



1. DRR Education program results in high hopes for municipalities in Nepal
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1. DRR Education program results in high hopes for municipalities in Nepal

School Based Sustainable Disaster Prevention Education and Material Development Project started its activities with five selected municipalities in Nepal targeting school teachers to train them on the educational material development process.

The project managed by Plus Arts (Kobe, Japan), coordinated by CITYNET Yokohama Project Office and organized by the local counterpart INSEC targeted Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Shankharapur and Chandragiri as pilot municipalities where each of the municipalities selected one public and one private school. A total of 20 teachers are being trained through the project which includes development of the material as well as methods of implementation.



Chairperson of INSEC Mr. Subodh Raj Pyakurel explains the objectives of the project to school principals and municipal authorities. Chairperson of INSEC Mr. Subodh Raj Pyakurel explains the objectives of the project to school principals and municipal authorities.

The four-day workshop started with orientation to stakeholders including school principals and disaster management representatives of the municipalities. The objective was to share a clear vision and goals of the project and to seek commitment for sustainability of the programs. Both school principals and the municipal authorities expressed high hopes and eagerness to undertake the activities introduced within their school districts.



Chairman of Plus Arts Mr. Hirokazu Nagata explains the effectiveness of using comics to teach DRR education.



School teachers practice demonstration of first aid techniques to fellow teachers.

'This was the first proper training we received ever', said one of the participating teachers who also added that the activity is not only fun but there are practical and useful items to learn. The training involves three days of workshop and material building process and one day to practice its implementation. The material used is then reviewed for improvements.

The project has been professionally supported by INSEC who has expressed their full and unconditional support as this kind of training is the first of its kind in Nepal and can be applicable in many circumstances. INSEC will continue to monitor the development of the material at target schools and will assist in organising DRR related events.

Plus Arts has conducted similar trainings in 17 other countries and have been collaborating with CITYNET Yokohama Project Office to help promote DRR education strategies particularly to children and members of the community. Their latest engagement with CITYNET was in Iloilo, Philippines where a DRR learning center named "KABALAKA Gallery" was established through CBARAD Project.

Both projects in Nepal and in the Philippines are a part of JICA supported initiatives.



School children listen attentively to explanation on items to pack in an emergency bag.



Trained teachers talk to children on disaster episodes using localized comic as a tool.

II. Monitoring visit to Community Based Solid Waste Management project in Galle

CITYNET Yokohama Project Office conducted the monitoring visit to Galle to seek updates on the Community Based Solid Waste Management Project which started earlier this year. The monitoring team consisted of one representative each from CITYNET Yokohama Project Office and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).



Community members being interviewed at the China Garden community.

During the 5-day monitoring visit the team met with the representatives of HELP-O, stakeholders of the project, interviewed personnel from Galle Municipal Council, visited the pilot community known as China Garden and observed the composting methods at the dumping site. At the China Garden, garbage bags made from reused nylon rice bags have been distributed to 100 households. But this is still considered costly for sustained use since each bag costs LKR80. At the China Garden community, due to the narrow roads and alleys, garbage collection has been difficult resulting in poor environment management. The stakeholders' meeting during the monitoring discussed such issues and the usage of bicycle for collections have been proposed.

III. Taipei Fire Department visit Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center

Representatives of Taipei fire Department visited the Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center to understand how knowledge on disaster risk reduction is being disseminated to the public. In the center, the representatives experienced earthquake simulators, fire extinguishing techniques, smoke room and a disaster simulation room. These practical experiences are catered to visitors to the center free of cost.

The center also provides a learning zone where visitors can try the disaster related quizzes on a computer and test their knowledge. The newly renovated center is attached to a fire station which houses some of the most sophisticated fire trucks which can even deal with nuclear and biological accidents.



Members from Taipei Fire Bureau gets oriented on the learning center.



Higashi Ohgijima site in Kawasaki city has been designated as the disaster management base.

The representatives also visited a disaster management base (Higashi Ohgijima) located in Kawasaki city where the area is used as a park during normal times. The park can be converted to a logistics hub during large disasters which has facilities for stockpiling essential goods and equipment along with heliports as well as a dock for easy access from the sea.



Members of Taipei Fire Department try out the fire extinguishing exercise at the center.