The Asia-Pacific region has evolved into a vibrant region both economically and socially, particularly over the last few decades. However, the challenges still persist as it did when I was first dispatched to CITYNET Secretariat ten years ago. Now back at CITYNET as the Head of the CITYNET Yokohama Project Office, it is my great pleasure once again to be working with our members and partners to re-engage in supporting the capacity building of members including Yokohama.

CITYNET Yokohama Project Office will continue to serve its members through improved partnerships in addressing current issues and working on the development plans for the future. The Office will also continue seeking partners inside Japan, finding solutions for the issues faced by members and working with CITYNET Secretariat to channel the resources into areas that require more support and guidance. In our first year, we have already been able to achieve our targets in providing expertise on Disaster Risk Reduction Management through the City of Yokohama. These efforts will particularly be strengthened over the next four years with the City of Yokohama now as the Lead City of CITYNET Disaster Cluster.

Over the past 25 years, members of CITYNET have sought out the wide-ranging expertise from the City of Yokohama and other partners in Japan. It is my intention to continue delivering meaningful assistance, which may ultimately make our programmes more sustainable. Every aspect of human development counts as a step forward and we will ensure that CITYNET Yokohama Project Office will focus on bridging various human developments together for a collective drive towards shaping a better future.

Our office and our city are always open and at your service. We welcome all members, partners and friends to visit us in Yokohama.

Sincerely,
Mr. Yoichi Ishii
CITYNET YOKOHAMA PROJECT OFFICE

1 Introduction

CITYNET Secretariat relocated from Yokohama to Seoul in March 2013 following the decision made during CITYNET 2009 Congress. To continue providing support to CITYNET members, CITYNET Yokohama Project Office (CYO) was set up as a part of the future strategy of CITYNET with the City of Yokohama hosting the office. CYO works closely with the Secretariat and functions as an administratively independent office with its own personnel and resources. The office is located within the International Organisation Center in Pacifico Yokohama.

2 Objectives

CYO has the following objectives:

a. Continue transfer of expertise and experience, particularly from Japan to the members of CITYNET
b. Improve communications and networking amongst Japanese cities, organisations and private sectors
c. Decentralise operations of CITYNET for better outreach and strategic support

3 Focus Areas

CYO has three focus areas:

a. Project Planning and Implementation
   - To work with the City of Yokohama to develop meaningful projects and viable solutions for the members of CITYNET
b. Field Visits and Training
   - To share technical expertise, experience and knowledge
   - To ensure appropriate and sustainable improvements to other cities in the Asia-Pacific region
   - To gain direct access to some of the best examples in Japan of addressing urban issues
c. Outreach
   - Obtain and share information on relevant programmes with CITYNET members
   - Facilitate better knowledge exchange
   - Connect with reliable partners
   - Secure support for new programme development

ACTIVITY REPORTS

CITYNET Yokohama Project Office operates under the Japanese fiscal year. This first annual report for CITYNET Yokohama Office covers activities from April 2013 to March 2014.

1 Community Based Adaptation and Resiliency Against Disasters (CBARAD) Project

Project term: August 2012 – March 2015

Location: Iloilo, Philippines

Funding agency: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Partners: Association of Disabled Persons-Iloilo (ADP-I), Association of Barangay Captains (ABC), Central Philippine University (CPU), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Plus Arts, Tsurumi River Networking (TRnet), United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), World Food Program (WFP)

Supporting local governments: Iloilo City Government, City of Yokohama

Profile: Five pilot barangays (districts) have been selected to implement community activities for making residents more disaster resilient. The five barangays are the most flood-prone communities in Iloilo. Through various trainings and workshops, the barangays are expected to disseminate the lessons learnt in their communities as well as to other barangays in Iloilo. The long-term goal is for the activities to be replicated in other cities in the Philippines as well as abroad.

Goal: The project aims to devise effective community-level adaptation and resiliency schemes in the City of Iloilo and increase awareness amongst citizens so that they can self-sustain the community in an event of a disaster, particularly in relation to floods.

Achievements: CBARAD Project has completed more than 50 activities since August 2012 which includes trainings, seminars, workshops and study visits. For 2013, the project activities undertaken by the barangays and the City of Iloilo total more than 15 which includes trainings, workshops, drills as well as improvement of facilities.

Some of the activities are highlighted below:

1. Technical Advisory Visit I
   - Primary objectives:
     - To orient team members from Japan on the actual conditions of Iloilo
     - To support strategic planning of Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management (BDRRM) and develop output-based planning for 2014
     - To develop multi-stakeholder partnership to support CBARAD Project
   - To sign the MOU amongst Central Philippine University, Iloilo City Government and CITYNET Yokohama Office
   - Representatives from Yokohama City, NPO TRnet, Plus Arts and CITYNET Yokohama Office completed the first Technical Advisory Visit to Iloilo from June 24-29, 2013. Several departments from Iloilo City Government, offices of the national government and local stakeholders attended the sessions to discuss potential partnership work to support CBARAD Project.
   - Team members from Japan visited all five pilot barangays on the first day to collect information on the local conditions, meet with the local representatives and discuss possible activities during the second Technical Advisory Visit in November. Iloilo City Government shared the overview of DRRM relating it to CDRRM and BDRRM on the first day as well.
2. Disability Equality Training and Access Audit Training

This training was coordinated by Association of Disabled Persons-Illoilo (ADP-I) for the barangay workers to familiarise themselves with requirements and conditions needed for People With Disabilities (PWDs) to be able to use barangay facilities. The training was provided in preparation for constructing a PWD-friendly toilet in each of the five pilot barangays.

3. Construction of PWD-friendly Toilets

To make the project inclusive, support from ADP-I was essential as the impact of disasters is usually felt the most by PWDs. Through the project, a PWD-friendly toilet was constructed in all five barangays to make sure that everyone will have equal access to the toilets during difficult times. The construction of the toilets was also supported by the World Food Program who contributed rainwater harvesting facilities as well as solar panels, lighting and filtration elements. The toilets were constructed following the universal guidelines for PWDs with wheelchair ramps, railings and spacious interiors.

4. Technical Advisory Visit II

Following the first TAV, the second visit from November 21-28 focused on the Evacuation Drill and Evacuation Shelter Management Training. The delegation from Japan included representatives from Yokohama City, NPO TRnet, Plus Arts and CITYNET Yokohama Office. Several departments from Iloilo City Government, offices of the national government, international organisations and local stakeholders attended the sessions to share DRRM practices and outputs, which have been achieved up to date. The exercises included evacuation-related drills. The project also led to the opening of the first PWD (Persons with Disabilities)-friendly toilet in the barangay which was supported by the World Food Program (WFP) for the installation of rainwater harvesting facilities and solar panels.

Personnel from Yokohama Crisis Management Center conducted the first ever barangay-level Evacuation Drill and Evacuation Shelter Management Training held in the Philippines which was covered in national TV broadcasts as well as numerous local newspapers and TV stations. The large turnout for the event was particularly due to an event held immediately after Typhoon Yolanda, which caused severe destruction along its path in early November. During the training, activities to raise awareness on disasters among children and parents were also conducted under the direction of Plus Arts.

The follow-up training on evacuation shelter management was the main part of the mission and conducted with people from all five barangays as well as Iloilo City CDRRMO. The training simulated evacuation shelter management by creating scenarios based on various possible cases when evacuation actually occurs.

The pilot barangays with the support of Iloilo City Government have gone through extensive training and have organised several activities over the past year to raise awareness on disaster risk reduction. Replication of the project activities in other barangays of Iloilo is expected to be conducted in the third year of the project. As the urgency for capacity building on DRRM intensifies particularly in the Philippines and other countries in Asia, the Iloilo model of community DRR is getting more attention from its regional partners. The City of Iloilo is ready to share their lessons learnt from the project to help more communities in the Philippines and abroad.

5. Technical Advisory Visit III

As CBARAD Project comes close to the end of the second year, follow-up simulation training on evacuation shelter management was held in Iloilo from February 11-15.
Other Activities

CITYNET Yokohama Office regularly contributes to activities organised by Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges (YOKE). They present CITYNET and its activities to students interested in international development. Also included are career counseling sessions on international development work, sharing of challenges faced by Asian cities and dissemination of general information on CITYNET Yokohama Project Office.

The Office also participates in international forums or seminars organised through the City of Yokohama and/or related organisations to further promote CITYNET.

CITYNET Youth Japan (CYJ)

During fiscal 2013, CITYNET Yokohama Office supported the exchange visit of members of CITYNET Youth Japan to Iloilo, Philippines. Central Philippine University (CPU) hosted students from four universities in Japan who participated in the week-long exchange programme. The students held discussion sessions entitled Gender Gap in Asian Cities and English Language Education followed by a cultural exchange workshop. It was the second time for CYJ to conduct an exchange visit to the Philippines and the first time for CPU to host the Japanese students. CPU also arranged host families and homestays for the Japanese students where they enjoyed experiencing the Ilongo lifestyle. As a part of their study visit, the students also visited the five pilot barangays of CBARAD Project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun 19</td>
<td>Yokohama</td>
<td>Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges (YOKE) Seminar on International Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 24-29</td>
<td>Iloilo</td>
<td>Technical Advisory Visit I: Capacity Building Workshop and Facilitator’s Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 26</td>
<td>Yokohama</td>
<td>Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges (YOKE) Seminar on International Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 1-6</td>
<td>Iloilo</td>
<td>CITYNET DRRM Online Course Preparation Meeting</td>
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<td>Oct 23</td>
<td>Yokohama</td>
<td>Yokohama Day (Smart City Week)</td>
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<td>Nov 2, 3, 4</td>
<td>Seoul</td>
<td>31st CITYNET Executive Committee Meeting  7th CITYNET General Council  32nd CITYNET Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 21-28</td>
<td>Iloilo</td>
<td>Technical Advisory Visit II: Evacuation Drill and Shelter Management Training (CBARAD Project)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 11-15</td>
<td>Iloilo</td>
<td>Technical Advisory Visit III: Evaluation and Monitoring (CBARAD Project)</td>
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</tbody>
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The Office allocated 56.5 percent of programme budget (approx. US$ 154,020) to support programme activities. This allocation is expected to increase in 2014 to approximately US$ 204,000. That will total 64.3 percent of the budget for programme activities. This does not include the amounts for proposals that are currently pending approval.

Apart from the programme activities, the administrative budget for the Office is being supported by the City of Yokohama.
CITYNET Yokohama Project Office constantly disseminates its information through its website, social media, publications and through the e-News published by CITYNET Secretariat. Project-related brochures have also been produced for dissemination and awareness-raising purposes.

Interested parties can send their feedback or requests on any of our public relations material to info@citynet-yh.org

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Over the past year CYO has renewed its partnership with Temple University Japan (TUJ) and plans to continue its internship programme. TUJ interns have been an excellent support to CYO activities.

A new partnership with the University of Victoria, Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives has also been signed and is expected to start from May 2014. This is the first time for CYO to partner with a Canadian institution on the internship programme.

CYO also has continuing partnership with YOEKE to receive Japanese interns throughout the year. Interns have played a very important role in CYO in terms of assisting project-related work as well as information dissemination.

PARTNERSHIPS
ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2013-MARCH 2014

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