

Scaling up HCU's Urban Planning Toolkit in India

Digital Toolkit TOSCA supports integrated and sustainable urban development in four Indian Cities

A newly started cooperation project of HafenCity University and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH will implement the open source urban planning toolbox TOSCA in the Indian partner states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana.

In the new cooperation project with GIZ and working on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the chair of Digital City Science at HafenCity University Hamburg (HCU) aims to support Indian cities in the field of climate-resilient planning and integrated land-use development. The project will introduce the Toolkit for Open and Sustainable City Planning and Analysis (TOSCA) to stakeholders in four cities in the Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana.

TOSCA has been developed in cooperation with the GIZ since 2019 by the chair of Digital City Science (Prof. Jörg Rainer Noennig) and has already been tested in the Indian city of Bhubaneswar in the last years. By involving local authorities, enterprises and academic institutions in more cities, it is envisioned to bring TOSCA into broader application. In addition, the project will extend the functional range of the toolkit in response to specific local needs. To secure the continuous application of the toolkit throughout India, the project partnership will also build up requisite local human capacities by trainings, workshops and educational formats. A kick-off workshop was carried out in Hyderabad, India by the TOSCA team in the end of April 2023. Together with GIZ, and participants and representatives from the partner states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana, the workshop enabled interactive brainstorming sessions to collect new use-cases to address critical urban challenges in Indian cities.

The project is unique as it provides advanced yet easy-to-use technology that enables local stakeholders to plan their urban environments with open source data in a highly participatory way. Starting from February 2023, the project will run for approximately two years under a grant agreement with the BMZ.

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