

CITYNET YOKOHAMA PROJECT OFFICE E-NEWS

December 2014

I. **CBARAD Updates**

II. **Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai visits CYO**

Deputy Municipal Commissioner Mr. Kiran Achrekar of MCGM visited CYO to discuss CITYNET Satellite Office activities and strengthen further relations with Yokohama. During the meeting, the parties agreed to facilitate Mumbai's role to seek joint activities. As a start, MCGM is keen to attend the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) as one of the panelists for the session to be hosted by the City of Yokohama and CYO in Sendai in March next year. Mumbai and Yokohama is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a sister-city next year and is interested in developing further engagements with CITYNET to contribute more as a satellite office.

III. **CYO Reports at the 32nd CITYNET Executive Committee Meeting**

CITYNET Yokohama Project Office presented its activity and financial report for the fiscal 2013 year (April 2013-March 2014) during the 32nd CITYNET Executive Committee Meeting held in Hue, Vietnam. The annual meeting allows all CITYNET Chapters, offices and clusters to report on its activities for the past year.

As in the previous years, the main discussions were around how CITYNET can deliver its services to its members. The report presented by CYO included the details and achievements of its projects namely CBARAD (Iloilo), Teacher Training for Early Childhood Education (Lalitpur), and Student Based Proactive and Sustainable Environment Education (Colombo, Galle). In addition to the project reports, CYO also shared its progress on



disaster cluster activities conducted with the City of Yokohama. The first introductory online course on disaster management and the disaster cluster seminar held in Yokohama were included in the presentation. All details of the projects and activities including plans are available on the website of CITYNET Yokohama Project office.

IV. **Bangkok and CYO discuss collaboration in Disaster and Climate Change activities**

CYO representatives and officials from BMA represented by the Environment Department, Fire Department, Sewerage and Drainage Department and the International Affairs Division joined the meeting on December 1, 2014 where 7 proposed items for BMA were shared. The items include participation of Bangkok as a panellist



during the WCDRR in Sendai in March 2015 and the hosting of CITYNET Disaster Cluster Seminar in Bangkok in 2015. Bangkok has also been requested to share its best practices to CBARAD project on community DRR engagements and become one of the partnering cities outside of the Philippines. They are quite keen on developing the relations with CBARAD-II project which will commence from April next year. All of the activities suggested were positively considered by the authorities and further details are expected to be followed-up officially in the coming weeks.

CYO representatives were also introduced to Bangkok's largest wastewater pumping station which may be one of the site visits for the participants attending the disaster cluster seminar next year. To address Bangkok's flood issues, the city is working on an integrated flood management which has four



dimensions-Creating flood polders, setting up flood fighting teams for prevention of seasonal inundations, establishing flood control center and forging cooperation among the public. The city currently has 7 diversion tunnels totalling to 19kms and 8 wastewater treatment plants which can treat a combined volume of 1.1 million m³ per day. BMA's progress and achievements in environment and climate change related issues have been noted in several publications and would be quite useful to the members of CITYNET. BMA and CYO agreed to work on sharing such achievements through study visits and workshops.



V. Final workshop on Teacher Training concludes successfully in Nepal

The final workshop on Teacher Training on Early Childhood Education concluded successfully in Kathmandu on December 5, 2014. Participating teachers brought pictures drawn by students on three given themes for final evaluation. The pictures were then selected by the jury appointed from among the participants. The pictures were divided into three levels-kindergarten, class 1-3 and class 4-5. The categories assigned for each level were family, school environment and community respectively. Three best pictures from each of the category were selected and awarded prizes to be given to the students.



During the final workshop methods on proper evaluation of the pictures, teaching drawing to children of various age groups and developing artistic as well as creative skills were shared to the participants. The participants also responded to the final survey where they indicated the need for a topic based training to build their teaching skills for various levels.

Although some progress has been made in the academic sector in Nepal particularly in terms on literacy, proper teacher trainings and the practice of creating a child friendly atmosphere in schools and the environment still needs much effort. Other typical issues include low wages for the teachers, insufficient oversight on proper management of teaching standards at lower levels, poor infrastructure, and unregulated teaching proficiency, all of which have been contributing to the slow progress in primary education sector. As education is the key foundation for the development of the mindset ultimately leading to the progress of the country, more professional and carefully crafted intervention is essential as the country sees an increase in the population.

The training provided by CYO is a small contribution to such development which included both public and private schools from 40 municipalities. It included 3 workshops starting in June with a trainer from Japan providing the necessary skills to the teachers. The training has been supported by Toshiba International Foundation and is expected to be continued in 2015 as well.



VI. Yokohama and TRnet participates in the 2nd International River Summit in Marikina

Marikina hosted this year's International River Summit from November 19-21, 2014. To share initiatives taken by Yokohama particularly on flood mitigation, Mr. Takashi

Kirihara, Director of River Department, Road and Highway Bureau of the City of Yokohama participated in the summit. He presented the details on the initiative taken by Yokohama on comprehensive flood control and management, safety measures, and citizen participation on the projects. Along with him, Dr. Yuji Kishi from Tsurumi River Networking (TRnet) whose has worked extensively with the national and local governments as well as the communities on river basin management shared his findings on how cities and communities can plan a long term strategy for a sustainable approach to the changing climate patterns triggering flooding. In his presentation Dr. Kishi also included his contributors for CBARAD project activities in Iloilo where a creek development plan has been developed following his advice.