I. Nepali teachers complete training to develop DRR education material

Teachers from five municipalities of Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Shankharapur and Chandragiri successfully completed the second training workshop on School Based Disaster Prevention Education and Material Development Project in Nepal.

Following the first workshop in June, the second training focused more on design aspects of the material for better outreach and understanding by school children, their parents and the community. During the first workshop held earlier, the teachers were exposed to material being used in Japan from which they were expected to localize the idea to fit the context in Nepal. Four months later, the teachers had developed their own material and tested it on several occasions in different schools.

The second workshop was assisted by a game designer from Thailand along with the main trainer from Plus Arts Japan who helped in finetuning the material already developed by the teachers. The developed material requires student to think and act which enables better understanding of the disaster situation and its possible countermeasures. The games were designed based on the actual frequent disasters occurring in each municipality. Although the games are originally developed for children aged 6-12, the contents can be modified to meet the academic challenges of the higher aged groups.

Apart from the games and material development, the teachers have formed DRR Teachers’ Club which would be the first of its kind in the country.

Both the municipal counterparts and the school principals from each participating school have been oriented on the objective of the project and have assured their full cooperation in disseminating the knowledge gained by the participating teachers to other teachers in the school.

The project is being coordinated by a local counterpart Informal Sector Service (INSEC) and implemented by Plus Arts and CITYNET Yokohama Project Office. The project is a part of grassroots assistance project through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
II. 8th CITYNET Congress and General Council convenes in Colombo

The 8th CITYNET Congress was held in Colombo this month to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of CITYNET. The Congress attended by more than 250 international delegates and 100 local participants was hosted by Colombo Municipal Council. The plenary session of the Congress was attended by the Honorable Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka along with the Honorable Speaker of the Parliament Mr. Karu Jayasuriya.

The Congress consists of two CITYNET Executive Committee meetings along with the General Council where elections of the Executive Committee members and the official positions of CITYNET are conducted. The details and results of the elections will be available on CITYNET Secretariat web site.

Dr. Tariq Bin Yousuf of Dhaka North City Corporation explains the DRR initiatives taken in the city

III. Yokohama and Makati re-elected to lead CITYNET Disaster Cluster

The CITYNET Disaster Cluster Meeting was held during the 30th CITYNET Anniversary and the 8th CITYNET Congress in Colombo, held between November 5th and 8th. Meeting attendees included representatives from Dhaka North City Corporation, Iloilo City Government, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, City Government of Legazpi, Local Government Academy, Mahidol University Kanchanaburi Campus, Makati City Government, The Local Government of Quezon City, and the City of Yokohama. All participants agreed to the continuation of leadership of the cluster by Yokohama as the Lead City and Makati as the Co-Lead City.

Dr. Tariq Bin Yousuf from Dhaka North City Corporation presented the city’s initiatives in Disaster Risk Reduction, which is being implemented with the support of the World Bank. He conveyed the importance of the institutionalization of DRR into existing developing planning. Ms. Bianca Perez from Quezon City shared various initiatives by the city in DRR, from how the city promotes risk financing to its citizens to City’s roles in addressing DRR at the community level.

For the coming year, the annual disaster cluster seminar is planned to be held in Iloilo City, where the city will share its learnings and outputs from the CBARAD project. Some of the activities suggested by cluster members included continuing DRR capacity building activities focusing on earthquakes, floods and human induced fires, creating a knowledge platform for the cluster, and conducting a 4-cluster meeting in the coming year. In addition, SDGs will be mainstreamed in all cluster activities.

IV. 6th Training on Structural and Seismic Engineering scheduled

From November 28th to December 1st, the 6th training of the Structural and Seismic Engineering will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal hosted by Kathmandu Metropolitan City. Three engineers specializing on building instructions, safety and security, as well as renovation will be dispatched from the Housing and Architecture Bureau of Yokohama City to share their experiences in the building inspection process and seismic engineering. The training will consist of a site visit as well as workshops intended to explore possibilities of improvements on implementation process at the engineers’ level.

Also contributing to the sessions will be a private sector and an academic sector based in Nepal.

Ms. Bianca Perez shares Quezon city’s roles in addressing DRR at community levels.