baganuur, Bagakhangai, Bayangol, Bayanzürkh, Chingeltei, Khan Uul, Nalaikh, Songino Khairkhan, and Sükhbaatar. Each district is subdivided into Khoroos, of which there are 121. The capital and provinces have Citizens’ Representative Meeting (Local parliament) elected every 4 years. Governors exercise executive power in the capital and provinces and are appointed by the Prime Minister as recommended by Citizens’ Representative Meetings. Local administrations provide support for Governors.

CUTS International with the support of The Asia Foundation (TAF) organised a three-day study tour for the Municipal Officials from the city of Ulaanbaatar of Mongolia. A 15-member delegation along with two representatives from TAF India visited Jaipur from December 07-11, 2015.
Objective
The purpose of the study tour was to enhance capacities of the government officials with respect to informed decision making, community participation and implementation of activities for service improvement in their respective areas through exposure to relevant areas in India.

The specific objectives of the tour are as to learn about:
- how to engage citizens for more informed decision-making and planning to improve public service delivery;
- participatory planning/budgeting processes; and
- continued and sustainable capacity building of city officials, professional learning programmes and accreditation systems used in cities in India.

Proceedings

Day 01, December 08, 2015
Welcome & Introductory Session at Conference Hall, Hotel Ramada

George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International welcomed the government delegates from the Mongolian city of Ulaan Bataar. Through a power point presentation, he took the delegates through the journey of CUTS, informing them how CUTS evolved from a wall newsletter for consumer awareness, and has now established itself as an international development organisation working on diverse range of issues, such as governance, sustainable development, international trade and competition. He provided a brief overview of key governance initiatives of CUTS and explained the usage of social accountability (SAc) tools in the development sector. The delegates were informed about how services are made available to the marginalised sections through framework for accountability relationship.

Further, he oriented delegates on the urban governance issues in India. He explained the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of India which specifically deals with funds, functions and functionaries of urban local bodies (ULBs). The delegates took a keen interest in understanding the administrative structure of India.
Amar Deep Singh, Project Coordinator, CUTS, gave a presentation on MyCity project which was implemented in the city of Jaipur for the period of 2012-2015. The project attempted to improve governance and service delivery through enhanced civic engagement in the city of Jaipur by using SAC tools. The delegates were explained how by engaging urban stakeholders (ward-level residents, elected representatives and administrative officials), local solutions could be found to the existing problems which resulted in enhanced service delivery. The objectives of the project were to assess the status and quality of service delivery by urban local government by engaging stakeholders; create index of selected wards based on delivery against key services; and advocate with various levels of ULBs for improving quality of service delivery.
Meeting at Directorate of Local Bodies, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur
The delegation visited office of Directorate, Local Self Government (LSG), Government of Rajasthan. Himani Tiwari, Citi Managers Association of Rajasthan gave a brief overview of various programmes and activities undertaken by the LSG Department.

Purushottam Biyani, Director, LSG Department, welcomed all delegates and provided detailed overview of various flagship schemes under implementation by the Department and shared its objectives, implementation plan and expected outcomes. All delegates were very interested in his presentation and raised several queries which were suitably answered by him.

R K Vijayavargiya, Senior Town Planner, LSG Department also shared his experiences and spoke about the entire planning process of the Department and at Municipal level. He also mentioned about the master plans prepared for all municipals, councils and town councils and added that Rajasthan is first of its kind in India which has already prepared master plans for its all the cities and towns. Vijayavargiya responded to queries raised by delegates on the planning processes.

Biyani also raised certain queries related to the governance structure of the Mongolian cities which was replied by the group leader and translated in English. Towards the end, Biyani who stayed throughout interactions thanked all the delegates and CUTS for arranging such a good interaction for cross learning. He also presented a Souvenir to the group leader as token of appreciation. Amar Deep Singh also thanked the Department and officials of City Managers' Association, Rajasthan for facilitating this exposure in an efficient way.

Visit to Jaipur Municipal Corporation
Mongolian delegates also visited the Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) office and interacted with JMC officials and public representatives. Manoj Bhardwaj, Deputy Mayor of Jaipur; Rakesh Sharma, Additional Commissioner of JMC and Team members of Jaipur Unites Vaibhav Kumar and Monika Solanki extended a warm word of welcome to all delegates.
Rakesh Sharma gave a broader overview of the JMC administrative structure, on-going programmes and campaigns and functions of the elected representatives. He also spoke about the day to day functioning of the JMC and issues and challenges faced by the organisation. He mentioned that JMC is facing lot of challenges, such as financial viability, staff crunch at all levels and adopting efficient technologies in solid waste management and monitoring of the vehicles by installing GPS in all the JMC vehicles etc.

He mentioned about the techniques being used by JMC to connect with the local communities in the planning and implementation processes and also improving the systems of the JMC. He said that an initiative like Jaipur UNITE has been initiated which is ensuring community participation in the JMC services. Bharadwaj also shared his experiences of working with the JMC and said that community participation is very essential to make the system workable and better and it is good that JMC is making efforts for the same. JMC gave mementos to all delegates.

Social Evening & Welcome Reception at Hotel ITC Rajputana, Jaipur

A social evening was planned for delegates to get a chance to interact with the people from Jaipur who are actively engaged in social and development sector. The welcome reception was attended by CSO representatives, JMC officials, elected representatives, government officials and retired bureaucrats. George welcomed guests which was followed by a round of mutual introduction and informal conversations over dinner.
All the delegated also participated in the inaugural session of the 13th International Municipalika conference held at Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre in Sitapura Industrial area, Jaipur. The delegates met with the chief guest of the event Vashundhra Raje Sindhia, Chief Minister of Rajasthan who inaugurated the event which was attended by around 2000 participants including includes mayors, councillors, municipal service officials and subject experts from various states and countries.

In the inaugural session, speakers of various countries and International organisations like Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, representatives from Canada, Singapore and China, Minister for Urban Development and Housing Rajpal Singh Shekhawat and official in-charge from Rajasthan also shared their views. Delegation got an excellent opportunity to learn from the Municipal sector in general and by interacting with subject professionals, service providers and policymakers.

**Interface Meeting at Ward No. 17, Civil Lines Zone, Jaipur**

The visiting delegates got an opportunity to attend an Interface Meeting at Ward No.17 of Jaipur City. This is one of the wards selected under MyCity project and CUTS local CSO partner- *Hardev Shikshan Sansthan* was responsible for implementation of project
activities in this ward. Through the platform of interface meeting, where local residents interact with elected representatives and service providers for ward level development issues. The team got an opportunity to interact with the councillors of wards 17 and 18, Zone Deputy Commissioner, JMC as well as CAG members formed under MyCity Project.

Sumanlata Lohiya, Councillor of Ward 18 while responding to a question of participant stated that MyCity project has benefited in terms of providing a platform to interact with the community in a better environment in order to know the issues of citizens. She also added that after election only MyCity is providing us opportunity to meet the group of people. One of the CAG members also responded that through the MyCity they are able to interact with officials at one platform, which was not possible earlier.

Day 03: December 10, 2015
Visit to office of Participatory Research in Asia
Group visited office of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) on third day of the tour. Nandita and Ruchika Mathur, Programme Officers, PRIA welcomed the group. Ruchika made a presentation based on TAF supported project ‘Kadam Badhate Chalo’ which is a campaign to raise voice on issues of violence against women, directly linked to ensuring safety and security of girls and women in public spaces. The project is implemented in selected slum areas of Jaipur city. Youth of targeted areas are actively taking part in the campaign. Innovative approaches are used in the project, such as Participatory Safety Audit. Campaign also includes group discussion, street shows and plays in schools, colleges. Community meetings and training on gender issues are held on regular basis. Activities are also being promoted though various modes as on facebook, twitter, whatsapp etc.

De-briefing Meeting at CUTS Conference Hall, Jaipur
After all the visits to field areas and meetings, the Mongolian visiting delegation came for a de-briefing meeting at CUTS office. It was an interactive session where they provided feedback on study tour and their visit to Jaipur. They exchanged notes on similarities and differences between India and Mongolia and how both countries are experiencing similar urban challenges although there are differences in the quantum of those challenges.
Visit to Ethnic Resort ‘Chowkhi Dhani’
At the end of tour, group was taken to the Chowkhi Dhani, which is an ethnic village resort of Rajasthani culture. Resort is 25 kms far from the city. Participants had feel of rural culture of Rajasthan including folk songs and dance, puppet and magic shows, elephant and camel ridings and many more. Group also enjoyed the traditional food with lot of varieties served in dinner.
Media Coverage

"नागरिकता-2015" कॉन्फरेंस: तुलसीमान्ति ने कहा कि कानून के लिए सरकार की ओर देखना बद करे निकाय, बोली...

टैक्स नहीं देंगे तो कैसे स्मार्ट बनेंगे शहर

प्रतिष्ठा को दिया जाना

प्रदेश ने बताया कि नया समय में यह स्थिति है कि सरकार की कार्रवाई का काम है जो निवेशकों को नये समय की व्यवस्था में व्यवस्था का समय देना चाहिए। इसलिए यह कार्रवाई की आवश्यकता है कि सरकार ने विभिन्न साइटों पर नये नियमों की घोषणा की।

राज्य का मतलब कि एक संस्था की कार्रवाई का काम है जो निवेशकों को नये समय की व्यवस्था में व्यवस्था का समय देना चाहिए। इसलिए यह कार्रवाई की आवश्यकता है कि सरकार ने विभिन्न साइटों पर नये नियमों की घोषणा की।

वेशाली आया मंगोलिया का अध्ययन दल, जानी सरकार की वर्तमान

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मांगोलिया के अध्ययन दल ने शहरी प्रशासन की कार्यप्रणाली को जाना। इसके लिए भारतीय कार्यालाय की सहायता के साथ, भारतीय सरकार ने अध्ययन दल के समारोह का आयोजन किया।

विकास कार्य की बीच जानकारी

अंधभूत, शाब्दिक एवं शारीरिक विकास के लिए विकास कार्य की जानकारी की जाना। इसके लिए भारतीय सरकार ने अध्ययन दल के समारोह का आयोजन किया।