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Early June signals the start of the Japanese rainy season.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Registration is now open for the **12th CityNet Disaster Cluster Seminar** is scheduled to take place in Yokohama from **September 4-7, 2019**. The seminar will invite participants from all four clusters of CITYNET and will focus on the four priorities of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). The seminar will give particular attention to the integration of activities with the Climate Change cluster.

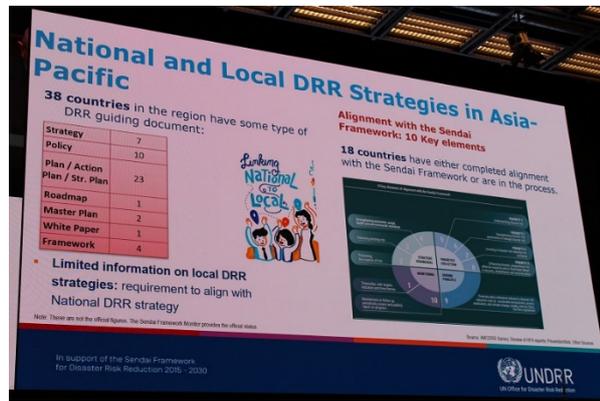
Deadline to register is **June 28, 2019**. Please contact kendra@citynet-yh.org for further details.

I. 6th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva

The 6th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2019) was held in Geneva inviting more than 4,000 DRR practitioners who shared their updates and initiatives on Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) as well as new programs being undertaken by various groups including NGOs and the private sectors.



One of the focused discussions was on target ‘e’ which is one of the seven global targets stated under the SFDRR which calls to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.



While good progress is being achieved in some of the cities, a vast majority is still in the process of defining a practical strategy which is well understood by stakeholders across various sectors. CityNet Disaster Cluster calls for cities that require assistance in developing such strategies or to come up with action plans to implement the programs in the strategy. Further details of the GP2019 can be found in the link below.

<http://enb.iisd.org/undrr/globalplatform/2019/>

II. Tokyo hosts 2019 Urban 20 (U20) Tokyo Mayors’ summit and Urban Resilience Forum

U20 is an initiative that brings together the major cities from G-20 member states to discuss global challenges and produce recommendations for consideration by the G20. This year, Tokyo Metropolitan Government hosted the U-20 meeting which was participated by CityNet members from Bangkok, Hanoi, Jakarta, Seoul, and Ulaanbaatar as well as CityNet Yokohama Project Office.

The U-20 meeting this time organised the Urban Resilience Forum where cities shared their measures against earthquakes and floods.



III. CityNet supports training of EMS personnel in translations

On June 17th and 18th, CITYNET Yokohama Project Office staff and the Yokohama Fire Bureau’s Nishi Fire Station collaborated for a training aimed at preparing emergency medical services (EMS) to interact with foreigners and tourists. As the Rugby World Cup and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics approach, EMS personnel are likely to encounter more patients who speak different languages and have different cultural backgrounds in the future. Consequently, this training is part of a larger effort by the Yokohama Fire Bureau to prepare for these upcoming sporting events.



CityNet Staff prepare for one of the emergency scenarios and participate in the training.

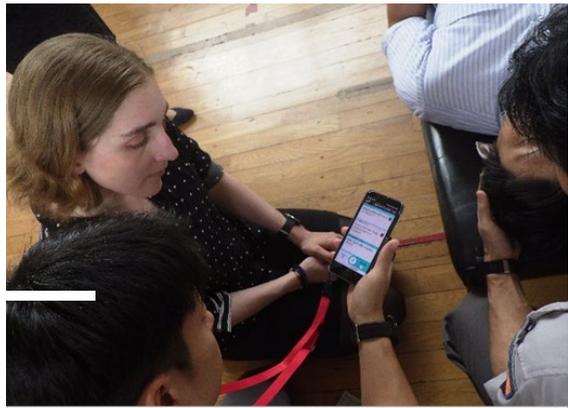


This two-day session was aimed at familiarizing EMS with different methods and techniques that they can use to communicate effectively with foreign patients and their families. One of these technologies is “VoiceTra,” a speech translation application that can be used to translate between 31 different languages and Japanese. The first responders used visual aids such as multilingual boards and gestures to accommodate the language barrier as well. Participants were also trained

on how to treat patients with different religious and social backgrounds that are relevant to their medical care. CITYNET staff acted as the English-speaking patients in several different scenarios, posing different challenges to EMS personnel to provide rapid and effective care.

The Nishi Fire Station's personnel adapted quickly to both the new technology and the needs of foreign patients, demonstrating an ability to learn and adjust their communication styles to help their patients. Participants successfully navigated difficult scenarios that involved serious medical conditions and miscommunication between staff and the patients. At the end of the session, all participants discussed some of the challenges and strategies that could be used to approach foreign patients more effectively in the future. The Nishi Fire Station will establish a basic protocol and some specific questions geared

towards treating and approaching tourists and foreigners in crisis situations. A similar training will be held in July, intending to prepare EMS personnel to interact with foreigners in a counterterrorism scenario.



Using the VoiceTra application to translate.

IV. New members of CityNet Youth Japan (CYJ) receives orientation on CityNet works

Each year, CityNet Youth Japan (CYJ) recruit university students who are interested in learning about the international cooperation activities. Eight new students joined the group this year and have been oriented on CityNet activities. The orientation also included inviting a speaker from Plus Arts, Ms. Makoto Sai, to provide a motivational talk to inspire young students on exploring more on international cooperation as well as to understand the actual challenges on the field.



Ms. Makoto Sasaki shares her experiences being a disaster victim.



CYJ members attend DRR education workshop conducted by Plus Arts in Yokohama.

Each year, the CYJ members also organise field trips to one of the CityNet member cities to learn about the local context and to have exchange sessions with the local students. Most of the new

recruits also joined a workshop hosted by Plus Arts at the Yokohama Disaster Prevention Learning Center on understanding disaster risks and prevention methods. The annual workshop is conducted in many parts of Japan where the local governments invite Plus Arts to share practical tools and methods that may be useful for prevention as well as during disasters.

V. New Intern Introduction



Ms. Erin Spence is a Political Science student at the University of Victoria. She is excited to be working with the CYO this summer and learning more about how cities cooperate and share knowledge across Asia. As an intern at CITYNET, she is excited to study how the organisation encourages a higher quality of life in municipalities and urban areas across Asia. She hopes to support CITYNET's projects and trainings by improving her research and design skills, as well as supporting the organization's activities for the 2019

Disaster Cluster Seminar. She is looking forward to understanding new ways that organizations and municipalities can cooperate to create effective and localised policies to better serve their residents.

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