ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. The 12th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar is tentatively scheduled to take place in Yokohama from September 5-8, 2019. Invitations and registrations will be sent in May.

II. Call for Expression of Interests for 2019 to CityNet Yokohama Project Office can be found [here](#).

---

I. Lalitpur start’s Nepal’s first mentor training to foster logical and creative thinking using ICT in basic education

Education in most Asian countries still follow only the traditional textbook and theory-based teaching where children’s progress is measured mostly through grades obtained by taking examinations. In a diversifying demographics, background and culture, identifying individual skills and talents are being increasingly challenging resulting in widening gaps in educational achievements, opportunities and growth. KDDI Foundation with the support of Miyagi University of Education introduced Nepal’s first mentor training where each child gets to tap into their creativity and talents.
The three-year project on Mentor Training to Foster Logical and Creative Thinking Using ICT in Basic Education was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Masamichi Saigo, the Ambassador of Japan to Nepal along with Hon. Chiribabu Maharjan, Mayor of Lalitpur and Hon. Gita Satyal, Deputy Mayor of Lalitpur.

This project uses robot programming as the tool to develop the sense of sequence building, logic and creativity. In general terms, programming or robotics may mean computer language and technical work where a university education or higher may be needed, or a teacher with a mathematical, engineering or science degrees may be needed, and most of the work is thought to be conducted on computers. However, the program introduced in Lalitpur can be conducted by a person of any background with or without the knowledge of computers and from elementary level students.

This approach uses blocks (Lego types) where a robot (machine) is assembled. The program which is developed on the computer does not require complex computer programming language but uses graphically illustrated blocks on the screen to combine them into a command. This command is then fed into the robot giving it life to conduct the actions written in the program.

The three-day mentor training produced more than expected results where the teachers of Lalitpur, OLE-Nepal and the Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University developed robots with creative functions such as delivering packages from point A to point B using...
robotic arms, tracing the line to a given destination, and making it move in multiple directions with LED lights. At the end of the three-day training, the mentors conducted a practical session at Yashodhara Boudha School targeting Grade 7 students where they performed the required tasks within the two-hour timeframe. The children also expressed extreme interest and enthusiasm in wanting to continue such classes.

The mentors will now be working in the schools of Lalitpur providing opportunities for children to think and act differently. Two sets of robot kits have been distributed to each target school. While the immediate impact is difficult to measure, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, along with the stakeholders will continue to monitor the programs and further enhance the applicability of the activities in regular school curriculum.

Mayor Maharjan expressed his high appreciation for KDDI Foundation, Miyagi University of Education, OLE-Nepal, Tribhuvan University and CITYNET Yokohama Project Office for introducing an innovative, exciting program in Lalitpur making it the first program in Nepal to use robot programing at elementary school levels. He reiterated that the overall development of the country can be greatly enhanced by such programs when children realise their potential and feel excited about developing new ideas for practical application in societies.

Dr. Mizutani from Miyagi University of Education explains the logic behind using robots for education.

Trained mentors test the robot programming with school children in Lalitpur.