

Media Release: 2 October 2008

METROPOLIS CONGRESS PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO OPPORTUNITIES IN URBAN INDIA

India's urban population is set to double to over 550 million people by 2030 according to a new research document launched last night by the NSW Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally.

Connecting Cities: India is fourth in a series of five publications produced by the Metropolis Congress and provides a preview of what will be discussed at the 9th World Congress of Metropolis to be held in Sydney next month (22-25 October).

The India research document provides a comprehensive study of the growth of India's cities, which along with China, will be one of the countries especially in the spotlight at the Congress.

The rapid growth of cities in India and China is of importance to Australia. The Metropolis Congress provides a great opportunity for Australian government, industry and academics to understand the impact of this growth and to learn from what is happening globally.

Five Mayors from India, including Mumbai and Delhi, as well as City Commissioners, the Chair of Bombay First and other business and government representatives will be in Sydney for the Congress to share their experience with delegates from around the world.

Also from India is one of the keynote speakers for the Congress, Dr Rajendra Pachauri, the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize alongside Al Gore.

This is one of the most important Congresses Sydney has hosted – its distinguished speakers will provide incredible insight as we in New South Wales tackle the issues of urban renewal, climate change and infrastructure financing.

The **Connecting Cities: India** research book includes a study on Bombay First, an organisation set up by local businessman Narinder Nayar to identify opportunities to transform Bombay (now Mumbai) into a world-class city.

Narinder Nayar, who will present his case study at the Congress, recommended boosting economic growth, improving mass transport and increasing low-income housing. Bombay First lobbied government successfully to increase funding for urban renewal projects over seven years by some \$AUD27 billion.

Mrs Patricia Forsythe, Executive Director of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce says "India is a dynamic and growing economy at the very centre of the Asia Pacific region. *Connecting Cities: India* is a welcome initiative which provides much needed insight into this important economy which will increasingly impact the way in which Australian companies do business.

Strong Indian representation at Metropolis Congress 2008

The Metropolis Congress will include two sessions on India with an impressive array of speakers and delegates. They include:

- **Dr Shubha Raul, Mayor of Mumbai**
- **Ms Arti Mehra, Mayor of Delhi**
- **Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya, Mayor of Kolkata**
- **Ms Rajlaxmi Bhonsale, Mayor of Pune**
- **Ms Aparna Doke, Mayor of Pimpri Chinchwad**
- **Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**
- **Chetan Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, India**
- **Narinder Nayar, Chairman, Bombay First**
- **Mr Satish Magar, Chairman, Magarpatta Township Development Corporation**
- **Wim Elfrink, Executive Vice President, Cisco Services and Chief Globalization Officer, Cisco (based in Bangalore)**

All delegates who register for Metropolis Congress 2008 will receive one free collection of the Connecting Cities research series. To register online and for all speaker, city and program information, visit www.MetropolisCongress2008.com or contact the Secretariat on +61 2 9254 5000.

Media contacts

Scott Crebbin, Avviso Public Relations

+61 2 9368 7277 / 0419 751 805 / scottc@avviso.com.au

Nicole Tiedgen, Avviso Public Relations

+61 2 9368 7277 / 0401 281 153 / nicolet@avviso.com.au