I. Kathmandu Metropolitan City and the City of Yokohama hold the 6th training on Structural and Seismic Engineering in Kathmandu

Following the 5th training in July, the 6th training in November also focused on improving the building inspection process and quality control system. This time the training involved more workshops which allowed participants to have active discussions with each other on what they can do to improve the system themselves. The four-day training was attended by a total of 34 participants from 13 municipalities in Kathmandu valley.

The training was opened by Chief Administrative Officer Dhani Ram Sharma, who mentioned experiencing the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 when he was in Japan and that the Japanese structures were mostly unaffected. He urged the Nepalese engineers to work on the city’s preparedness following Japan’s example.

The first session was presented by Mr. Yasuji Horikiri, Director for Building Instruction Division of the Housing and Architecture Bureau of the City of Yokohama, who spoke about the differences between construction process in Nepal and Japan. By comparing the contract structures of the two countries, the roles of various stakeholders such as the contractors, building owners, architects became clearer along with potential improvement points that can be made by each stakeholder. This session allowed participants to gain knowledge in various initiatives which their municipalities may be able to adopt.
The morning sessions were followed by a site visit to the construction site of the Kuleshwor Awas Secondary School (public school), which had just completed the ceiling slab of its 3rd floor. With structural and architectural blueprints in hand, Mr. Horikiri, Mr. Yutaka Matsuda, Manager for Ward Office Renovation and Mr. Hiroyuki Shinkawa, Manager for Security Section of the Housing and Architecture Bureau of the City of Yokohama, walked through the construction site using simple tools such as hammers and measuring instruments to inspect the quality of construction. They went through each inspection point with the participants, sharing knowledge on how to check simple elements including the quality of concrete casting, safety management and materials.

Based on the feedback given on the construction site and content of the previous sessions, three workshops were conducted to engage participants in active group discussions. The first workshop focused on the topics of appropriate storage of construction materials and adequate concrete pouring at construction sites. The topics of the second and third workshop was on the overall management setup for construction work and recommendations to the administrative inspection system. For all topics, the current situation, existing challenges, and potential solutions were summarized and presented by each group. The engineers stated important findings, such as the need to overcome the issue of the lack of city engineers in order to implement effective inspections and conduct training sessions for house owners so that they have proper knowledge of construction to monitor progress of construction.

II. Kathmandu Metropolitan City and the City of Yokohama meet to discuss final expected outputs and way forward of the Structural and Seismic Engineering Training

Engineers from the Disaster Management Department and Building Construction Permit Department of Kathmandu Metropolitan City formed a core team that will lead the city engineers throughout the last year of the training in 2018. The team met with experts from the City of Yokohama and representatives from CYO to discuss the final outputs and way forward of the project. Members of the core team volunteered their leadership in stating that Kathmandu Metropolitan City is willing to work to improve the building construction system to be a good model to other municipalities in Nepal. The attending parties agreed to finalize a list of recommendations to be approved by the Mayor of KMC by March 2018. The city-to-city technical cooperation is expected to last until the end of 2018.