I. Yokohama hosts 10th CITYNET Disaster Cluster Seminar

This year’s Disaster Cluster Seminar was organized in the City of Yokohama jointly with the World Bank and CITYNET Yokohama Project Office. CITYNET attendees included 27 participants who represented 15 CITYNET Disaster Cluster members and 2 non-member cities. The World Bank attendees included 29 participants, from 5 countries and World Bank experts on DRR. CITYNET participants also included a 15-member delegation from the City Government of Makati which included city officials, academics and medical professional all responsible for DRRM.

The World Bank participants joined the 10th Disaster Cluster Seminar in Yokohama as a part of their Technical Knowledge Exchange in Emergency Preparedness and Response (TKX) program organized by the World Bank Disaster Management Hub, Tokyo (GFDRR). Their visit to the seminar was preceded by a three-day training course in Tokyo focusing on various aspects of emergency preparedness and response.

In his welcome remarks, the Deputy Mayor of the City of Yokohama Mr. Katsunori Watanabe stated that disaster prevention is the number one request in City-to-City cooperation and that Yokohama has been deeply involved with CITYNET activities since its creation. He concluded by mentioning that this has been the largest seminar yet with the help of the World Bank where cities from around the world have gathered to implement and develop helpful relations to solve the challenges they are facing.

The theme this year was urban disaster prevention and mitigation where city governments, private sectors and an NGO presented their initiatives for DRR. A 20-page publication “CITYNET Disaster Cluster 10th Anniversary Edition” has been published on the Yokohama Project Office website to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Disaster Cluster. The book summarizes CITYNET’s efforts in Disaster Risk Reduction over the past 10 years and looks beyond 2018 in its activities and direction based on the current needs of cluster members.


A special report on the seminar will be published on our website shortly. Please refer to the special report for further details. Pictures of the seminar can be found on CITYNET Yokohama Project Office Flicker page as follows: https://www.flickr.com/photos/136768432@N04/albums
II. Japanese teachers visit Nepal to learn about disaster education practices in Nepal through Plus Arts

A group of 18 people including 11 Japanese teachers visited Nepal at the end of August to share their experiences and learn from initiatives in Nepal through the School Based Sustainable Disaster Risk Reduction project. This initiative was organised by JICA Kansai and Nepal, where interested teachers raised their hand to participate in this exchange program. From the presentation conducted by project coordinator of INSEC, the Japanese teachers were interested in learning how the games invented by Plus Arts were localised into the Nepali context, as well as the process of evaluation and achievements of the project. They took away methods on how to handle students with disabilities during disasters.

An exchange between teachers were then organised at the Swarnim School where both sides presented their practices on disaster drills and initiatives they have been doing following the large earthquakes in Kobe and Nepal. The Japanese teachers then took part in the picture story games “Ladder and Snake” and “Life Cycle of Lightening” which were developed by the Nepali teachers.

This was followed by a visit by Japanese teachers to school classrooms where they shared their experiences with the students. This gave both sides a great opportunity to interact and learn from each other about their respective culture, DRR initiatives, and experiences.

III. Students visit office to learn of CITYNET activities

Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges (YOKE) hosts the “Summer Global Citizen Exchange Session” (Chikyu Shimin Kouza) annually for students and young adults to visit the international organizations at Pacifico Yokohama. This year CITYNET Yokohama Project Office welcomed three students who are interested in working for an international organization upon their graduation. In addition to a presentation on Yokohama Project Office and its work, the CITYNET Youth Group Japan and intern Ms. Mochizuki presented their roles at the office. Office staff Mr. Taniguchi and Ms. Yoda shared their views on what it’s like to work for CITYNET.
Erina Iso:
Is a junior at Kokugakuin University in the department of foreign languages and culture studies. Through this internship at CYO, she got to know many ongoing projects about Disaster Risk Reduction not only in Japan but also in some other countries. Also, she learned importance of sharing knowledge and information about disaster prevention among cities in order to combat natural disaster. She wishes to apply what she learned at CYO to her studies at university and learn more about disaster risk management.

Ichiro Mozawa:
Is a junior at Yokohama National University currently pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Arts in European History and in post-war Japanese history. While interning at CITYNET, he was able to learn the importance of educating the community about natural disasters. With the experiences gained here at CITYNET, he hopes to work at an international organization educating and preserving history and culture in the future.

Rasheedah White:
She is a fourth-year student at the University of Victoria completing a Bachelors of Arts in British History with a minor in Pacific and Asian Studies. Her interest in modern day Japan centres around the impact globalization has on the nations public policy. While aspiring to become an immigration lawyer, she wishes to examine the attribution disaster and urbanization has had on the displacement of individuals. She is excited for the opportunity to apply her studies and be a part of CITYNET, a multinational organization.

IV. CYO welcomes three interns from the University of Victoria, Yokohama National University, and Kokugakuin University