I. Invitation to the 10th CITYNET Disaster Cluster Seminar

CITYNET Yokohama Project office is pleased to announce the dates for the 10th CITYNET Disaster Cluster Seminar to be held in Yokohama from August 31 – September 4, 2017.

The seminar will be for the disaster managers in the city governments and will focus on the main DRR topics including prevention, mitigation, disaster education, and response. The seminar this year will also invite experts from the City of Victoria (Canada) to share their practices. As in the previous years, the seminar will include specific topics on DRR and relevant site visits including the observing of the annual disaster drill conducted in Yokohama.

Official invitation will be sent in late-May along with the program, registration form and survey.

The seminar this year will also initiate the planning and priorities of CITYNET Disaster Cluster for the next four years (2018-2021) which will then be presented during the CITYNET Colombo Congress in November. We will look forward to registrations from all CITYNET Disaster Cluster members.

II. ADB 50th Anniversary concludes in Yokohama with critical roles of youth for the future of Asia

As a part of the 50th Anniversary of the Asian Development Bank, a session was organized to highlight the roles of youth in proposing new ideas to the financial sector to further enhance economic development in Asia.

The session participated by the students of Yokohama City University and Yokohama National University shared their reflections of the field visit to the Philippines which included researching on private sector contribution to local economic development which help support poverty alleviation, job creation, and partnership development between foreign and local businesses.

The group discussion conducted during the seminar came up with recommendations for the ADB for further strengthening public-private partnerships and investment from the financial sector.

For more information, please follow the link below:

III. Mahidol University hosts stakeholder’s meeting to develop project proposal

Mahidol University Kanchanaburi Campus organized a local stakeholders’ meeting to discuss strengthening of disaster risk reduction activities in the area. Historically Kanchanaburi has not been affected by large scale disasters, however recent growth in population and businesses may further complicate matters if the local population are unaware of the disaster risks.
Current risks include windstorms, floods, fire, drought, earthquake and landslides. Human induced disasters including forest fires and traffic accidents are also on the rise. Given this context, the university called for a stakeholders meeting of disaster professionals as well as representatives of the municipalities and the province to discuss possible collaboration in developing disaster risk reduction activities to raise awareness of the citizens.

CityNet Yokohama Project Office plans to work with Mahidol University and its counterparts to develop a project in order to initiate a multi-hazard disaster risk reduction activity for the target areas.

On the occasion, students from Mahidol University were also introduced to CityNet activities and their potential roles in conducting community level activities to disseminate disaster risk reduction awareness programs.

IV. CityNet Colombo Congress preparations underway
Citynet Secretariat and CityNet Yokohama Project Office has commenced preparations for CityNet Colombo Congress with particular emphasis on the General Council. The congress will be held from November 5-8, 2017 which will include the General Council Meeting and two Executive Committee meetings. The two offices meet annually to discuss CityNet programs and activities to address member needs. Staff members from both offices look forward to meeting all members in Colombo.

Further details and registration for the Congress can be found in the link below:
http://colombo2017.citynetcongress.org/

V. Community based solid waste management project progresses through HELP-O and PIEDAR

PIEDAR
Informational talks on Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) were given to all four partner schools of the project where teachers and students learned how they can take small but conscious measures for practicing SMM. This was implemented as preparations for their Earth Day Event.

The theme of “Combating Climate Change through Sustainable Materials Management” was adopted for the Earth Day Event. School children were encouraged to link global issues to local environmental challenges.

For example, depending on their age group, school children were asked to write messages from their personal experience on how climate change impacts could be mitigated by responsible consumption and production, draw links between community adaptation to climate change and sustainable materials management, investigations, etc. All of their findings were presented in the form of posters, other exhibits, and skits and speeches, which were assessed by jurors. In total 85 students participated.
HELP-O
The China Garden Ward in Galle was selected as a pilot area to conduct a waste separation project. 100 out of 250 families were selected to answer questionnaires for the analysis of the challenges in solid waste management of the area.

Main findings show that more than 90 families answered that their biggest concern is the spreading of diseases by rodents and insects caused by improper solid waste management. The problem comes from the fact that the majority of the garbage that comes out of this area is organic and vegetable waste, which is a likely source of food for creatures. The main collection method is that residents directly hand their rubbish to the waste collection vehicles.

Based on the situation explained above, HELP-O decided to introduce a garbage separation project by producing ‘handy-bags’, which are sewn by women residents in exchange for 50 rupees per bag. There are two types: one for organic waste and the other for non-organic waste. Residents received an awareness program to learn how the bags and separation system functions, which they plan to implement.

The one-year project is funded through CITYNET Yokohama Project Office to support community initiatives on solid waste management.