I. Hanoi Smart City Study Visit to Yokohama

Between July 29th and 31st, 22 representatives from the City of Hanoi visited Yokohama for a series of trainings and study visits to share knowledge about smart city initiatives in Japan, as part of Hanoi’s own smart city projects. Over the course of three days, several speakers and experts from the City of Yokohama discussed how smart city planning can encourage resilience against natural disasters and improve the quality of life in urban areas.
Based in Pacífico Yokohama, numerous officials from the City of Yokohama, NPO Tsurumi River Basin Networking, Minato Mirai 21 District Heating and Cooling, and other organizations provided in-depth information about how smart city concepts are demonstrated through urban planning. The speakers discussed the many different ways that technology and planning could be used to create more efficient cities. This training was in support of the City of Hanoi’s ongoing smart city project, which will run until 2030. Hanoi is seeking to integrate technology and online accessibility into the priority sectors of health, education, transportation, and tourism.

The first day of training focused on the design and planning of the Minato Mirai 21 area. In particular, the speakers from the City of Yokohama discussed how the district was planned to be **energy efficient, easy to maintain, and aesthetically appealing by using centralizing heating and cooling**, as well as limiting the amount of wires and cables used above ground. The speakers also discussed how green spaces, compatible colour schemes, and open space were included to make Minato Mirai a desirable place for people to gather and relax. The day concluded with site visits to the Landmark Tower and **Minato Mirai 21 District Heating and Cooling** facility, which allowed participants to observe the Minato Mirai skyline and how the city has collaborated with the private sector to create more efficient systems.

Presentations on the second day discussed how technology and infrastructure can be used to create multipurpose facilities. The morning sessions focused on how **big data** can be used to improve road safety, the integration of technology for garbage and recycling separation, and flood control initiatives in Yokohama. Participants also had the opportunity to visit the Kirigaoka Water Reservoir that functions both as a recreation area and as an area to store floodwater during major storms.
The final day of the visit featured briefings on the Yokohama Smart City Project’s Virtual Power Plant initiative and a presentation from NPO Tsurumi River Basin Networking about managing flood risks in the area near the Tsurumi River. The day concluded with site visits to the Nissan Stadium Water Reservoir and the Kanagawa Wastewater Treatment Plant. These trainings demonstrated the different ways that the concept of smart city can be used in urban areas through various domains and to address a diverse set of needs within a city.

II. Sri Lanka Study Visit On Counterterrorism Tactics

On August 21 and 22, three delegates from the City of Colombo visited Yokohama for a study visit on how the city prepares, prevents, and responds to acts of terrorism. The goal of the training was to share knowledge about how staff in the emergency service departments plan to respond to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other unexpected crises particularly in the urban areas and in coordination with other line agencies.

To demonstrate how Yokohama Emergency Services would respond to a complex crisis scenario, the delegation from Colombo was invited to view a counterterrorism drill held in Nissan Stadium. The hour-long drill included over 100 different participants, which included staff from the Yokohama Fire Bureau, the National Police Agency, medical personnel, and a bomb squad. Civilian participants also acted as casualties in the emergency scenario. In order to simulate a real emergency scenario, the organizers of the drill included multiple acts of terrorism, including a fire and an explosion, so that emergency personnel could prepare for a
The drill required emergency services to coordinate and triage effectively in order to respond quickly to the emergency scenario and administer first aid to the victims.

During the visit, the officials from Colombo also visited Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center to experience how public awareness programs are shared with the public.

The drill was in preparation for the Rugby World Cup to be held in Yokohama later this year and for the Olympics to be held in 2020. This particular study visit was organised especially for Colombo as Sri Lanka suffered a terrorist attack in April this year.